

KU LEUVEN

CEPS
I N S T E A D



Master of Science in Social Policy Analysis (IMPALLA)

INTERNATIONAL INTERUNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

RUN WITH THE SUPPORT OF CEPS/INSTEAD:
THE LUXEMBOURG SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTRE



Faculty of Social Sciences





Welcome to IMPALLA

Are you looking for an advanced academic degree in international comparative social policy research? Would you like to be taught by internationally renowned professors with years of expertise in implementing and evaluating social policies? Would you like to be able to apply your theoretical knowledge to empirical analysis by using statistical methods and data handling?

If so, the Master of Science in Social Policy Analysis (IMPALLA) offered by CEPS/INSTEAD, KU Leuven and a number of associate institutions is designed for you.

Attending the IMPALLA programme was a great opportunity to sharpen both my academic and social skills. I also really appreciated the material support and resources, which were truly outstanding.

The IMPALLA programme distinguishes itself through:

- an international and comparative focus
- a high-calibre staff
- an international and diverse student body
- an up-to-date ICT environment
- special access to national and international comparative micro databases
- an advisory team of assistant professors and researchers.

The programme is run with the support of CEPS/INSTEAD. Graduates receive a Master's degree from KU Leuven.

Besides its professional education, this programme is unique because of the congenial family atmosphere, the cohesion with all involved, and the care and attention given to the needs of the students.

Educational project

Our ambition is to train students to become qualified analysts in comparative social policy who:

- have mastered state-of-the-art research methodologies
- are sensitive to the determinants and dysfunctional effects of social action and public policies
- are able to apply their skills in evaluating social systems and programmes

The learning process is interactive and emphasises applied approaches to the subjects studied. Students are introduced to contemporary social and political theories that aim to explain societal change. They also learn to define and formulate research questions, problems and issues. They acquire a thorough understanding of the rationale and range of various research methods and an extensive knowledge of data sources. They develop an ability to make their own choices in dealing with social policy issues and learn to present their opinions critically and reflectively.



In the first term of the programme, students choose a Master's dissertation topic, which they carry out under supervision of our professors and assistant professors. This exercise aims at enhancing students':

- individual aptitude for analysis and synthesis
- ability to work in an international and/or multidisciplinary team
- skills in academic writing and presentation of research results

Profile

As an ideal prospective student, you have strong English language skills and a solid knowledge of statistics and research methodology. You have an interest in social policy and its development and implementation. You are motivated to address social problems and social change and have a desire to analyse these subjects more profoundly.

By the end of the programme, you will grasp both the overall socio-economic picture and the crucial social-policy issues at stake. You choose and master the appropriate methodologies needed to analyse the available databases. This culminates with the opportunity to share your research results with our team of professors and researchers.

Overview of the academic year

As an advanced Master's programme, IMPALLA is a one-year, full-time programme. Most courses are held in G.D. Luxembourg, but the programme includes a three-month stay at KU Leuven in Belgium during which students receive further teaching and training.

Term	Period	Location
• Levelling-up term	Beginning September - Mid-October	CEPS/INSTEAD, G.D. Luxembourg
• Second term	Mid-October - January	CEPS/INSTEAD, G.D. Luxembourg
• Third term	February - April	KU Leuven, Belgium
• Dissertation term	May - July	CEPS/INSTEAD, G.D. Luxembourg

Most of the courses are scheduled in units of one week.

To me, the IMPALLA programme is excellent preparation for a PhD or an academic career. As for the schedule and the studying requirements, the IMPALLA year was exceptionally demanding. Learning how to use statistical and social-policy analysis tools for my research improved my methodological skills. Luxembourg and Leuven each provide an ideal working environment for students, with 24/7 access to computer facilities and the guidance of assistant professors.



Admission

IMPALLA is a highly selective programme. Admission is limited to 20 students per year. The closing date for applications can be found on the IMPALLA website. The application process is carried out entirely online.

Requirements

- A university degree of at least four years in social or behavioural sciences, including training in statistics, is a prerequisite for applying to the programme;
- Applicants must take the IMPALLA test on statistics and methodology;
- Non-native English speakers must provide evidence of English language proficiency by presenting a language test score (TOEFL or IELTS) of at least C1 level, according to the Common European Framework of the Council of Europe.

Scholarship

Thanks to support provided by CEPS/INSTEAD, the programme is able to provide need-based scholarships and merit grants. Scholarship requests do not affect admission decisions.

Application procedure

Detailed information is available on the IMPALLA website.

IMPALLA website: <http://soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/impalla/>

Programme

The programme begins with an intensive set of introductory courses in social sciences, statistics and methodology, followed by core lectures.

The lectures covering the theoretical aspects of the programme are spread out over two periods and are complemented by group work and individual exercises related to the subjects studied in class. Students are encouraged to attend international conferences, research seminars and expert meetings.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS		60 ECTS
COURSE		ECTS
Levelling-up Group		
• Levelling-up Statistics		3
• Levelling-up Social Sciences		8
Socio-Economic Policy Group		
• Social Problems and Reforms Seminar		7
• Social Policy		3
• Comparative and International Socio-Economic Policy		3
Policy Evaluation Group		
• The Policy Cycle		3
• Evaluation Techniques and Tools		4
Statistics & Research Group		
• Statistics & Research Methods - Part I		5
• Statistics & Research Methods - Part II		5
Master's Dissertation		
• Master's Dissertation		16
Optional Courses		
• Performance Audit in Social Policy		3
• Applied Methodology: How to Do Relevant Research?		3
• Political Economy of Urban Development		3

For detailed descriptions please see: www.kuleuven.be/ma/impalla

Host Institutions

Belgium and G.D. Luxembourg are neighbouring countries in northwest Europe.

CEPS/INSTEAD

CEPS/INSTEAD is located in the heart of the new campus of the “Cité des Sciences” in Belval, in the south of Luxembourg close to the French border. CEPS/INSTEAD is a Luxembourg-based multi-disciplinary research institute specialised in the collection and analysis of socio-economic and geographic data. The centre holds a unique position in the area of comparative socio-economic research and comparative social policy analysis at both the national and the international level. The permanent research staff, PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and visiting researchers conduct empirical and multi-disciplinary research in the social sciences on a wide range of topics, both for academic research and for policy studies commissioned by governmental bodies.

CEPS/INSTEAD website: www.ceps.lu



KU Leuven

Situated in the heart of Western Europe, KU Leuven is Belgium's largest university. Founded in 1425, it is one of Europe's oldest and most renowned universities. The university welcomes more than 40,000 students, of which 15.5% are international students from more than 140 countries. KU Leuven offers 46 Master's programmes and 27 advanced Master's programmes

in English, including IMPALLA. All are supported by innovative, interdisciplinary research. KU Leuven website: www.kuleuven.be

Career prospects

In a globalising world, social policy issues are of central importance. New jobs are constantly created in the fields of implementation and evaluation of social policies. Past IMPALLA graduates have pursued careers as consultants to national ministries and administrations or international institutions, academic institutions, advanced research centres and private firms specialising in auditing and impact assessment. The IMPALLA programme is also the ideal preparation for a PhD track. For particularly outstanding students, we support applications for a full PhD grant through the National Research Fund Luxembourg (FNR).

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Learn more

www.soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/impalla
www.impalla.ceps.lu

KU Leuven

International programmes: www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes

International Office: www.kuleuven.be/english

Official programme directory: www.kuleuven.be/ma/impalla

CEPS/INSTEAD

IMPALLA Programme

tel. + 352 58 58 55652

impalla.secretariat@ceps.lu

Organising institutions

- KU Leuven, Faculty of Social Sciences, Centre for Sociological Research (Belgium)
- CEPS/INSTEAD, the Luxembourg Social Science Research Centre (G.D. Luxembourg)

Associated institutions

- University of Tilburg (the Netherlands)
- University of Nancy II (France)
- University of Luxembourg (G.D. Luxembourg)



This brochure provides the most complete and accurate information available concerning this Master's programme offered at KU Leuven. However, amendments to the composition of this programme may be approved at any time. The study load of many Master's programmes may increase from 60 to 120 ECTS in the future. Consequently, KU Leuven is in no way legally bound by the information provided in this brochure. The most recent information on all our academic programmes can be consulted at www.kuleuven.be/coursecatalogue

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