

# International Master's Program in Comparative Social Work

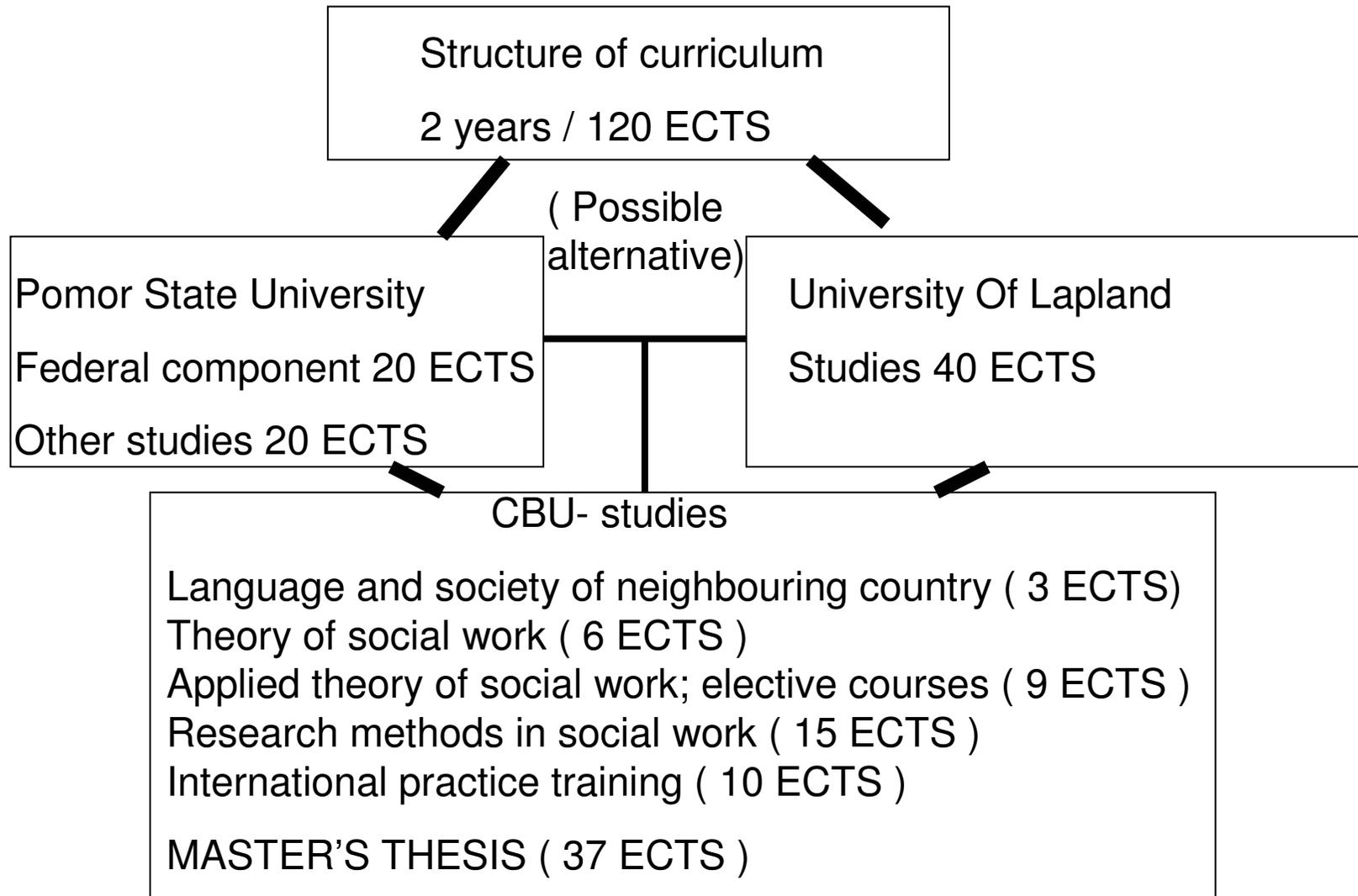
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# Network of Barents CBU Social Work Master Program

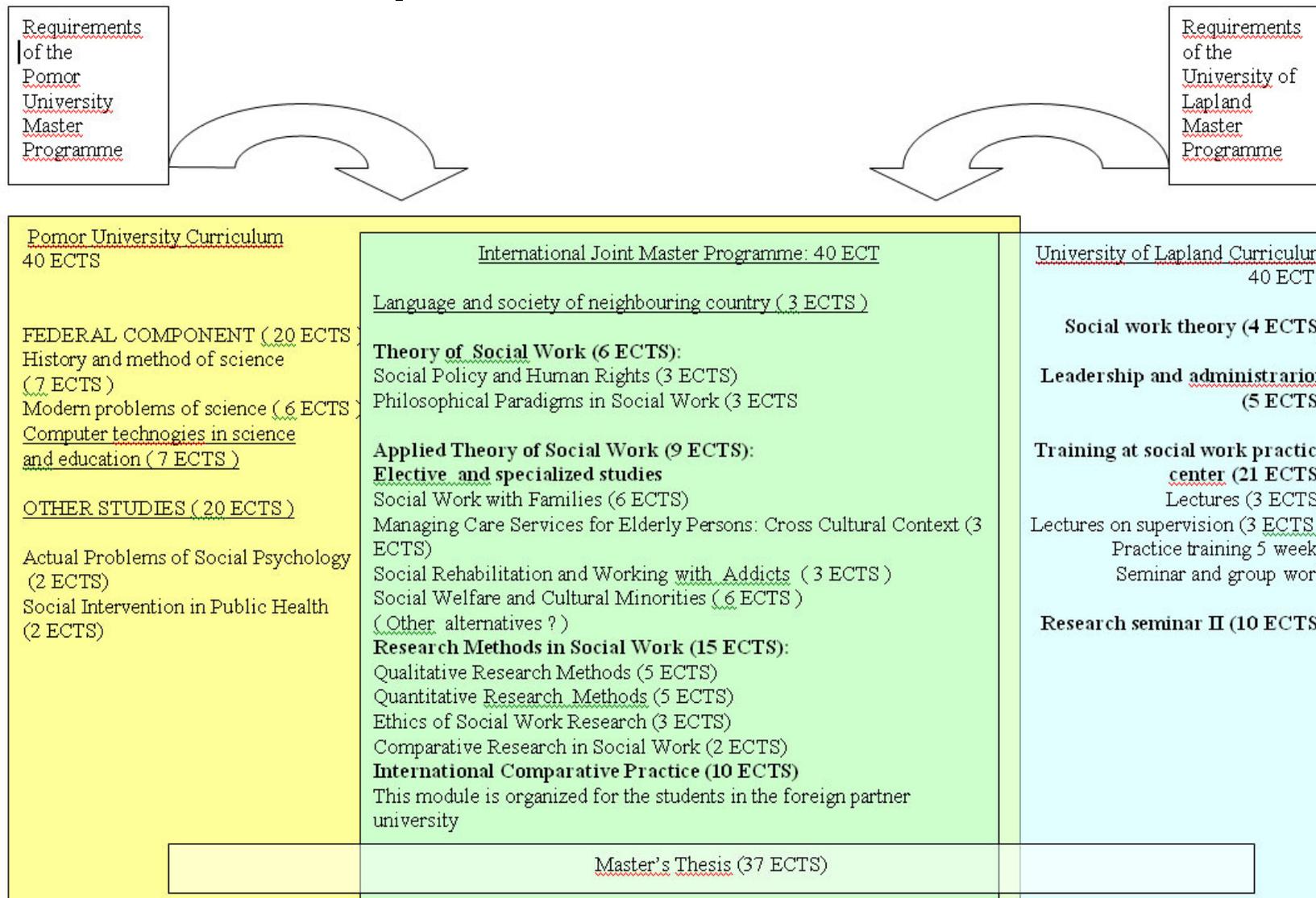


- Murmansk Humanities Institute
- Murmansk State pedagogical University
- Murmansk State Technical University
- POMOR STATE UNIVERSITY
- Northern State Medical University
- Petrozavosk State University
- Karelian State Pedagogical University

# Structure of the master programme in comparative social work



# International Master Program in Comparative Social Work



# Levels of collaboration in the studies

- Internet based courses: planned in close association with partner universities
- Intensive courses by visiting lecturer
- Summer school and winter school
- Students visit to a partner university and practice training abroad
- Common master thesis projects and jointly organized supervision

# Steps after the last meeting of rectors

- Meetings of social work program coordinators
  - Rovaniemi 21.8. – 22.8.
    - Checking decisions of rectors' meeting
    - Planning next activities
  - Meeting in Arkhangelsk 15.11 – 17.11.
    - Discussions about time-table
    - Discussions concerning specification of joint studies
  - Next meeting in Arkhangelsk 5.12. – 6.12.
    - Planning and specification of joint studies

# Activities after the last meeting of rectors

- Specification and making transparent the curriculum
- Constructing of a comparative course
  - Content is ready
  - It will be in internet in the end of next january
- We have done a draft of information on institution: it is a draft for discussions
- We have done a draft of our time-table

## **Course Title: Social Work Theory**

*Course code:* HBCBUMASW 2

*Type of course:* lectures for Finnish students

*Level of course:* advanced

*Year of study:* first year

*Semester:* periods 1 – 2

*Number of credits:* 2 ECTS cr. (+ literature 2 ECTS cr.)

*Teachers:* professor in Finland

### *Objectives of the course:*

Studies help a student

1. To understand the theoretical foundation of social work
2. To integrate theory and practice
3. To acquire the skills to act as a social worker in a problem solving situation
4. To deepen his/her knowledge on ethical principles in social work and its research
5. To know non-discriminative principles of social work
6. To identify the possibilities of research in developing social work and in affecting society

After the studies a student

1. Understands the status of social work in the globalizing and reflective modern society
2. Can analyse and consider the different alternatives of social work
3. Has formed a whole picture of the social work as a profession and its functional environment, and the problems causing the needs of social work and social work as a problem solver and motivator
4. Masters non-discriminative and ethically high quality theoretical principles of social work
5. Masters, in addition to research methods, problems connected with social work target groups and the research of sensitive matters
6. Is qualified to continue into research-oriented social work, practice teaching and the writing of a dissertation

*Course content:*

Studies deepen the understanding of social work theories, the readiness to reflect on a problem solving process in social work and the conceptualizing of the social work functional environment. The readiness to reflect in social work is developed by studying special research and the ethical questions of social work. Furthermore, a student specializes in a specific social work branch.

During the period, the issues which increase the skills of a student to conduct reflective social work, to do research and to use research in social work that effect society, are studied. In addition, a student learns a normative background of social work and its ethical basis. He or she gets familiar with the basic condition of non-discriminatory social work.

Reading connected with studies creates a foundation for conceptualizing social work. With the help of reading a student deepens his or her knowledge on social work theory, social work in different life situations and social work as problem solving process. Additionally, a student learns how to research sensitive matters and special groups and to develop research as a tool for social work.

*Recommended reading:* literature list is given

*Teaching methods:*

Lectures 16 hours

*Assessment methods:* Journal or essay

*Grading:* 1-5/F

**Research Methods in Social Work, which is altogether 15 ECTS cr. and includes following courses:**

Codes of courses: IBCBUMASW 4, IBCBUMASW 7, IBCBUMASW 15, IBCBUMASW 18

*Types of courses:* research methods internet and intensive courses

*Level of courses:* advanced

*Years of the courses:* 1-2

*Semesters:* Periods 1-4

*Credits:* altogether 15 ECTS cr.

*Teachers:* professors and lecturers

*Objectives in general:*

These courses help a student

- to understand the different phases of scientific work and conducting research
- to familiarize with social science theories and their applying in own research
- to adapt a critical attitude towards research and to be able to present alternative interpretations of social phenomena
- to be able to consider the relation of own research with the historical, structural, communal and local context
- to estimate and use social science methods
- to learn scientific writing, using of references and analytical work method
- to participate in research seminar

After the studies a student

- masters different phases of conducting research
- possess scientific writing
- can make different interpretations
- is able to use different research methods
- can analyse previous research literature
- knows different research data used in social sciences
- can plan a social science research

*The objective:*

The objective is to begin the master's thesis planning and writing and to help to promote the research process. Seminar work is a creative form of cooperation during which the research project of each participant is developed collectively. Every participant produces own text for the common discussion. In addition to the idea papers, group discussions and work are utilized in the seminar. The aim of the seminar is to guide a student to thesis writing. Seminar is for those students who actually write their thesis during the seminar. The idea is that students think their own thesis and its theme during the seminar on master's thesis. This means that their viewpoint of the issues discussed in each seminar is focused on their own thesis and theme. The meetings of the seminar are built according the themes as follows: realising the research plan, defining the research task, collecting data, structure of master's thesis, argumentation, own thinking of the student etc. Every student presents about some theme together with a pair.

After the course a student has readiness to independent scientific research and writing.

Teaching methods: course in Internet, lectures, seminars, practises.

Teachers: Professor, lecturers, researchers at the department

Assessment: the results of each course are counted

Grading: 1-5/F

*Course title:*

**Training at the Social Work Teaching Centre**

*Course code: includes courses 10 – 13 , 16:*

HBCBUMASW10, HBCBUMASW 11, IBCBUMASW14 and HBCBUMASW 12,  
*HBCBUMASW 13, HBCBUMASW 16*

*Type of course: practice training connected with theory*

*Level of course: advanced*

*Year study: second year*

*Semester: periods 2, 3 and 4*

*Number of credits: 31 ECTS cr.*

*Teachers: lecturers, practice teachers, professors*

*Objectives of the course: the course helps a student*

1. to act independently and responsibly in social work under work guidance
2. to learn about (work guidance) supervision and understand its meaning in development of professional expertise
3. to apply and integrate the theory of social work and the ethical principles in practical learning situations
4. to have a command of the customer work done in social work, and to acquire experience in multi-professional collaboration and influence activity
5. to examine, based on social scientific information, the different clientships in social work, and the psychosocial and cultural factors that lead to them
6. to understand the significance of research to social work, to assimilate the readiness to research and develop one's own work (readiness to research-based development of one's own work) , and to conduct, in practice, social work research
7. to deepen the knowledge and command of social work methods
- 8. to achieve multicultural understanding connected with social work skills**
- 9. to develop in him/herself comparative understanding**

After the studies a student

1. has the ability to act as an independent, responsible and informed social worker
2. understands his/her role as a social worker in relation to the customers, his/her colleagues, the representatives of other professions, different service organisations, and, more extensively, to the whole society
3. has the skills to bring out his/her social work expertise in social distribution of work
4. has developed his/her research readiness, and have made progress in writing his/her Master's thesis.
- 5. has multicultural understanding in social work**
- 6. has increased comparative understanding**
- 7. can integrate theory, supervision and practice as well as practice and theory**

Content: The main objective of studies is to deepen in social work theory, practice and research and to integrate these fields more tightly. In practice the objective means the integration of social work theory, social science research and the conducting of social work. The aim is that a student can further develop the practical skills of social work and write the thesis for a master's degree.

The deepening of social work practical skills means that a student independently applies social work theory and ethics in different work situations. The study module is targeted at developing a conscious social worker who begins to rely on his or her competence and understands the profound special know-how and the expertise of social work. The study module focuses on development of the kind of work attitude that helps a social worker to question and estimate critically her/his own work.

One essential part of the course content is to deepen the formation of knowledge connected with social work. This means a proper understanding of social work research object and approaches. During the studies a student's readiness to conduct research and to write a thesis is strengthened.

During the studies a student familiarize with supervision and its use as a tool of learning and development. Personal study plan is developed further during the course. Teaching includes theory part and training under supervision at the teaching social centre.

The later means that teaching is transferred from the university to the social work practice centres. The expertise of social work forms, readiness for research and reflective estimations are deepened during the course. The course is to be finished with an integration seminar, during which a student writes a seminar paper. Connecting this work with a Master's thesis is possible. The analysis of a customer case, the evaluation days held during the training period (so called theory days) and the continuous interaction with a practice teacher, a social work teacher and a student are used as tools for teaching.

# Content of information on the institution

- Name and address
- Academic calendar
- Academic authorities and administration
- General description of the institution
- Admission/registration procedures
- Registration
- Enrollment as an attending or non-attending student
- For the students of BCBU
- Main university regulations
- ECTS institutional co-ordinator
- General information for students

# Our draft of the planning time-table 2008

- The draft of curriculum is ready in the beginning of March
- Discussions and corrections of the curriculum during March and April
- First decisions in May
- Application of masters program to the ministry of education in August
- Final decisions of application procedure
- The budget and the time-table for studies during autumn 2009 and spring 2010
- Leaflets for marketing
- Finishing the handbook of practice training