

# Course catalogue

## Social Protection (MSc)

Last Updated: January 2026

### Objectives

The master's programme provides an interdisciplinary and in-depth study of social protection systems. Social protection is a rapidly growing policy field worldwide — not only in addressing poverty and risks, but also as a strategic instrument for crisis response and resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing impacts of climate change demonstrate the crucial role of adaptive social protection in safeguarding populations against evolving risks. The programme responds to these global challenges by preparing graduates to analyze, design and evaluate “smart” systems that are both financially sustainable and adaptable to changing needs, particularly in the Global South. They will also be prepared to improve or reform existing programmes, ensuring their effectiveness in addressing future demographic, economic and social challenges.

Our graduates are able to:

- analyze the characteristics, determinants, instruments, and actors of social protection systems across low-, middle- and high-income countries
- apply analytical methods and tools to assess social protection against principles of equity and justice, and to design, evaluate, and reform social protection systems
- evaluate options to institutionalize, manage, and sustainably finance social protection systems
- implement social protection interventions effectively and efficiently using state-of-the-art management methods
- conduct independent research using qualitative and quantitative methods to generate and critically assess evidence on social protection systems
- integrate and align social protection instruments at policy, programmatic, and administrative levels to promote inclusiveness
- communicate and advocate reform ideas effectively, considering political, legal, and financial dimensions
- collaborate effectively across disciplines and institutions at national and international level.

The curriculum reflects the core competencies required to plan, manage, evaluate, and reform social protection systems over time. The programme equips students with technical knowledge about the origins, characteristics, and policy instruments of social protection systems, and with the analytical skills needed to adapt systems to specific economic, political, cultural, and institutional contexts. Graduates will also be able to further develop these systems in response to emerging reform needs and opportunities. The curriculum follows a structured learning logic that takes students from foundational knowledge and applied skills to independent research and problem-solving.

The programme does not have a regional focus. Instead, it prepares students to work across diverse contexts and with systems at different levels of maturity. Case studies, group discussions, projects, and the diverse backgrounds of students and lecturers provide a rich basis for comparing contexts. Elective courses give students the opportunity to explore specific challenges in greater depth and to consider how social protection can be tailored to the needs of different groups in society.

Research plays a central role in the programme. Students learn the core methods of qualitative and quantitative research and are guided step by step in designing and conducting their own projects. The master's thesis offers the opportunity to specialize in a topic of particular relevance and interest. This is valuable preparation not only for an academic or research career, but also for positions requiring advanced analytical skills in policy and practice.

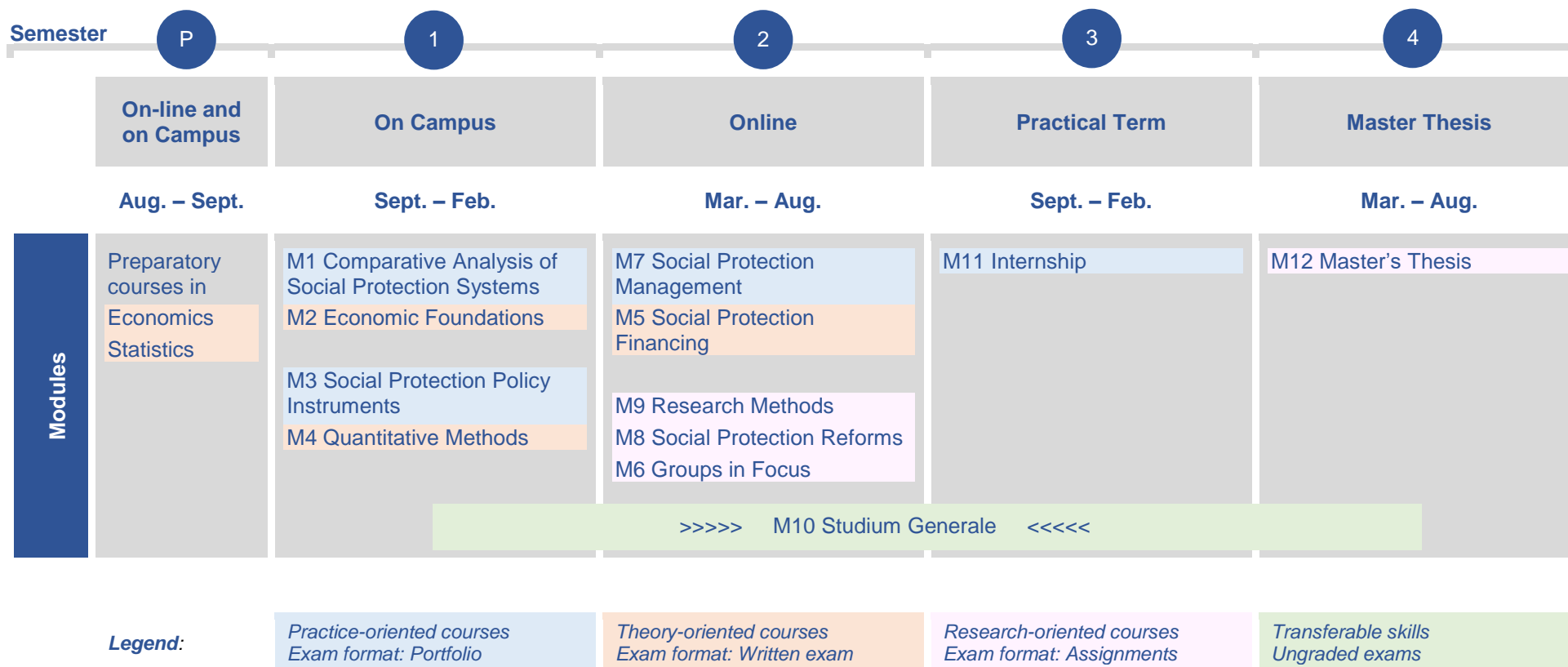
The programme is strongly practice-oriented. The curriculum is regularly reviewed against labour-market needs and combines theoretical foundations with applied knowledge. A compulsory practical term enables students to apply their skills in real-world settings and prepares them for their professional careers. Practice links are further strengthened through partnerships with international organisations and contributions from practitioners working in diverse contexts.

Because challenges in social protection policy are rarely solved in isolation, the programme places strong emphasis on professional and interpersonal competencies. These include intercultural communication, teamwork, negotiation, and critical reflection. Such skills are developed through case studies, group projects, presentations, and interactive teaching in an intercultural and interdisciplinary environment. A dedicated module on political and change communication strengthens these competencies further, and students are encouraged to build professional networks and benefit from each other's expertise during their studies and beyond.

Overview of Modules											
Module No.	Module	ECTS / Semester				Workload		Teaching & Learning methods <sup>1</sup>	Pre-requisites	Methods of examination	Emphasis of grade
		1.	2.	3.	4.	Contact hours (45min)	Independ. study (1h)				
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester											
M1	Module 1: Comparative Analysis of Social Protection Systems	8				120	110				8 / 88
M 1.1	Social Protection Systems: Constitutive Elements	2				30	27,5	IL, E, ST	None	Portfolio	
M 1.2	Social Protection Systems: Driving Factors	2				30	27,5				
M 1.3	Comparative Social Protection Analysis	2				30	27,5				
M 1.4	International Social Protection Policy	2				30	27,5				
M2	Module 2: Economic Foundations	7				90	107,5				7 / 88
M 2.1	Economics of Social Protection	4				45	66,25	IL, E	None	Written Exam	
M 2.2	Risk Assessment	1				15	13,75				
M 2.3	Public Finance	2				30	27,5				
M3	Module 3: Social Protection Policy Instruments	8				120	110				8 / 88
M 3.1	Contributory Schemes	2				30	27,5	IL, E, ST	None	Portfolio	
M 3.2	Social Transfers	2				30	27,5				
M 3.3	Social Services	2				30	27,5				
M 3.4	Promotional Measures	2				30	27,5				
M4	Module 4: Quantitative Methods in Social Protection	7				105	96,25				7 / 88
M 4.1	Statistics	2				30	27,5	IL, E	None	Written Exam	
M 4.2	Econometrics	2				30	27,5				
M 4.3	Evaluation	2				30	27,5				
M 4.4	Demography	1				15	13,75				

<sup>1</sup> IL = Interactive lecturing; E = Exercises; S = Student presentations; ST = Study Tour

Module No.	Module	ECTS / Semester				Workload		Teaching & Learning methods	Pre-requisites	Methods of examination	Emphasis of grade
		1.	2.	3.	4.	Contact hours (45min)	Independ. study (1h)				
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester											
M5	Module 5: Social Protection Financing		6			75	93,75				6 / 88
M 5.1	Financing Techniques		4			45	66,25	IL, E	None	Written Exam	
M 5.2	Actuarial Practice		2			30	27,5				
M6	Module 6: Groups in Focus (Electives)		6			60	105				6 / 88
M 6.1	Children / Youth	Students choose 2 Electives	3			30	52,5	IL, E, S	None	(A) Presentation (50%) (B) Research Paper (50%)	
M 6.2	Elderly		3			30	52,5				
M 6.3	Migrants		3			30	52,5				
M 6.4	Persons with Disabilities		3			30	52,5				
M 6.5	Family		3			30	52,5				
M 6.6	Working Population		3			30	52,5				
M7	Module 7: Social Protection Management		6			90	82,5				6 / 88
M 7.1	Delivery of Social Transfers		2			30	27,5	IL, E	None	Portfolio	
M 7.2	Delivery of Social Insurance		2			30	27,5				
M 7.3	Information Management		2			30	27,5				
M8	Module 8: Social Protection Reforms		8			95	128,75				8 / 88
M 8.1	Current Trends in Social Protection (Brown-bag seminar)		1			5	21,25	IL, E, S	None	(A) Presentation (40%) (B) Reform Proposal (60%)	
M 8.2	Reform Management		3			45	41,25				
M 8.3	Reform Project		4			45	66,25				
M9	Module 9: Research Methods		4		2	90	82,5				4 / 88
M 9.1	Research Methods		4			60	55	IL, E, S	None	(M9.1) Research Proposal (100%) (M9.2) Attendance rate of 66,6% in colloquium; Presentations (fail/pass)	
M 9.2	Research Colloquium				2	30	27,5				
3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester											
M10	Module 10: Studium Generale			5		Depends on course(s) selected					0 / 88
M11	Module 11: Internship			25			625		(1) Min. 46 ECTS	(1) Internship Report (2) Internship Certificate	0 / 88
4 <sup>th</sup> Semester											
M12	Module 12: Master's Thesis				28	0	700		(1) Min. 46 ECTS (2) M9.1 passed	Master Thesis	28 / 88
Sum		30	30	30	30						



Note: The sequence of modules in the second semester follows the logical structure of applying the previously acquired knowledge.

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## M1 Comparative Analysis of Social Protection Systems

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		Duration
M1	200 h	8 ECTS	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Winter semester		8 SWS <sup>2</sup>
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module</b>			<b>Contact hours</b>	<b>Independ. study</b>	<b>Group size</b>
	<b>1.1</b> Social Protection Systems: Constitutive Elements (2 ECTS) <b>1.2</b> Social Protection Systems: Driving Factors (2 ECTS) <b>1.3</b> Comparative Social Protection Analysis (2 ECTS) <b>1.4</b> International Social Protection Policy (2 ECTS)			120 x 45min	110 h	25-30
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  In Module 1, you will be familiarised with the basic concepts, the main actors as well as theoretical approaches behind the rise, growth and entrenchment of social protection systems. You learn how to compare different social protection systems and study the constitutive elements as well as differences across systems. You are sensitized about the importance of political and other contextual factors when it comes to system design and also get to understand that the welfare state is no longer a purely national affair but shaped by regional and global influences and regulations.  In greater detail, you will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand the constitutive elements of social protection systems including the various actors and how they have historically developed in various context</li> <li>• get to understand the interplay of actors in social protection systems and where conflicts arise between the market, state, the family and civil society</li> <li>• study and critically discuss different welfare typologies, their merits and challenges</li> <li>• reflect on the explanatory approaches for the existence, growth and entrenchment of social protection systems</li> <li>• develop a critical understanding of the political factors that shape the adoption and implementation of social protection policies and programmes and the analytical frameworks that are available to understand this</li> <li>• be able to place the concept of social protection into the wider policy arena and draw linkages with other sectors</li> <li>• understand the social, economic and political rationale of social protection as well as any conflicting forces</li> <li>• learn how to compare different social protection systems and which indicators, methodological frameworks and databases to draw on</li> <li>• know international regulations and institutions and in what way they shape national social protection policies</li> <li>• learn how national social protection systems are influenced by international crises and other challenges such as migration</li> </ul>					
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents of the module</b>  <b>1.1 Social Protection Systems: Constitutive Elements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of social protection</li> <li>• Typologies and conceptual frameworks</li> <li>• System's approach to social protection</li> <li>• Core instruments and actors in social protection</li> <li>• Role of social protection and regional particularities</li> <li>• Main methods / indicators for comparative analysis of social protection systems</li> </ul>					

<sup>2</sup> SWS = SemesterWochenStunden (translation = lecture hours of 45min per semester week)

	<p><b>1.2 Social Protection Systems: Driving Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welfare state theories</li> <li>• Determinants of social protection systems</li> <li>• The role of values and social justice norms</li> <li>• Political economy models of social protection</li> </ul> <p><b>1.3 Comparative Social Protection Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main indicators for comparative analysis</li> <li>• Databases for quantitative and qualitative data</li> <li>• Comparability of data</li> <li>• Main comparative methods</li> </ul> <p><b>1.4 International Social Protection Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International crises affecting the welfare state</li> <li>• Global policy ideas, norms and regulations</li> <li>• Transportability and coordination at regional and international level (example of the European Union)</li> <li>• Migration and the welfare state</li> <li>• Interplay of social protection at national and international level</li> <li>• International support for social protection initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>Interactive lecturing, exercises, study tour</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Methods of examination</b></p> <p>Portfolio</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b></p> <p>Passing the portfolio</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b></p> <p>9,0% (8 / 88)</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Person responsible for module</b></p> <p>Dr. Maria Klara Kuss</p>

## M2 Economic Foundations

No. / code of module		Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		Duration
M2		175 h	7 ECTS	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Winter semester		7 SWS
1	<b>Courses of the module</b> <b>2.1</b> Economics of Social Protection (4 ECTS) <b>2.2</b> Risk Assessment (1 ECTS) <b>2.3</b> Public Finance (2 ECTS)				<b>Contact hours</b>  90 x 45min	<b>Independ. study</b>  107,5 h	<b>Group size</b>  25-30
2	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  In Module 2, you will be familiarised with the main micro- and macro-economic determinants and implications of social protection schemes and systems. You will learn and understand how social protection responds to market failures and to economic cycles but also how it is used to modify outcomes of the markets when these outcomes are not seen as acceptable from equity or efficiency perspectives. You will study types and nature of publicly funded programmes, methods of comparing its costs and benefits as well as choices of financing sources. You will understand the impact of different types of taxation and learn about the concepts of public financial sustainability. In order to understand the (changing) needs for social protection, you will examine the concepts and driving factors behind poverty and risks trends. This will be an important basis for designing but also evaluating the effects of social protection as social protection schemes are not only influenced but also impact poverty, inequality and the risk exposure of a country.  In greater detail, you will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• understand the micro- and macro-economic aspects of social protection interventions</li><li>• study and critically discuss economic impacts of social protection and economic justifications for state intervention</li><li>• develop a critical understanding of different views economists have on social protection</li><li>• know different concepts of poverty, vulnerability and risk</li><li>• be able to interpret risk profiles</li><li>• understand the basics of public finance, rationale of publicly funded programmes, and its financing options</li><li>• learn about costs-benefit analysis</li></ul>						
3	<b>Contents of the module</b>  <b>2.1 Economics of social protection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equity and efficiency of market outcomes and state interventions</li><li>• Market failures, asymmetric information and public goods</li><li>• Concepts of poverty, vulnerability, inequality and risk</li><li>• Social justice and social welfare functions</li><li>• Intertemporal choice and behavioural biases</li><li>• Decision making in the conditions of uncertainty and imperfect information</li></ul> <b>2.2 Risk assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Profiles and determinants of poverty and inequality</li><li>• Risk profiles</li></ul> <b>2.3 Public Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elements of public finance theory and political economy</li><li>• Elements of costs-benefit analysis</li><li>• Tax incidence, combined redistributive analysis of taxes and benefits</li><li>• Sustainability of public finances</li></ul>						



<b>4</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b> Interactive lecturing, exercises
<b>5</b>	<b>Pre-requisites</b> None
<b>6</b>	<b>Methods of examination</b> Written exam (in-class)
<b>7</b>	<b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b> Passing the written exam
<b>8</b>	<b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b> 8,0% (7 / 88)
<b>9</b>	<b>Person responsible for module</b> Prof. Dr. Simona Helmsmüller

## M3 Social Protection Policy Instruments

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M3	200 h	8 ECTS	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Winter semester		
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module</b> <b>3.1</b> Contributory Schemes (2 ECTS) <b>3.2</b> Social Transfers (2 ECTS) <b>3.3</b> Social Services (2 ECTS) <b>3.4</b> Promotional Measures (2 ECTS)			<b>Contact hours</b> 120 x 45min	<b>Independ. Study</b> 110 h	<b>Group size</b> 25-30
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  Module 3 familiarizes you with the main social protection policy instruments comprising contributory schemes, tax-financed transfers and services, and promotional measures to allow recipients to become productive again. You study the concept, impact, and challenges of different instruments and learn how the choice and prioritization of instruments is dependent on the inherent logic of the respective social protection system. For each instrument, you analyze the various design options and determine which are most suitable in a given context.  In greater detail, you will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acquire a solid understanding of the various policy instruments that make up an effective social protection system</li> <li>• discuss for every instrument the underlying concepts, their relevance in different country contexts, the potential effects and challenges</li> <li>• get a good overview of the evidence base and outstanding questions regarding different social protection instruments</li> <li>• analyze the design options that policymakers have for each instrument and learn various methods of how to make informed decisions</li> <li>• be capable of writing a policy paper, providing policy recommendations on social protection policy choices</li> </ul>					
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents of the module</b>  <b>3.1 Contributory Schemes</b>  <b>Social insurance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic principles and rationale of social insurance</li> <li>• Characteristics (constitutive features) of social insurance schemes</li> <li>• When should the state intervene-during market or social crises</li> <li>• Instruments the state can use</li> <li>• Characteristics of social insurance schemes</li> <li>• Design differences of insurance schemes</li> <li>• Design decisions to be made-who pays, who qualifies and benefit level</li> <li>• Typical features in low/middle income countries and coverage challenges</li> <li>• Ways to raise coverage effectively</li> </ul> <b>Private insurance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic principles and rational of private (re)insurance</li> <li>• Conditions of functioning of private insurance</li> <li>• Different private insurance schemes and related risks</li> <li>• Public regulation of private insurance plans</li> <li>• Is private insurance an option for the poor?</li> <li>• Micro insurance</li> </ul>					

	<p><b>3.2 Social Transfers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept &amp; typology of transfers</li> <li>• Coverage and impact of social transfers</li> <li>• Analysis of design choices with respect to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Targeting</li> <li>○ Transfer modality</li> <li>○ Transfer size</li> <li>○ Conditionality</li> <li>○ Graduation or programme exit</li> <li>○ Inclusive design</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Social Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender and social protection</li> <li>• Unpaid Care Work</li> <li>• Establishing the need for social care services</li> <li>• Organisation of social care services: the care diamond</li> <li>• Policy asks-the 3R and 5R framework</li> <li>• Accessibility, availability and quality of social care services</li> <li>• Decent work in provision of social care services</li> <li>• Making care integral to social care services through gender-differentiated and care-sensitive provision</li> </ul> <p><b>3.4 Promotional Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies and institutions for labour governance</li> <li>• Employment at the centre of socio-economic policy and international labour standards</li> <li>• Employment policy and labour market policies</li> <li>• Leader-follower approach and socio-economic coordination</li> <li>• Defining employment challenges and identifying appropriate policy measures</li> <li>• Labour market aggregates for social protection and employment policy design</li> <li>• Active and passive labour market policies: Design by objective, types of interventions and targeting of public measures</li> <li>• Activation strategies and social protection: Tiering approach applied to the Public Employment Services</li> <li>• Experiences of direct provision of public services and regulation of private agencies</li> <li>• Labour administration approaches</li> <li>• Moving from policy options to action planning</li> <li>• Labour and employment agendas from a development perspective</li> <li>• Labour mobility and migration in the employment and social policy agenda</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>Interactive lecturing, exercises, study tour</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Methods of examination</b></p> <p>Portfolio</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b></p> <p>Passing the portfolio</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b></p> <p>9,0% (8 / 88)</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Person responsible for module</b></p> <p>Brian Mathebula</p>

## M4 Quantitative Methods in Social Protection

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M4	175 h	7 ECTS	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Winter semester		
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module</b> <b>4.1</b> Statistics (2 ECTS) <b>4.2</b> Econometrics (2 ECTS) <b>4.3</b> Evaluation (2 ECTS) <b>4.4</b> Demography (1 ECTS)			<b>Contact hours</b> 105 x 45min	<b>Independ. study</b> 96,25 h	<b>Group size</b> 25-30
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b> <p>The overarching goals of Module 4 is teaching you how quantitative data is used to assess the impact of social protection programmes and to make predictions about future developments.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be aware of the challenges of survey design and be able to distinguish different forms of survey error</li> <li>• understand that estimates depend on samples and be able to quantify this dependency by calculating standard errors</li> <li>• know how to calculate and interpret confidence intervals</li> <li>• be able to test statistical hypotheses and to interpret p-values</li> <li>• know regression analysis and be able to determine the most suitable regression design (simple, multivariate, nonlinear)</li> <li>• get to use a statistical software package and be prepared to use this software for different econometric methods</li> <li>• be able to interpret regression results presented by the software or in published tables</li> <li>• know how to develop a theory of change</li> <li>• be able to distinguish between various experimental and non-experimental impact evaluations</li> <li>• be able to critically assess the quality and limitations of impact evaluations and interpret results correctly</li> <li>• be able to understand demographic projections along with the associated assumptions</li> <li>• learn to understand nature and impacts of economic transition and ageing populations</li> </ul>					
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents of the module</b> <b>4.1 Statistics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey methodology:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Total Survey Error Framework by Groves et. al.</li> <li>○ Different datasets (longitudinal, cross-sections) and commonly used data sources in economic and social statistics</li> <li>○ Data confidentiality and ethics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Inference statistics:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The sampling distribution of the mean and the central limit theorem</li> <li>○ Standard errors and confidence intervals</li> <li>○ Hypothesis tests and p-values</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>4.2 Econometrics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple linear regression</li> <li>• Testing for significance</li> <li>• Multiple regression and omitted variable bias</li> <li>• Nonlinear regression and interaction effects</li> <li>• Internal and external validity</li> <li>• Introduction to causality: randomized control trials</li> </ul>					

	<p><b>4.3 Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact Evaluation Design: theory of change and selection of indicators</li> <li>• Process / service delivery evaluations: examples of targeting, payments &amp; administrative processes</li> <li>• Quantitative impact evaluation techniques: experimental vs. non-experimental</li> <li>• Non-experimental: Difference-in-Difference, Matching techniques, Regression Discontinuity Design</li> </ul> <p><b>4.4 Demography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three key demographic processes</li> <li>• Demographic transition and ageing populations</li> <li>• Demographic projections</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>Interactive lecturing, exercises</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Methods of examination</b></p> <p>Written exam (in-class)</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b></p> <p>Passing the written exam</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b></p> <p>8,0% (7 / 88)</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Person responsible for module</b></p> <p>Prof. Dr. Simona Helmsmüller</p>

## M5 Social Protection Financing

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M5	150 h	6 ECTS	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Summer semester		
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module</b> 5.1 Financing Techniques (4 ECTS) 5.2 Actuarial Practice (2 ECTS)			<b>Contact hours</b> 75 x 45min	<b>Independ. study</b> 93,75 h	<b>Group size</b> 25-30
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  In Module 5, you become familiar with the concepts of policy and fiscal space, affordability and sustainability. You acquire knowledge of the different patterns of public expenditure and different structures of its financing. You explore different methods that can be used to evaluate the impact, cost-effectiveness and fiduciary risks of social protection programmes, including methods of actuarial valuations and projections. This module trains you to understand the social protection expenditure trends in different demographic, economic and specific country settings  In greater detail, you will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• grasp the concepts of affordability, policy space and fiscal space and know how to apply them in the area of social protection</li> <li>• be able to analyse the size of public financial space and expenditure trends in different country settings as well as the determinants of public social expenditure</li> <li>• know different resource mobilization strategies and be aware of the underlying political processes</li> <li>• be familiar with actuarial methodologies and models</li> <li>• be able to perform actuarial projections and valuation methods using Excel</li> </ul>					
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents of the module</b>  <b>5.1 Financing Techniques</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing social protection systems: definition, parameters</li> <li>• Policy space and fiscal space – dynamic and forward-looking approach</li> <li>• Concepts of affordability and sustainability in the shorter- and longer-term perspective</li> <li>• Data for country-level analysis: Social protection in national and government accounts, expenditure trends and patterns, determinants of national social expenditure</li> <li>• Short- and long-term resource mobilization strategies for meaningful extension of coverage (coverage, scope, adequacy)</li> <li>• Time and resource needs for social protection related SDGs and the role of external financing</li> </ul> <b>5.2 Actuarial Practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic principles of actuarial practices</li> <li>• Modelling methodologies</li> <li>• Demographic, labour force and employment projections</li> <li>• Contributory pension modelling, non-contributory social protection benefits</li> <li>• Projection consistency, validation and interpretation</li> <li>• Long-term sustainability and financing strategies</li> <li>• Understanding the role of and need for actuaries</li> </ul>					
<b>4</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>  Interactive lecturing, exercises					
<b>5</b>	<b>Pre-requisites</b>  None					
<b>6</b>	<b>Methods of examination</b>  Written exam (take home)					

<b>7</b>	<b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b> Passing the written exam
<b>8</b>	<b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b> 6,8% (6 / 88)
<b>9</b>	<b>Person responsible for module</b> Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Hagemeyer

## M6 Groups in Focus (Electives)

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M6	150 h	6 ECTS	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Summer semester		
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module (exemplary)</b> <b>6.1</b> Children / Youth (3 ECTS) <b>6.2</b> Older Persons (3 ECTS) <b>6.3</b> Migrants (3 ECTS) <b>6.4</b> Persons with Disabilities (3 ECTS) <b>6.5</b> Family (3 ECTS) <b>6.6</b> Working Population (3 ECTS)			<b>Contact hours</b> 60 x 45min	<b>Independ. study</b> 105 h	<b>Group size</b> 10 - 15
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  In Module 6, you choose two out of the electives on offer. You analyze the characteristics, needs and specific risks of different groups in society. You will examine how social protection instruments are best combined and designed to meet the needs of the individual groups. You will also learn to determine which risks can be mainstreamed into regular social protection programming, which risks require separate interventions and how interventions are designed in order not to indirectly disadvantage certain groups in society.  In greater detail, you will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• study different risks and needs associated with different stages in the life cycle</li> <li>• assess different options of combining social protection instruments to respond to these needs</li> <li>• problematize access issues for these different groups to social protection benefits and services</li> <li>• determine current policy gaps, inconsistencies and negative incentives</li> <li>• be familiar with the evidence base spanning across different country contexts</li> <li>• analyze policy solutions and best global practices</li> </ul>					
<b>3</b>	<b>The content of the module depends on the courses offered in the respective semester. These could include a selection of the following:</b>  <b>6.1 Children / Youth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of child-sensitive social protection</li> <li>• Definition of special needs and risks of children in the context of a child rights-based approach</li> <li>• Impact of social protection on children and their families</li> <li>• Improving outcomes: establishing linkages between child-sensitive social protection and children's rights and well-being</li> </ul> <b>6.2 Older Persons</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special characteristics, needs and risks of older persons</li> <li>• Social protection measures specifically for the elderly</li> <li>• Health and care needs of the older population</li> <li>• Measuring impact of social protection for older persons</li> </ul> <b>6.3 Migrants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration and social protection in the destination country               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interlinkages between social protection and migration in the destination country</li> <li>○ Migrant rights and access to social protection in different country contexts</li> <li>○ Forced and voluntary migrants in destination country and in transit</li> <li>○ Country case studies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Migration and social protection in the country of origin               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interlinkages between social protection and migration in countries of origin</li> <li>○ Effects of remittances and social transfers</li> <li>○ Relation between social transfers and migration</li> <li>○ Portability and social security benefits for migrants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					



	<p><b>6.4 Persons with Disabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions and concepts of disability</li> <li>• Disability in data collection and analysis</li> <li>• Link between disability, inequality, intersectionality and poverty</li> <li>• Rational for social protection for persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Ensuring access across social protection programmes</li> <li>• Disability and eligibility determination</li> <li>• Inclusive social protection system and life cycle approach (income security, coverage of extra cost, access to health and support services)</li> </ul> <p><b>6.5 Family</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special needs and risks of women</li> <li>• Special (mental) health care needs</li> <li>• Impact of (lack of) social protection on gender</li> <li>• Design of gender-sensitive social protection benefits and services</li> <li>• Mainstreaming gender into existing programmes</li> <li>• Protection of primary care providers</li> <li>• Maternity/paternity benefits and parental leave policies</li> </ul> <p><b>6.6 Working Population</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social risk and contingencies faced by working population and resulting insurance and protection needs</li> <li>• Situation of people with different employment status, in formal and informal employment</li> <li>• Prevention and protection in case of employment accidents and occupational disease – forms of protection and country case studies</li> <li>• Sickness – forms of protection and country case studies</li> <li>• Unemployment protection and labour market policies – forms of protection and country case studies</li> <li>• Social health protection – forms and country case studies</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>Interactive lecturing, exercises, student presentations</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Methods of examination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation (50%) in one elective</li> <li>• Research Paper (50%) in the other elective</li> </ul> <p>Final grade will be calculated on the basis of the grades allocated to both exams.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b></p> <p>Obtaining at least 50% of the overall points for both exam parts</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b></p> <p>6,8% (6 / 88)</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Person responsible for module</b></p> <p>Prof. Dr. Kerstin Rosenow-Williams</p>

## M7 Social Protection Management

No. / code of module		Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M7		150 h	6 ECTS	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Summer semester		
1	<b>Courses of the module</b>  7.1 Delivery of Social Transfers (2 ECTS) 7.2 Delivery of Social Insurance (2 ECTS) 7.3 Information Management (2 ECTS)				<b>Contact hours</b>  90 x 45min	<b>Independ. study</b>  82,5 h	<b>Group size</b>  25-30
2	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  In Module 7, you learn different techniques that facilitate the management of social protection programmes. You explore the delivery process as well as delivery options for different country contexts in greater detail. This means that you get for instance to assess which identification and payment methods are most appropriate in the area of social transfers and how enrolment and contribution collection can be better incentivized in the area of social insurance. You are familiarized with the challenges in the implementation process and learn different strategies of how to overcome them and which role digitalization can play. Exploring the opportunities of different data registries, you also learn how to best manage the wealth of information around recipients of social protection programmes, how to create interoperable data systems and how to deal with challenges of data governance and privacy protection.  In greater detail, you will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• explore the different decisions to be made in the implementation process, how they are sequenced and interlinked</li><li>• get an understanding of the importance of sound implementation mechanisms</li><li>• be in a position to detail and outline the different steps in the implementation processes such as the enrolment or payment process</li><li>• are familiarized with challenges pertaining to the outreach activities, identification and enrolment of recipients, payment of benefits, collection of contributions and management of funds as well as grievance redress mechanisms</li><li>• learn how to interpret administrative costs</li><li>• get to know how to integrate information management systems around recipients and deal with the challenges that come along with it</li><li>• be enabled to design and implement management information systems with their underlying databases</li></ul>						
3	<b>Contents of the module</b>  7.1 Delivery of Social Transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social protection delivery chain<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Identification and enrolment</li><li>○ Payment mechanisms</li><li>○ Complaints and grievance mechanisms</li><li>○ Monitoring systems</li></ul></li><li>• Administrative costs</li><li>• Digitalization of the delivery process for social transfers</li></ul> 7.2 Delivery of Social Insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enrolment of contributors</li><li>• Challenges related to workers in non-standard forms of labour</li><li>• Contribution collection</li><li>• Social security reserve management</li></ul>						

	<b>7.3 Information Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data management needs in social protection</li> <li>• Rationale for integrated data management</li> <li>• Advantages and risks of data and information integration</li> <li>• Set-up of integrated information systems and related challenges in different country contexts</li> <li>• Data privacy and governance</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b> Interactive lecturing, exercises
<b>5</b>	<b>Pre-requisites</b> None
<b>6</b>	<b>Methods of examination</b> Portfolio
<b>7</b>	<b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b> Passing the portfolio
<b>8</b>	<b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b> 6,8% (6 / 88)
<b>9</b>	<b>Person responsible for module</b> Prof. Dr. Markus Loewe

## M8 Social Protection Reforms

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M8	200 h	8 ECTS	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Summer semester		
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module</b>			<b>Contact hours</b>	<b>Independ. study</b>	<b>Group size</b>
	<b>8.1</b> Current Trends in Social Protection (Brown-bag seminar) (1 ECTS) <b>8.2</b> Reform Management (3 ECTS) <b>8.3</b> Reform Project (4 ECTS)			95 x 45min	128,75 h	25-30
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  In Module 8, you study the need and opportunities for system reform, in reaction to current developments such as socio-economic trends, ecological and technological developments, political influences, and emerging risks. Phenomena such as demographic trends and the changing nature of work, shifting in the aid landscape, climate change, humanitarian crises, and digitalization of processes can be studied among others. These trends will motivate one reform initiative that you prepare, assessing different reform options and bearing in mind the contextual factors, in particular the legal frameworks, financing and communication needs. For that, you will be selecting a current reform idea/topic and work on it across different courses in form of an interdisciplinary reform project.  In greater detail, you will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• become familiar with the recent trends that affect social protection policy</li> <li>• study reform processes in different country settings and policy areas and see which lessons are transferable</li> <li>• understand strategic reform opportunities and constraints</li> <li>• understand factors impacting on reform processes and their role for the political feasibility of social protection reforms</li> <li>• understand the role and incentives of stakeholders involved in the reform process</li> <li>• understand and be able to assess legal frameworks</li> <li>• examine as to how policy changes and reforms can be best communicated, using different media sources</li> <li>• be able to analyse financing requirements</li> <li>• learn to write a policy reform strategy, potentially including a stakeholder mapping</li> </ul>					
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents of the module</b>  <b>8.1 Current Trends in Social Protection (Brown-bag seminar):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International guests will present and discuss their work on current topics in social protection such as adaptive and shock-responsive social protection, digital tools, inclusion of the informal sector, shifting aid landscapes, or new forms of labour</li> <li>• Read research papers and reports from international organization to gain deeper knowledge in the fields of your interest</li> </ul> <b>8.2 Reform Management</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Reform Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Communication strategy</li> <li>○ Strategic use of media/social media</li> <li>○ Policy influence plan</li> <li>○ Change management and communication</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Reform Process from a Legal Perspective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Legal frameworks governing social protection systems</li> <li>○ Sources of social security law</li> <li>○ Judicial protection</li> <li>○ International social security law</li> </ul> </li> </ol>					

	<p><b>c) Reform Financing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Using social budgeting as a reform financial planning tool</li> <li>○ Analysis of fiscal position of a country in shorter and longer term</li> <li>○ Projecting costs of the reform in the contexts of the country's fiscal situation</li> <li>○ Government preferences, priorities and constraints (stakeholders' positions, IMF conditions, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>8.3 Reform Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform context, reform arena and reform process</li> <li>• Steps and tools in political economy analysis of reforms</li> <li>• Country case studies for different reforms</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>Interactive lecturing, exercises</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Methods of examination</b></p> <p>Presentation (40%) &amp; Reform Proposal (60%)</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b></p> <p>Obtaining at least 50% of the overall points for both exam parts</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b></p> <p>9,0% (8 / 88)</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Person responsible for module</b></p> <p>Prof. Dr. Simona Helmsmüller</p>

## M9 Research Methods

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M9	150 h	6 ECTS	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Semester	Winter & summer Semester		
1	<b>Courses of the module</b> <b>9.1 Research Methods (4 ECTS)</b> <b>9.2 Colloquium (2 ECTS)</b>			<b>Contact hours</b> 90 x 45min	<b>Independ. study</b> 82,5 h	<b>Group size</b> 25-30
2	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b> <p>In Module 9, you focus on sharpening your research skills to transition from a consumer of knowledge to a producer of knowledge. The main aim is to understand and critically assess research papers throughout the master's programme, and to apply thorough research methods in your master's thesis as well as potentially for a PhD later on. By systematically learning how to formulate a research question, how to come up with a suitable research design, how to collect and analyze data and how to write it up, you are prepared to write a successful master's thesis.</p> <p>In greater detail, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• know the different steps in the research process as well as the logic of how to interconnect them</li> <li>• be in a position to formulate a research question and design the appropriate methodology</li> <li>• obtain a detailed overview and learn how to use different quantitative and qualitative research methods</li> <li>• be capable to critically assess the methodology of other studies</li> <li>• present your research ideas concisely in writing,</li> <li>• learn how to present your research ideas and results in an academic format, and incorporate feedback.</li> </ul>					
3	<b>Contents of the module</b> <b>9.1 Research Methods</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of research questions</li> <li>• Narrative and systematic literature reviews</li> <li>• Overview of quantitative research methods: Data collection and analysis</li> <li>• Overview of qualitative research methods: Data collection and analysis</li> <li>• Academic writing</li> </ul> <b>9.2 Colloquium</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presenting on three occasions in the colloquium: thesis plan, progress report and final findings</li> <li>• Incorporation of feedback</li> </ul>					
4	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b> Interactive lecturing, exercises, online presentations and discussion					
5	<b>Pre-requisites</b> None					
6	<b>Methods of examination</b> Research proposal and presentations					
7	<b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passing the research proposal</li> <li>• Attendance of at least 66% of colloquium sessions</li> <li>• Passing three presentations in the colloquium</li> </ul>					

<b>8</b>	<b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b> 4,5% (4 / 88)
<b>9</b>	<b>Person responsible for module</b> Prof. Dr. Simona Helmsmüller

## M10 Studium Generale

No. / code of module		Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		
M10		125 h	5 ECTS	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester	Variable		
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module</b> <b>10 Studium Generale (5 ECTS)</b>				<b>Contact hours</b> Variable	<b>Independ. study</b> Variable	<b>Group size</b> Variable
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  In Module 10, you have the opportunity to strengthen your skills in an area that you deem important for your future career. The department as well as other departments and institutes of the university (i.e. the language centre and the library) offer extracurricular modules which impart students with important soft and technical skills. Courses offered by other universities, summer schools as well as online courses can equally be followed as long as a certificate of completion is issued and the length of the course(s) are equivalent with the requirements of 5 ECTS.  You will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engage with your own interests and choose respective courses</li> <li>• acquire interdisciplinary competencies</li> <li>• learn about the topics of interest.</li> </ul>						
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents of the module</b>  Students are free to choose their courses						
<b>4</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>  Depends on course(s) selected						
<b>5</b>	<b>Pre-requisites</b>  Depends on course(s) selected						
<b>6</b>	<b>Methods of examination</b>  Depends on course(s) selected						
<b>7</b>	<b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b>  Certificate of completion by the relevant institution						
<b>8</b>	<b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b>  0% (0 / 88)						
<b>9</b>	<b>Person responsible for module</b>  Prof. Dr. Simona Helmsmüller						



## M11 Internship

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		Duration
M11	625 h	25 ECTS	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester	Winter semester		Min. 3 months (full-time) or 6 months (part-time)
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module</b> 11 Internship (25 ECTS)			<b>Contact hours</b> N/A	<b>Independent study</b> 625 h	<b>Group size</b> N/A
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  The goal of the internship is for the student to acquire practical knowledge, skills and techniques, which are required in various professional fields related to social protection. Students will have the opportunity to integrate some of the notions and concepts seen in the previous semesters into a professional environment and to reflect on the nexus between theory and practice.  You will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• elaborate individual learning objectives for your internship along with a detailed plan to reach those objectives and ensure accountability throughout the semester together with an internship mentor and a lecturer of H-BRS</li> <li>• reflect on the professional experience gained, how this experience relates to theory and concepts learned in class as well as to the career you wish to pursue</li> <li>• complete a report on your internship experience</li> <li>• present and discuss your experience with other students with an emphasis on lessons learned and best practices</li> </ul>					
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents of the module</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for an internship</li> <li>• Conduct of the internship</li> <li>• Review of the internship experience and relating it to the skills acquired in the master's programme</li> <li>• Distillation of lessons learned for fellow students</li> </ul>					
<b>4</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>  Seminars, group discussions, internship proposal, internship report, internship					
<b>5</b>	<b>Pre-requisites</b>  A total of 46 ECTS have to be accumulated					
<b>6</b>	<b>Methods of examination</b>  Internship report and internship certificate / Acknowledgement of previous work experience (approximately 3000 words)					
<b>7</b>	<b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b>  Passing the internship report and showing proof of the internship certificate					
<b>8</b>	<b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b>  0% (0 / 88)					
<b>9</b>	<b>Person responsible for module</b>  Prof. Dr. Simona Helmsmüller					

## M12 Master's Thesis

No. / code of module	Workload	Credits	Semester	Frequency of module offer		Duration
M12	700 h	28 ECTS	4 <sup>th</sup> Semester	Winter semester		6 months
<b>1</b>	<b>Courses of the module</b> 12 Master's Thesis			<b>Contact hours</b> N/A	<b>Independ. study</b> 700 h	<b>Group size</b> N/A
<b>2</b>	<b>Learning outcomes and competencies</b>  The master's thesis marks the end of the study programme, where you will demonstrate your capacity to develop relevant research questions, independently devise a research design, conduct your research, and write up your findings succinctly. Your master's thesis can have a stronger theory or practice focus and allow you to become a subject matter specialist in one of the topics in social protection.  You will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• know how to approach a complex research question scientifically</li> <li>• conduct a literature review</li> <li>• develop an appropriate research design</li> <li>• conduct your research</li> <li>• write up your research findings</li> </ul>					
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents of the module</b>  <b>Thesis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic research and write-up</li> </ul>					
<b>4</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>  None					
<b>5</b>	<b>Pre-requisites</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Research Proposal for Module M9.1</li> <li>• A total of 60 ECTS have to be accumulated</li> </ul>					
<b>6</b>	<b>Methods of examination</b>  Master's Thesis					
<b>7</b>	<b>Pre-requisites for obtaining the credits</b>  Passing the master's thesis					
<b>8</b>	<b>Emphasis of the grade for the final grade</b>  31,8% (28 / 88)					
<b>9</b>	<b>Person responsible for module</b>  Brian Mathebula					