

Master in  
**Social Work and Social Policy**  
2025/26



### At a glance

Italian degree class: LM-87  
ECTS credits: 120  
Duration of the course: 2 years  
Courses will be taught in: Italian,  
German and English (trilingual)  
Places available: 20 EU + 2 non-EU  
Campus: Brixen-Bressanone  
Tuition fees: ca. € 1200 per year





## Course description

This master offers you the opportunity to acquire in-depth skills and knowledge for planning and development in the sectors of social work, education, training, culture and healthcare, as well as in non-profit organisations.

With an interdisciplinary and innovative approach that **combines theory, applied research and participatory practice**, this course allows you to explore key issues such as the sustainability of welfare systems, social inclusion and the use of new technologies in the social sector. The aim is to **train professionals capable of working in complex environments**, addressing social inequalities and promoting the well-being of individuals and communities.

### Key Features of the Programme:

- Innovative and interdisciplinary approach
- Flexibility and personalised study path
- Alternative teaching methods
- Internship experiences and strong links with the local community
- International exchange opportunities

The current social situation requires **new social innovations and the ability to mobilise and effectively use resources to achieve the objectives** of public and private organisations in the social, educational, cultural, health and social economy sectors. This is essential to promote the **sustainable and inclusive development of welfare systems**.

The programme aims to train professionals who can understand social change in multicultural contexts and respond to the challenges posed by different forms of inequality and social and individual problems. Particular emphasis is placed on the ability to design, implement and evaluate policies and interventions in different fields, to promote solidarity and **well-being within communities and to support democratic processes for social inclusion**.

It is designed for **both recent bachelor graduates with no previous work experience and professionals already working in the field who wish to further their studies**.

## Online Info Session

We offer online information sessions in the coming months during which the master programme will be presented and where interested students can address their questions to professors and students. The Info Sessions take place on the following days:

- Thursday, 20 March, 17:00 (CET): [register here](#)

## Structure of the course

This programme is designed for those who wish to broaden their scope of action through research and social innovation methods.

The study plan combines theory and practice in an interdisciplinary learning environment that includes sociology, social policy, anthropology, education, psychology, statistics, law, as well as methods of social project design and management of third sector organisations.

Core subjects covered in the course include sustainable welfare development, social entrepreneurship, border studies, digitalisation and the ethical use of new technologies, particularly in relation to the inclusion of marginalised groups. It is possible for students to tailor their studies by choosing optional courses and developing individual research projects under the supervision of faculty members. An innovative blended learning approach is used, combining face-to-face and online lectures with recorded sessions to encourage active learning and participation.

# Study Plan - Master in Social Work and Social Policy

## 1st year

- 12 CP Social Work and Welfare Systems in Transition
  - 6 CP Comparative Analysis of Welfare Systems
  - 6 CP Social Work Theories, Ethics and Research
- 12 CP Research Design and Methodologies
  - 5 CP Qualitative Social research
  - 1 CP LAB: Qualitative Methods of Social Research
  - 5 CP Quantitative Analysis of Social Inequalities
  - 1 CP LAB: Quantitative Methods in social research
- 1 CP English for Social Work
- 6 CP Sociological Theories of Global Inequalities
- 5 CP Innovative Practices in Educational Contexts
  - 4 CP Innovative Practices in Educational Contexts
  - 1 CP LAB: Innovative Technologies for the Common Good
- 6 CP Transitions and Crises in the Life Course
- 6 CP Labour and Social Security Law
  - 5 CP Labour and Social Security Law
  - 1 CP Labour and Social Security Law
- 5 CP Internship
- 4 CP Optional courses

## 2nd year

- 12 CP Sustainable Local Welfare Production
  - 6 CP Sustainable Local Welfare and Participatory Planning
  - 6 CP Management and Accountability of Third Sector Organizations
- 6 CP Innovative and Integrated Methodologies in Health and Social Care
  - 2 CP LAB: Innovative Methodologies in Social Work Practice
  - 2 CP LAB: Integrated Community Care
  - 2 CP LAB: Digitalisation and AI in Health and Social Care
- 6 CP Criminal and Restorative Justice
- 10 CP Border Studies
  - 5 CP Borders, frontiers and cultures
  - 5 CP Urban and Regional Planning for Territorial Cohesion
- 6 CP Ethnography of Welfare and Healthcare Systems
- 5 CP Project-based or Research-based internship

8 CP    Optional Courses

10 CP    Thesis

## Exchange programmes and internships

We offer exchange agreements with partner universities worldwide and have an extensive network of collaborations with organisations providing internship opportunities in Italy and abroad. Students benefit from practical experiences with professional supervision and research-based internships.

## Career opportunities

Our programme trains dynamic and independent professionals who are able to identify new opportunities for action and apply intervention models based on research and innovation to meet the challenges of contemporary society.

Our graduates hold management, coordinating and advisory positions in public and private organisations in the social, educational, cultural, health and third sectors.

Thanks to a solid education, they develop advanced skills in planning, developing and evaluating innovative and inclusive social initiatives, introducing participatory approaches in multicultural contexts. Their multidisciplinary approach will enable them to work in dynamic and diverse contexts, contributing to the development of policies and programmes aimed at collective and individual well-being. They will be able to identify and respond to emerging needs, combat inequalities and promote the prevention of phenomena such as violence, marginalisation and addiction.



## Master in Social Work and Social Policy

2025/26

### Application and Admission

You can find all you need to know in order to apply and gain admission to this study programme by browsing through the information below.

### Deadlines and important dates

#### Early Bird Application

Application: 03/03 - 06/05/2025 (by noon local time)

Language exams (online): 17/03/2025 (registration: 03 - 09/03/2025) and 16 - 17 and 22 - 23/04/2025 (registration: 24/03 - 08/04/2025)

Admission exam: 15/05/2025

Publication of ranking lists: by 27/05/2025

Payment of the 1st instalment of the tuition fees: by 05/06/2025 (by noon local time)

Enrolment: from 11/07 - 05/08/2025 (by noon local time)

#### Late Application (only for EU citizens)

Application: 28/05 - 09/07/2025 (by noon local time)

Language exams (online): 23 - 27/06/2025 (registration: 28/05 - 15/06/2025)

Admission exam: 17/07/2025

Publication of ranking lists: by 29/07/2025

Payment of the 1st instalment of the tuition fees: by 05/08/2025 (by noon local time)

Enrolment: from publication of the ranking list until 05/08/2025 (by noon local time)

#### Additional Application Session (only for EU citizens)

The faculty can open additional application sessions for single study programmes in August and in September if there are available places. More information on additional sessions will be published in due course.

#### Preparatory courses and Freshers Days

Intensive language courses: 01 - 19/09/2025 (Monday to Friday, 6 h/day)

Freshers Days: 30/09- 01/10/2025

#### 1st semester

Classes: 29/09 - 23/12/2025

Holidays: 24/12/2025 - 06/01/2026

Classes: 07/01 - 24/01/2026

Exams: 26/01 - 21/02/2026

### **2nd semester**

Classes: 02/03 - 02/04/2026

Holidays: 03- 06/04/2026

Classes: 07/04 - 13/06/2026

Exams: 15/06 - 11/07/2026

### **Autumn session**

Exams: 24/08 - 26/09/2026

## Available places

EU citizens and citizens given parity of treatment

Early Bird Application: 15

Late Application: 5

Non-EU citizens (living abroad)

Early Bird Application: 2

The programme will only be offered if a minimum of 12 newly enrolled students is reached.

## Entry requirements

To gain admission to this programme you need one of the following qualifications:

1. a Bachelor in one of the following subject areas:

- class L-39 (Social Work) (D.M. 270/2004)
- class 6 (Social Work) (D.M. 509/1999)
- class L-19 (Education) (D.M. 270/2004)
- class 18 (Education) (D.M. 509/1999)
- class L-40(Sociology) (D.M. 270/2004)

2. an equivalent qualification awarded in Italy according to the old university system

- Diploma Universitario in Servizio Sociale (DUSS) (University diploma in Social Work)
- Diploma Universitario di Educatore Professionale/di Comunità (Community Educators)
- Diploma di Scuola Diretta a Fini Speciali in Servizio Sociale (Specific Vocational Qualification in Social Work)
- Convalida universitaria del diploma di Assistente Sociale ai sensi dell'articolo 5 del D.P.R. 14/1987 (University-recognised diploma in Social Work)
- Laurea quadriennale in Scienze del Servizio Sociale (four-year degree in Social Work)

3. an equivalent qualification gained abroad

4. a degree from another class or an old Italian degree or any equivalent degree gained abroad and the achievement of at least 18 credits in:

- GSPS-02/A Political science



- GSPS-03/A History of political thought
- GSPS-03/B History of political institutions
- GSPS-05/A General sociology
- GSPS-06/A Sociology of culture and communication
- GSPS-07/B Sociology of law, deviance and social change
- GSPS-08/A Economic sociology of work and organisations
- GSPS-08/B Urban and environmental sociology

at least 12 credits in:

- PSIC-01/A General psychology
- PSIC-02/A Developmental and educational psychology
- PSIC-03/A Social psychology
- PSIC-03/B Work and organizational psychology
- PAED-01/A Theories and science of education and social education
- PAED-02/A Methodologies of teaching and special education

The credit points referred to in point 4 must have been acquired before the interview.

**If you have not yet graduated at the time of application:** you can apply, but you will be admitted conditionally and you need to submit your diploma by the enrolment deadline.

**If you graduate after the enrolment deadline:** you cannot enrol and you will lose your place, which will be offered to the subsequent applicant in the ranking list. In this case you should not pay the tuition fees to secure your admission. You will be able to submit a late enrolment request and, only if there still are available places, you can enrol by 13 December 2024.

To be admitted you must fulfil the language requirements indicated in the section “Language requirements”.

According to national regulations, simultaneous enrolment in a maximum of 2 programmes is possible (however, the two programmes must not belong to the same class, e.g., LM-87/LM-87 and must differ for at least 2/3 of the course contents).

## Language requirements

The official teaching languages are German, Italian and English. Therefore, the following language requirements apply, otherwise you will be excluded from the admission procedure:

**Entry level** (to gain admission)

1st language: C1

2nd language: B2

3rd language: no level required

**From the 2nd semester of the first year**

3rd language: a B1 level in the third language is the minimum requirement for taking curricular examinations in that specific language.

**Exit level** (to graduate)

1st language: C1

2nd language: C1

3rd language: B1

The levels of the Common European Framework of Reference apply.

Your first language is the language in which you have the highest level of proficiency (C1). Your third language is instead the language in which you are weaker (or in which you are an absolute beginner).

You can demonstrate your language proficiency in the application portal (in the section “upload language certificates” and/or “enrol for language exams”) after you have created an application in the section “create/manage applications”. The certification is mandatory for the first and second language, for the third language it is recommended (from B1 onwards).

- In case your final certificate has been awarded by an **Italian** public institution, you need to submit a self-declaration.
- In case your final certificate has been awarded by a **foreign** public institution, you need to upload diploma scanned copy of the original.

**You can demonstrate language proficiency through:**

1. **the main teaching language in your final high school year** if German, Italian or English (recognised as C1) (Ladin upper secondary schools: recognised as B2 in German and Italian). **Foreign qualifications:** If the main teaching language is not clearly stated on your high school diploma, please also upload a letter/document issued by your high school stating the medium of instruction.
2. **a bachelor or master degree** in Italian, German or English (recognised as C1). unibz graduates must upload the language certificates obtained and/or declare that they have passed language exams at the unibz Language Centre (B2, B2+ or C1). **Foreign qualifications:** If the teaching language is not clearly stated on your University degree, please also upload a letter/document issued by your University stating the medium of instruction during your studies.
3. **a recognised language certificate** (see the list of recognised certificates) If you cannot upload the certificates, you can send them by e-mail as PDF files or deliver them in person to the Language Centre by the application deadline (see “Deadlines” section).
4. **language exams organised by the unibz Language Centre.** You can register for these exams online through the application portal (in the section “enrol for language exams”) after you have filled out your application in the section “create/manage applications”. The registration periods are indicated in the “Deadlines” section. If you start your application outside a language exams registration period, you must return to the portal during one of the periods indicated above in order to register for an exam. Information regarding the structure of the language proficiency exams, their duration, their administration, and typical processing time for the publication of the results can be found on the following webpage.

Please note that you can only register for **C1 and B2 level exams** and only for one level per language (e.g. in the same exam session you can register for a C1 German and a B2 Italian exam, but not for a C1 and a B2 German exam).

For information on studying in three languages also visit the following page.

**Secondary schools in a foreign country/Bi- or multilingual schools**

If the foreign language proficiency levels (for German, Italian, or English) are explicitly

indicated on the diploma of graduation according to the Common European Framework of Reference (i.e., B1, B2 or C1), and if all four language abilities (reading, listening, speaking, writing) have been assessed, then the indicated levels will be accepted as a proof of proficiency for the second and/or third language.

Please upload your school-leaving certificate to the application portal in the section “upload language certificates” under the respective language. The Language Centre will decide on its recognition.

### Third language/Intensive language courses in September

If you have already acquired a language certificate in the third teaching language, please upload it to the portal. If you are not able to certify your language competence in the third language and you are admitted to unibz, you will have to take a placement test. You will receive further information about the test by e-mail. Based on the result of the placement test, you will be assigned to a certain learning path so that you will be able to reach level B1 as soon as possible.

If you are an absolute beginner in the third language, or if you have a level below B1, you may attend a three-week intensive language course during the pre-semester session in September in order to start the learning path.

The dates of the extensive courses are indicated in the “Deadlines” section. Beginner courses (A1) will be offered exclusively during the pre-semester intensive course session in September will no longer be offered during the academic year. Therefore, absolute beginners should start their learning path for the third language by attending the intensive courses in September.

There will be extensive courses (4 hours per week) during the semesters and intensive courses (6 hours per day) during the time between semesters.

The language courses offered by the Language Centre are **free of charge** and aim to help the students reach the level B1 in the third language after the first study year.

## Online application

Your application must be submitted online through the Application Portal. The deadlines are indicated in the “Deadlines” section.

- You need to create an account and upload a valid ID card or passport (front/back). Please note: if your document is invalid, incomplete or unreadable, you will be excluded from the admission procedure;
- Fill in the online form and upload the attachments listed under “Admission procedure”;
- If you gained your qualification abroad, you must also upload the diploma of your qualification: if you are not yet in possession of the diploma, you’ll need to upload it upon enrolment;
- Complete and submit the online application by the deadline. Once the application has been sent, it cannot be modified. Filled-in forms which have not been sent correctly will not be taken into consideration.

**Please note:** Mendacious declarations will be criminally prosecuted and will result in the automatic exclusion from the ranking list.

## EU-Citizens and equivalent

You might apply for more than one study programme. If you are excluded in the first session, you might apply again in the second one.

### Considered as equivalent are:

1. Citizens from Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, San Marino and the Vatican City State;
2. Non-EU citizens with a valid permit to stay in Italy (see article 39, paragraph 5 of decree no. 286 of 25.07.1998: "**permesso di soggiorno**" (residence permit) for work, family reasons, political or humanitarian asylum, religious reasons). In this case, you apply directly to the University as described above and must submit a copy of your valid permit to stay. A permit to stay for study reasons or a visa for tourism is **not valid**. If the permit has expired, you must attach a renewal request. **Please note** that if you do not upload the permit in the application portal, you will be automatically considered a non-EU citizen living abroad and therefore subject to the admission procedure through the Italian authorities in your country of origin.

## Non-EU-Citizens (living outside of Italy)

Only one application period is offered. After the deadline it is not possible to apply anymore. Application fee: € 50.

Once the ranking list has been published, if you have gained admission, secure it by paying the first instalment and then start your visa application on the University portal. The application on University is mandatory, otherwise you will not be allowed to enrol. On University you can apply for one study programme only.

## Admission procedure

The admission procedure is based on the following criteria:

1. **paper and admission interview** (max. 80 points in total): from the paper of no more than 1.500 words shall emerge:
  - why you want to enrol for the degree
  - the skills and knowledge you have that will be relevant for studying this subject
  - your expectations

The interview aims to develop the topics presented in the paper previously and to explore your motivation and skills (see Section "Deadlines").

The interview will take place in Brixen-Bressanone (see section "Deadlines"). Location and time will be published on the website of the study programme. You can choose whether to attend the admission interview in English, German or Italian. In justified exceptional cases, the interview can be organised via video conference. In this case, you must provide at least by the application deadline a written and reasoned request to the Faculty Secretariat;

2. **work experience gained working in the social or educational fields** (max. 20 points);

In the event of equal scores, the younger applicant will have priority.

### In the application portal, you shall:

- upload the paper.

## Ranking lists

The Admission Committee will only evaluate the documents uploaded in the portal by the application deadline. The ranking lists with the admitted students will be published here and are only valid for the respective academic year.

## Secure your admission and enrolment

If you have been admitted to more than one study programme, you can secure your admission for a maximum of 2 programmes by paying the designated rate twice. By confirming your place, you renounce admission to the other programmes.

### 1. Choose the study programme and pay the fees (to secure your admission) in the application portal.

The deadlines are indicated in the "Deadlines" section.

If you do not meet this deadline, you will automatically be excluded and the next applicant in the ranking list will be admitted.

For EU citizens and citizens given parity of treatment only: any remaining places of the early bird application, will be offered in the late application.

**Please note:** Paying university fees does not confer student status, which is only obtained by enrolling. If you pay but do not enrol, you are not entitled to a refund, except for non-EU applicants living abroad who do not obtain the necessary documents for enrolment from the Italian authorities in their country.

### 2. Enrol online in the application portal.

The deadlines are indicated in the "Deadlines" section.

Enrolment is recommended as early as possible, so you have the possibility to upload incomplete documents before the deadline.

If you do not meet the enrolment deadline, you will be excluded and the next applicant in the ranking list will be admitted.

#### Admission with reservation:

If you do not have the required academic qualification, you will be given a conditional offer for a study place and you must submit your qualification upon enrolment. If you achieve your qualification after the enrolment deadline, you cannot enrol, and you will lose your place which will be offered to the subsequent applicant in the ranking list. **Advice:** If you achieve your qualification after the enrolment deadline, you should not pay the tuition fees to confirm the study place. You will be able to submit a late enrolment request and, only if there are study places still available, you can enrol by 12 December 2025.

**Students intending to transfer from another Italian University to unibz** must submit to the Student Office - at the beginning of the academic year - a copy of the transfer application presented at the university of provenance.

### 3. If you have a foreign university degree, during enrolment you must upload:

- degree diploma of your Bachelor

- official translation of your degree into Italian (not necessary if the documents have been issued in German or English)
- Diploma supplement, where it must be indicated: that you have achieved at least 180 credit points (ECTS) and that the qualification gives access to a master programme

**Depending on the foreign education system your degree belongs to, you must also upload:**

a) EU countries, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein:

- Statement of **Correspondence** of your Bachelor degree, to be downloaded from the ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database – Italy

b) Non-EU countries that are signatories to the Lisbon Convention:

- Statement of **Correspondence** of your Bachelor degree, to be downloaded from the ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database – Italy
- Statement of **Verification** of your Bachelor degree, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

c) Non-EU countries that are not signatories of the Lisbon Convention:

- Statement of **Comparability** of your Bachelor degree, to be downloaded from the ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database – Italy
- Statement of **Verification** of your Bachelor degree, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

**unibz performs the necessary checks on your foreign qualification and in case of doubt reserves the right to request additional documents.**

Please note that if you do not possess a valid admission qualification, you can be excluded with Rector's decree even after enrolment.

**If you are a non-EU citizen living abroad:**

If you are eligible for admission (check the ranking lists) and have also applied on University, the Italian Authorities in your own country will issue you the entry visa for studies/university.

This will allow you to arrive in Italy to enrol for the study programme that you have applied for, after passing the admission procedure.

According to Italian law, within 8 working days of your arrival in Italy, you must have applied for the residence permit: as soon as you arrive, get in touch with the Advisory Service and you will be given the necessary information for starting the procedure.

Once you will obtain your residence permit (permesso di soggiorno), you have to hand it in at the Student Office personally or via e-mail.

## Tuition fees

Fees amount to € 1200

- **1st instalment (€ 600):** includes the revenue stamp of € 16.
- **2nd instalment (€ 600):** must be paid by March of the following year

Delayed payment of the second instalment will result in a fine being levied. If you have not paid the tuition fees, you will be unable to take exams and will not be able to transfer to other universities or other study programmes.

If you drop out of a programme, interrupt your studies or are excluded from studies, you are not entitled to reimbursement of the fees.

Exemption from the tuition fees is granted to:

- Students with a disability recognized under article 3, paragraph 1, of Law No 104/1992, or with a disability up to or exceeding 66%: the disability certificate, issued by the health authorities, must be handed in at the beginning of the academic year.
- Foreign students who have been granted a scholarship from the Italian government.

Students who benefit from a scholarship granted by the Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano are entitled to receive a refund of the tuition fees.

## Recognition of credit points from previous studies

Credit points from previous university studies can only be recognised after enrolment if the exams taken at the university of provenance are equivalent in content to those offered at unibz. You can fill out the application after enrolment at your Faculty Secretariat.

The Faculty organises appointments for the preliminary evaluation (Italian and German) of previous university careers.

The Advisory Service provides support regarding your choice of study. In many cases a simple call or a short request is enough to get the relevant information (Tel. +39 0471 012100).

## **Advisory Service**

Universitätsplatz 1 - piazza  
Università, 1  
Italy - 39100, Bozen-Bolzano  
Tel +39 0471 012100  
Fax +39 0471 012109  
[apply@unibz.it](mailto:apply@unibz.it)

## **Opening Hours**

Tuesdays: 10:00-12:00  
Thursdays: 14:00-16:00

Alternatively, you may call us  
throughout the week or book an  
online appointment