Aim of the programme

General aim of the Master's programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology is to provide students with advanced knowledge, insight, skills and attitudes in the field of anthropology, with special knowledge of anthropological perspectives on mobility, beliefs and belonging. Graduates are trained to apply with considerable degree of self-reliance anthropological theories and concepts to concrete issues of cultural diversity, social complexity or international inequality and development. In doing so they have ample attention for the articulation of and interaction between local, national and global processes. Graduates are able to contribute to formulating policies if and when these issues are defined as societal problems, and will reflect critically on the different positions and interests of the actors involved in their contribution to the quest for possible solutions. Using a holistic point of view, graduates will relate social, economic and political aspects to cultural, religious and identity dimensions. Graduates are trained in doing anthropological field research and are aware of the place of anthropology within the social sciences and on social research methods.

The programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology prepares students for a start of a career in an academic profession, including policy making in institutions of the multicultural society, international development cooperation, consultancy on cultural diversity in organizations, museum work, journalism, or in the academic world.

Final attainment levels

KU Knowledge and understanding: Graduates have demonstrated critical and advanced knowledge of:
KU1 the most important theories, concepts, and current debates in anthropology, in particular in regards to debates on mobility, diversity and development, and other key themes in the program;
KU2 the complex interconnections between local and global developments;
KU3 key texts (articles and monographs) on the central themes of the program;
KU4 qualitative social science methodology, in particular advanced methods of ethnographic research;
KU5 the chances and limitations of the application of anthropological views, theories and concepts in dealing with societal or organizational problems.

A Applying knowledge and understanding: Graduates have developed the ability to:
A1. critically examine anthropological issues at a high level of conceptual abstraction as well as translate them into terms understandable to a wider public;
A2. analyse, summarise, and synthesise complex societal issues from a theoretical perspective and relate them to scientific and societal debates;
A3. identify and propose solutions to perceived societal problems depending on the findings of the research period;
A4. formulate a scientific definition of a social problem and to make an analysis of a concrete societal issue on the basis of anthropological literature and raw empirical data collected;
A5. produce a thesis that is based on in-depth ethnographic research that shows intellectual rigour and proficiency within the areas of social and cultural anthropology, with a focus on the key issues in the Master's program.

J Making Judgements: Graduates have developed the attitude and skills to
J1. critically examine societal and organizational problems at high level of conceptual abstraction with special attention for the power dynamics at play;
J2. reflect on the opportunities and constraints of scientific theories and research;
J3. critically reflect on developments and debates in science and society regarding the key-issues and central themes in the master program, on the basis of theoretical, methodological and societal considerations;
J4. engage critically with various scientific theories and relevant concepts, to compare them and to connect them to concrete societal issues;
J5. critically reflect on the professional ethics and responsibilities of anthropologists in wider academic and non-academic contexts;
J6. take on a critical and reflexive attitude with regards to research plans, and results.

C Communication: Graduates are able to:
C1. communicate the research conclusions verbally and in writing to an audience of specialists and non-specialists in a clear and unambiguous manner;
C2. translate anthropological issues and debates at a high level of conceptual abstraction into terms understandable by a wider public;
C3. define and defend an argument and the applicability of it, and to report about it, both in spoken and written form according to scientific standards;
C4. critically engage in public debates pertaining to key themes in the master program, in particular their own field of specialization;
C5. make use of a variety of communication methods to share their knowledge with an academic and non-academic audience.

L Learning skills: The graduate has developed the ability and skills to:
L1. summarise, evaluate, and synthesise research results from social and cultural anthropology and related fields and assess the wider societal implications of these results;
L2. learn, collaborate and communicate in an intercultural context; to be highly sensitive to cultural and other types of differences;
L3. assess the scientific work of peers and to provide academically sound and constructive feedback.