



M.A. in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights

Place: Berlin, Germany and parts in other European countries
Duration: 3 semesters / 1.5 years

The 1.5 year, 90 ECTS MA study programme of the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights at the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, is directed to:

- Graduates of social sciences, law, education, humanities, social work as well as other graduate student with professional experience of working with children
- Professionals holding a BA in governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations in the field of youth work, education, social services, health and law.

The course deals with all aspects of childhood, viewed as a socio-cultural construct, and with theories of children's rights and practice in adult-child relationships. After successful graduation from the course, graduates will have

a) Applied competences:

- Knowledge of meaning of children's rights in various disciplines
- Ability to explain and use selected theories of children and childhood
- Ability to understand and explain children's rights and the UNCRC
- Ability to promote and defend children's rights in front of different audiences
- Ability to identify and challenge assumptions underlying examples of policy and practice, and make links to children's rights
- Ability to suggest policy recommendations

b) Critical competences:

- Ability to critically analyse from different perspectives, with an emphasis on children's perspectives
- Ability to link these perspectives to wider aspects of children's rights, e.g. historical, social, cultural, political, geographic and economic aspects
- Ability to contribute to policy and practice at local, national and international levels

c) Transferable competences/communication, argumentation:

- Listening and debating skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Interdisciplinary team-work
- Ability to present orally in an interesting, understandable and challenging way on the topic of children's rights
- Ability to write in a concise, well-structured and balanced way on a subject related to children's rights

The course will be held mainly in English, however it is required that students have a sound knowledge of German, as some seminars will be held in German and some materials are available only in German.

Modules taught at the Freie Universität are:

First Semester

1. Childhood Studies
2. Understanding Children's Rights
3. Methods and Techniques of Childhood and Children's Rights Research

Second Semester

4. Work and Education of Children in an International and Intercultural Comparison
5. Children Out-Of Place and Child Rights Oriented Practice
6. Children and Media

Third Semester

7. Dissertation Project: Internship, Practical Project or Research Proposal
8. Master Thesis

More information on the content and qualification of each module can be found in the study regulations on the MA homepage.

In addition, students have the possibility to attend selected courses and seminars at the department of educational sciences and psychology, the faculty of political science and the law faculty. The European Master is a joint interdisciplinary study program of East and West European universities:

- Freie Universität Berlin (FU), Germany
- Institute of Education, University of London (IoE), UK
- Universidad Complutense Madrid (UCM), Spain
- Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA), Netherlands
- Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai in Cluj- Napoca (UBB), Romania
- Univerzitet Union, Belgrade, (UU) Serbia
- State University Moldova, Chisinau, (MSU) Republic of Moldova
- Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium
- Universitetas Mykolo Romerio, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Stockholms Universitet, Stockholm (SU), Sweden
- Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch, (IUKB) Sion, Switzerland

There are two alternatives on how to study the 3 semester program:

1. Students enrol at one university in the first semester (e.g. FU Berlin) and continue the program at another partner university in the second and/or third semester. Successful graduation leads to the award of a "dual degree" of the two universities. This alternative is available at the partner university: Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Romania

2. Students enrol at a "host university" (e.g. FU Berlin) and have the possibility to take modules at a partner university in the second or third semester. The credits earned are recognized as part of the curriculum at the host university and form part of the degree.

The costs for the MA at the FU are 4350€ for the three semesters, excl. general administrative costs. (about 280€ per semester including a ticket for public transportation in Berlin)

Application forms are available at: <http://www.fu-berlin.de/emcr> or on request from Rebecca Budde: r.budde@fu-berlin.de.

The deadline for applications is: April 30

For further information please contact Rebecca Budde (coordination) at: r.budde@fu-berlin.de

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