



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**



# International Master of Social Policy Analysis (IMPALLA)



INTERUNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

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 professors of international renown 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 **International Master of Social Policy Analysis by Luxembourg, Leuven, and Associate Institutions (IMPALLA)** is worth your serious consideration.

**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, truly outstanding in comparison with other educational institutions.**

**(Student)**

The IMPALLA programme has several important assets. Its international and comparative focus on the analysis of social policy, the high calibre of its staff and the international character of its student body form the cornerstones of this unique and exemplary programme. The IMPALLA programme provides an up-to-date ICT environment and special access to national and international comparative micro databases. Finally, students are conscientiously guided by a team of assistant professors and researchers.

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

(Student)

## Educational project

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

- Have mastered the 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 schemes and programmes

The learning process is interactive, emphasizing applied approaches to the subjects that are studied. Students will be 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 extensive knowledge about data sources. As a consequence, they will be able to make their own choices in dealing with social policy issues and they will be able to present their options critically and reflectively.



Participants are invited, during the first term of the programme, to choose a case-study, which they will have to carry out on their own. This exercise aims at enhancing:

- Their personal ability for analysis and synthesis
- Their attitude to work in an international and/or multidisciplinary team
- Their skills in promoting the results

## Working environment

The IMPALLA programme provides an up-to-date ICT environment for individual, group and classroom arrangements. It also offers special access to national and international comparative micro databases (and corresponding meta-information), available on-site and within the consortium's archive network.

Time is set aside for regular interaction with the on-site research teams working on national and international comparative projects, as well as for contacts with visiting researchers.

Social activities, academic events and visits to European institutions and centres (in Luxembourg, Belgium, etc.) are also part of the programme.

## Profile



Applicants should have strong English language skills and a solid knowledge of statistics and research methodology. They should be interested in social policy as such, in its development and implementation, in social problems and social change and should be motivated to analyse these subjects more profoundly.

By the end of the programme, students should be able to grasp both the overall socio-economic picture and the crucial social-policy issues at stake.

They should be able to choose and master the correct methodologies needed to analyse the available databases. And they should be able to present and communicate the results of their personal research.

**I consider the IMPALLA programme as the best preparation for a PhD or an academic career. As for the schedule and the studying requirements, the IMPALLA year was exceedingly demanding. Learning how to use statistical and social-policy analysis tools for my research, I improved my methodological skills. Luxembourg as well as Leuven each provide a perfect working environment for students, with 24/7 access to PC facilities, a floor to themselves, and the guidance of professors' assistants.**

**(Student)**



## Admission requirements

Enrolment in this programme presupposes a university degree of at least four years in social or behavioural sciences, which includes training in statistics.

Applicants who are non-native English speakers must provide evidence of English language proficiency with a language test score (e.g. TOEFL or IELTS), indicating a C1 level on the Common European Framework of the Council of Europe.

Students may apply for a grant provided by the IMPALLA programme.

Admission is limited to twenty-four students per year. The closing date for applications is mid-June.

Considering the fact that the IMPALLA programme results in a degree conferred by K.U.Leuven, candidates have to follow a specific application procedure as described on our website.

For more information see [www.soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/impalla/](http://www.soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/impalla/)

# Programme

The programme starts in late August with an intensive introductory period for all participants. By mid-October, the students should be ready for the main courses.

The lectures covering the theoretical aspects of the programme are spread out over two periods and are complemented by exercises related to the subjects being studied. During the rest of the week, students are encouraged to work further by attending expert meetings, doing case studies in groups or individually and carrying out individual assignments.



<b>MASTER OF SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS</b>		<b>60 credits</b>
<b>COURSE</b>		<b>CREDITS</b>
<b>Levelling-up Group</b>		
• Levelling-up Statistics		3
• Levelling-up Social Sciences		8
<b>Socio-Economic Policy Group</b>		
• Social Problems and Reforms Seminar		7
• Social Policy		3
• Comparative and International Socio-Economic Policy		3
<b>Policy Evaluation Group</b>		
• The Policy Cycle		3
• Evaluation Techniques and Tools		4
<b>Statistics &amp; Research Group</b>		
• Statistics & Research Methods - Part I		5
• Statistics & Research Methods - Part II		5
<b>Master's Dissertation</b>		
• Master's Dissertation		16
<b>Optional: either one of these courses</b>		
• Performance Audit in Social Policy		3
• Applied Methodology: how to do relevant research?		3

For detailed descriptions of this programme's courses and for the course timetable, please consult [www.kuleuven.be/onderwijs/aanbod/opleidingen/E](http://www.kuleuven.be/onderwijs/aanbod/opleidingen/E)

# Overview of the academic year

Most of the courses take place in G.D. Luxembourg, while the overall plan includes a three-month stay at the University of Leuven, Belgium, for further teaching, training and documentation.

Term	Period	Location
• Levelling-up term	Late August - Mid-October	CEPS/INSTEAD in G.D. Luxembourg
• Second term	Mid-October - January	CEPS/INSTEAD in G.D. Luxembourg
• Third term	February - April	University of Leuven, Belgium
• Dissertation term	May - July	CEPS/INSTEAD in G.D. Luxembourg

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

## Studying abroad

The programme is organised jointly by the Centre for Sociological Research at K.U.Leuven (Belgium) and the Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Economiques (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg). Associated institutions are the University of Tilburg (the Netherlands), the University of Nancy II (France), and the University of Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg). Students reside in Luxembourg for seven months and in Leuven for three months. The programme attracts students from across the world.

## Career prospects

In an expanding European Union and 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. After completing IMPALLA, you may become a consultant to national ministries and administrations or European institutions, or join an academic institution, advanced centre, or firm specialising in auditing and impact assessment.

In short, the programme qualifies you for a top-level career as a social researcher in either the public or private sector.

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## More information

[www.kuleuven.be/ma/IMPALLA](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/IMPALLA)

[www.soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/impalla](http://www.soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/impalla)

[www.impalla.ceps.lu](http://www.impalla.ceps.lu)

### General Information

K.U.Leuven - International programmes: [www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes](http://www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes)

K.U.Leuven - International Office: [www.kuleuven.be/english](http://www.kuleuven.be/english)

### CEPS/INSTEAD

IMPALLA programme

tel. + 352 58 58 55 610

e-mail: [impalla.secretariat@ceps.lu](mailto:impalla.secretariat@ceps.lu)

### Organising Institutions

- University of Leuven, Centre for Sociological Research (Belgium)
- Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Economiques (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)

### Associated Institutions

- University of Tilburg (the Netherlands)
- University of Nancy II (France)
- University of Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)



*This brochure provides the most complete information available for this Master's programme offered by K.U.Leuven during the 2010-2011 academic year. However, small changes to the composition of the programmes may be approved after the publication of this brochure. In no way is the university legally bound by the information provided in this brochure. The most recent information on all our academic programmes can be consulted on [www.kuleuven.be/onderwijs/aanbod/opleidingen/E](http://www.kuleuven.be/onderwijs/aanbod/opleidingen/E).*

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