



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSC) IN ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT IN SOCIAL WORK

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSC) IN SOCIAL SCIENCES
AALBORG

[Link to this studyline](#)

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§ 1: PREFACE

Pursuant to consolidating act no. 652 of 24 June 2012 on universities (the University Act) as amended, the following curriculum for the Master of Science (MSc) in Advanced Development in Social Work is stipulated.

§ 2: BASIS IN MINISTERIAL ORDERS

The Master's programme is organised in accordance with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science's Order no. 1328 of November 15, 2016 on Bachelor's and Master's Programmes at Universities (the Ministerial Order of the Study Programmes) with subsequent changes and Ministerial Order no. 1062 of June 30, 2016 on University Examinations (the Examination Order) with subsequent changes. Further reference is made to Ministerial Order no. 106 of February 12, 2018 (the Admission Order) and Ministerial Order no. 114 of February 3, 2015 (the Grading Scale Order).

§ 3: CAMPUS

Aalborg

§ 4: FACULTY AFFILIATION

The MA in Advanced Development in Social Work comes under the Faculty of Social Sciences, Aalborg University.

§ 5: STUDY BOARD AFFILIATION

Advances is under the Study Board of the Master in Social Work

§ 6: AFFILIATION TO CORPS OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

The master's programme comes under the group of examiners for the Master in Social Work.

§ 7: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the MA in Advanced Development in Social Work requires a bachelor degree in social work or closely related subjects.

Students with another bachelor degree can, upon application to the consortium board, obtain access on the basis of a concrete academic assessment, insofar as the applicant is deemed to have comparable academic qualifications. The consortium board may demand that applicants pass supplementary tests prior to the commencement of study.

§ 8: THE PROGRAMME TITLE IN DANISH AND ENGLISH

In Danish: Kandidatuddannelsen i avanceret udvikling i socialt arbejde

In English: Master of Science (MSc) in Advanced Development in Social Work

In Latin: Cand.soc.

§ 9: PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS IN ECTS CREDITS

The MA in Advanced Development in Social Work is a 2-year research-based full-time programme. The programme is set to 120 ECTS credits.

The AAU modules is set to 30 ECTS credits.

§ 10: RULES CONCERNING CREDIT TRANSFER (MERIT), INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY FOR CHOICE OF MODULES THAT ARE PART OF ANOTHER PROGRAMME AT A UNIVERSITY IN DENMARK OR ABROAD

The Study Board can approve successfully completed (passed) programme elements from other Master's programmes in lieu of programme elements in this programme (credit transfer). The Study Board can also approve successfully completed (passed) programme elements from another Danish programme or a programme outside of Denmark at the

same level in lieu of programme elements within this curriculum. Decisions on credit transfer are made by the Study Board based on an academic assessment. See the Joint Programme Regulations for the rules on credit transfer.

§ 11: EXEMPTIONS

In exceptional circumstances, the Study Board study can grant exemption from those parts of the curriculum that are not stipulated by law or ministerial order. Exemption regarding an examination applies to the immediate examination.

§ 12: RULES FOR EXAMINATIONS

The rules for examinations are stated in the Examination Policies and Procedures - published at this website: <https://www.studieservice.aau.dk/Studielegalitet/>

§ 13: RULES CONCERNING WRITTEN WORK, INCLUDING THE MASTER'S THESIS

In the assessment of all written work, regardless of the language it is written in, weight is also given to the student's formulation and spelling ability, in addition to the academic content. Orthographic and grammatical correctness as well as stylistic proficiency are taken as a basis for the evaluation of language performance. Language performance must always be included as an independent dimension of the total evaluation. However, no examination can be assessed as 'Pass' on the basis of good language performance alone; similarly, an examination normally cannot be assessed as 'Fail' on the basis of poor language performance alone.

The Study Board can grant exemption from this in special cases (e.g., dyslexia or a native language other than Danish).

The Master's Thesis must include an English summary (or another foreign language: French, Spanish or German upon approval by the Study Board). If the project is written in English, the summary must be in Danish (The Study Board can grant exemption from this). The summary must be at least 1 page and not more than 2 pages (this is not included in any fixed minimum and maximum number of pages per student). The summary is included in the evaluation of the project as a whole.

§ 14: REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE READING OF TEXTS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

§ 15: COMPETENCE PROFILE ON THE DIPLOMA

The following competence profile will appear on the diploma:

A Candidatus graduate has the following competency profile:

A Candidatus graduate has competencies that have been acquired via a course of study that has taken place in a research environment.

A Candidatus graduate is qualified for employment on the labour market based on his or her academic discipline as well as for further research (PhD programmes). A Candidatus graduate has, compared to a Bachelor, developed his or her academic knowledge and independence so as to be able to apply scientific theory and method on an independent basis within both an academic and a professional context.

§ 16: COMPETENCE PROFILE OF THE PROGRAMME

The aim of the programme

The MA in Advanced Development in Social Work (ADVANCES) is designed to give social workers outstanding levels of practice skills so that they can confidently respond to the vulnerabilities and uncertainties facing societies across the world.

Competence profile/learning outcomes

The learning outcomes reflect the competence levels for second-cycle (Master) programmes of the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area (Dublin Descriptors).

Knowledge and cognitive skills

- Demonstrate comprehensive, critical and **advanced knowledge** of social work practice and contemporary social issues in various country contexts as well as international level
- **Sensitively apply key theoretical concepts** in international social work, including indigenous social work, ecological approaches, power and intersectionality

- **Critically analyse** complex social work issues and interventions, showing substantial understanding of the international, national and local contexts of social work practice as well as the key concepts, principles, skills and methods that inform social work practice
- Design and conduct independent, original, critical and ethical **research projects** with clear international relevance and practice impact
- Engage in **critical reflection** and reflexivity when analysing social work practice and professional processes
- Understand the complexity of **social work values and ethical principles** and their relevance for promoting inclusion and confronting social, political, cultural and economic injustices, reflecting on relevant international codes of conduct for social workers

Professional and key skills

- Demonstrate the skills, values and competences to **work in diverse national and international settings**
- **Sensitively transfer** social work knowledge, analysis and practice recommendations across contexts, countries and regions
- Plan and develop **innovative interventions and entrepreneurial responses** to build the capacity of the social work profession, challenge marginalisation, reduce risk and enhance well-being
- **Lead**, supervise, mentor, plan and manage professional practice, social work projects, practice-based research and new learning processes
- **Evaluate the processes and outcomes** of social work interventions, projects and services in line with professional values and concern for service user well-being
- Facilitate **participation** and social development processes in social services, charities and non-governmental associations
- Explain and **justify decision-making** in complex situations
- **Work autonomously and in partnership** with individuals, groups, organisations and communities to tackle social work problems and build capacity
- Effectively **communicate** complex analysis and ideas to a variety of audiences, including frontline social workers, managers, policymakers, service users and general public
- Learn independently, plan professional development and **continuously develop** knowledge, understanding and new skills to a high level

§ 17: STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS OF THE PROGRAMME

The MA is a closed programme, which extends the knowledge and insight that students have acquired in the bachelor programme.

The AAU semester consists of three modules:

Module 4: Research Methodology and Ethics (10 ECTS)

Module 5: Power relations and actor perspectives (10 ECTS)

Module 6: Field Study and Problem Based Approaches in social work (10 ECTS)

Overall, the MA in Advanced Development in Social Work consists of 13 modules, to read more about the modules please go to www.socialworkadvances.aau.dk

A module is a subject element or a group of subject elements designed to provide students with a totality of academic qualifications. The programme is designed in a manner that guarantees academic progression and coherence.

§ 18: OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

Offered as:

Study programme: Semester 2

Module name	Course type	ECT S	Applied grading scale	Evaluation method	Assessment method
2 SEMESTER					
Research Methodology and Ethics	Course	10	Passed/Not Passed	Internal examination	Oral exam
Power Relations and Actor Perspectives	Course	10	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written exam
Field Study and Problem Based Approaches in Social Work	Course	10	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written and oral exam

§ 19: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rules concerning written assignments, including the master's thesis project and its scope

- The master's thesis: The research project (Module 13), at approximately 25,000 words, is designed to be an in-depth evaluation of a social work intervention or service that displays critical analysis, professional reflection and practice recommendations on the basis of primary research.
- The master's thesis must document skills in applying academic theory and methods to a specific academic subject. The thesis completes the programme.
- The maximum scope of an assignment or a project is defined as a number of standard pages. A standard page corresponds to 2400 characters (including letters, characters, spaces). Notes and lists of references are included in the word count, whereas the title page, table of contents and summary are *not*. Appendices can be added. Appendices are usually not produced by the examinee, but contain presentations/reproductions of source material and are not included in the word count. Appendices must, however, correspond somewhat to the scope of the project.

Rules concerning credit transfer, including the possibility for choice of modules that are part of another programme at a university in Denmark or abroad

- In the individual case, the study board can approve successfully completed programme (passed) elements from other master's programmes in lieu of programme elements in this programme (credit transfer). The consortium board can also approve successfully completed (passed) programme elements from another Danish programme or a programme outside of Denmark at the same level in lieu of programme elements within this curriculum. Decisions on credit transfer are made by the consortium board based on an academic assessment. Students cannot obtain credit for the master's thesis.

Rules concerning requirements for the reading of texts in foreign languages

- Students are required to be able to read academic texts in English.

Rules for examinations

- Examinations are conducted in English.
- Exams are conducted in the same semester as the teaching. Examinations of master's thesis, however, are conducted continuously as required in the period 1 August-30 July. For information on registration for examinations, re-exams and make-up exams, see existing rules at the Faculty of Social Sciences' webpage: www.samf.aau.dk/eksamen.htm (in Danish) and <http://www.samf.aau.dk/eksamen/reeksamen-2008dk.pdf> (in Danish).

For the use of computers in exams, see existing rules at the Faculty of Social Sciences' webpage: <http://www.samf.aau.dk/eksamen/pceksamen-eksaminand.pdf> (in Danish)

Exemption

- Under special circumstances, the consortium board may grant exemption from rules in the curriculum that are solely laid down by the university. Exemption as regards examinations concerns the proximate examination.

Additional information

- Additional information about the programme, including examinations, is available on the programme webpage, www.socialworkadvances.aau.dk

§ 20: COMMENCEMENT AND TRANSITIONAL RULES

The curriculum has been approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and shall enter into force on 1 September 2019.

§ 21: AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRICULUM AND REGULATIONS