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— Subject-specific Appendix 7.1 Social Work Research to the framework examination regulations for the master's programs of the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg

Subject-specific Annex 7.1 Social Work Research (M.Sc.) to the Framework Examination Regulations for Master's Programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg

On November 12, 2025, the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education at Leuphana University Lüneburg adopted Subject-Specific Appendix No. 7.1 Social Work Research to the Framework Examination Regulations for Master's Programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg dated September 17, 2008 (Leuphana Gazette No. 15/08 of October 6, 2008), last amended on April 19, 2023 (Leuphana Gazette No. 49/23 of June 16, 2023). The Executive Board approved the subject-specific annex in accordance with § 37 (1) sentence 3 no. 5b) NHG on November 26, 2025.

SECTION I

Regarding Section 2 RPO, aim of the program, purpose of the examination
Subject-specific competencies:

Successful graduates of the master's program

- have a sound and reflective understanding of the most important theories and empirical research in the field of social work research.
- have in-depth knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods that are regularly used in the field of international, interdisciplinary social work research.
- have in-depth knowledge of the structures and processes of academic work at universities and non-university research institutes in social work, as well as academic teaching in this field.
- can analyze questions and problems in the context of methodically controlled research, administration, and teaching in social work, and can structure and advance solution processes with the participation of relevant actors.
- are familiar with methods and concepts of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in social work, can apply these in international and national work contexts, and are able to identify, address, and solve empirical questions in a project-based manner with experts from various disciplines and practitioners.
- Are familiar with the state of knowledge in science communication and research ethics.

Personal skills:

Successful graduates of the master's program are able to

- work responsibly in teams of experts and to fruitfully contribute and actively develop current findings in social work research in academic social work organizations.
- systematically analyze complex problems and research status in social work, develop fundamental and participatory project designs, and successfully support their implementation by applying their in-depth knowledge.
- deal with problems in a forward-looking manner within a team and lead and take responsibility for group processes against a backdrop of heterogeneity.
- argue complex issues and research findings in social work to practitioners in management and executive positions, and work with them to translate these into development strategies.

Regarding § 3 RPO, modularization, study structure and scope, standard period of study
The standard period of study is two years. The scope of study is 120 credit points.

Module overview Master's in Social Work Research
(see also subject-specific Appendix 8 Complementary Studies)

<table>
<tr><td>4.</td><td colspan="6">Master's Thesis
(MA-SWR-8)
30 CP</td></tr>
<tr><td>3.</td><td rowspan="2">Field Placement: Academic Work at Universities
(MA-SWR-6)
10 CP</td><td>Teaching Social Work at Universities
(MA-SWR-3)
5 CP</td><td>Discourses and Practices of Social Work
(MEd-SozP-9)
5 CP</td><td>Diagnoses of Time in Social Work
(MEd-SozP-14)
5 CP</td><td>Science Communication
(MA-SWR-7)
5 CP</td><td>Complementary
(MA-K-3)
5 CP</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td rowspan="2">Collaborative Research Project
(MEd-SozP-11)
10 CP</td><td rowspan="2">Qualitative Research Methods
(MA-SWR-2)
10 CP</td><td>Research Ethics
(MA-SWR-4)
5 CP</td><td>Studies of Academic Work at Universities
(MA-SWR-5)
5 CP</td><td>Complementary
(MA-K-2)
5 CP</td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Master's Forum: Crafting Literature Reviews
(MEd-SozP-8)
5 CP</td><td colspan="2">Quantitative Research Methods
(MA-SWR-1)
10 CP</td><td>Complementary
(MA-K-1)
5 CP</td></tr>
</table>

Profile modules and master's thesis
Complementary studies

The following modules must be taken in **the first semester** (or proportionally in the case of 10 CP modules spanning two semesters):

- Master's Forum: Crafting Literature Reviews (MEd-SozP-8, 5 CP)
- Collaborative Research Project (MEd-SozP-11, 10 CP)
- Qualitative Research Methods (MA-SWR-2, 10 CP)
- Quantitative Research Methods (MA-SWR-1, 10 CP)

The following modules must be taken in **the second semester** (or proportionally in the case of 10 CP modules spanning two semesters):

- Field Placement: Academic Work at Universities (MA-SWR-6, 10 CP)
- Collaborative Research Project (MEd-SozP-11, 10 CP)
- Qualitative Research Methods (MA-SWR-2, 10 CP)
- Research Ethics (MA-SWR-4, 5 CP)
- Studies of Academic Work at Universities (MA-SWR-5, 5 CP)

The following modules must be taken in **the third semester** (or proportionally in the case of 10 CP modules spanning two semesters):

- Field Placement: Academic Work at Universities (MA-SWR-6, 10 CP)
- Teaching Social Work at Universities (MA-SWR-3, 5 CP)
- Discourses and Practices of Social Work (MEd-SozP-9, 5 CP)
- Diagnoses of Time in Social Work (MEd-SozP-14, 5 CP)
- Science Communication (MA-SWR-7, 5 CP)

The following module must be taken in **the fourth semester**:

- Master's Thesis (MA-SWR-8, 30 CP)

Regarding § 5 RPO, Academic Degrees
Master of Science (M.Sc.)

Regarding § 6 (10) RPO
The language of instruction and examination is exclusively English.

Regarding § 8
The processing time for the master's thesis is 5 months.

Modules of the Master's program in Social Work Research

Compulsory modules

Module	*Content*	*Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)*	*Module requirements*	**CP**	*Comments*
1st semester					
Master's Form: Crafting Literature Reviews [MEd-SozP-8]	*Students develop in-depth perspectives on social work research questions that are of particular interest to them. During the seminar, students become familiar with typical review methods, such as systematic, narrative, and integrated reviews, and examine selected research fields according to the current state of research, especially in terms of disciplinary approaches, methodology, and findings. Students form small groups and systematically prepare their knowledge of the research fields that are of particular interest to them and have been identified as relevant in the seminar. They also reflect on their own level of knowledge.*	*1 Seminar (2 CH)*	*1 Unsupervised written assignment or 1 Combined assessment*	*5*	*English*
Quantitative Research Methods [MA-SWR-1]	*This module provides a hands-on introduction to quantitative and statistical methods commonly used in social work research. It is organized around the ideal-typical process of empirical research encompassing study planning, data collection, data analysis, and data reporting. Students will develop a deeper understanding of key topics, including hypothesis formulation, sample selection, questionnaire development, and both survey and experimental research designs. In addition, the module introduces statistical methods frequently applied in social work research and demonstrates their use with commonly available statistical software.*	*1 Lecture (2 CH) and 1 Seminar (1 CH)*	*1 Supervised written examination (90 min) or 1 Unsupervised written assignment*	*10*	*English*

Continuation Modules of the Master's program in Social Work Research

Compulsory modules

Module	*Content*	*Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)*	*Module requirements*	**CP**	*Comments*
1st and 2nd semester (cross-semester modules)					
Collaborative Research Project [MEd-SozP-11]	*Students will be included in research projects at the university. They will broaden and consolidate their research skills and methodological competence, help to develop applicable research designs and methods that fit these designs, and conduct their own parts of the research to contribute to the general research project.*	*2 Seminars (each 2 CH)*	*1 Combined assessment or 1 Unsupervised written assignment*	*10*	*English*
Qualitative Research Methods [MA-SWR-2]	*The module involves cross-semester work. A bi-weekly lecture provides an interpretive and research-oriented approach to qualitative methodologies and methods of social research. During the second semester, a bi-weekly practice-oriented seminar is geared towards the development of research designs and writing of proposals for qualitative and mixed-methods projects in social work research.*	*2 Lectures (each 1 CH) and 1 Seminar (1 CH)*	*1 Combined assessment or 1 Unsupervised written assignment*	*10*	*English*

Continuation Modules of the Master's program in Social Work Research

Compulsory modules

Modules	*Content*	*Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)*	*Module requirements*	**CP**	*Comments*
2nd semester					
Research Ethics [MA-SWR-4]	*This module examines the ethical principles and challenges involved in conducting qualitative and quantitative research in social work. Throughout the module, students engage with ethical codes from relevant disciplines and institutions and apply their knowledge in practical exercises. These activities include developing informed consent materials, or preparing an ethics proposal for submission to an Institutional Review Board.*	1 Seminar (2 CH)	*1 Combined assessment or 1 Unsupervised written assignment*	*5*	*English*
Studies of Academic Work at Universities [MA-SWR-5]	*The module familiarizes students with the organizational and professional frameworks and conditions for academic work at universities. Following the premises of workplace and science studies, the organizational structures, funding opportunities, formal and social hierarchies, divisions of labor, and typical career trajectories in academic work are investigated.*	*1 Seminar (2 CH)*	*1 Combined assessment or 1 Oral examination*	*5*	*English*

Continuation Modules of the Master's program in Social Work Research

Compulsory modules

Modules	*Content*	*Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)*	*Module requirements*	**CP**	*Comments*
2nd and 3rd semester (cross-semester module)					
Field Placement: Academic Work at Universities [MA-SWR-6]	*Students are required to spend at least 100 hours in the academic field practicing academic work at an institute, department, or administrative unit (e.g., research counseling, gender mainstreaming office, quality management, etc.) of a German or international university. Alternatively, they can work at a non-university research institute relevant for research on social work. The field placement is prepared, processed, and evaluated by a seminar preceding/succeeding the placement.*	*2 Seminars (1 CH each) 1 Field practice (100 hrs)*	*1 Combined assessment or 1 Unsupervised written assignment*	*10*	*English*
3rd semester					
Teaching Social Work at Universities [MA-SWR-3]	*This module examines the didactic foundations of higher education teaching, with a particular focus on social pedagogy as a discipline-specific form of university didactics. Core topics include the development of the discipline and profession, reflection-oriented teaching, and the integration of theory and practice. It further addresses the professionalization of social work practitioners through the design of curricular content, the setting of thematic priorities, diverse teaching and learning formats, and practice-based supervision.*	*1 Seminar (2 CH)*	*1 Combined assessment or 1 Unsupervised written assignment*	*5*	*English*
Discourses and Practices of Social Work [MEd-SozP-9]	*Students develop a better theoretical understanding of discourses and practices of education, care, help, and support against their societal, cultural, and organizational background. Examples can be taken from early childhood education and care services, educational assistance (family assistance, residential care, etc.), youth work and after-school programs, approaches to inclusive education, or school social work.*	*1 Seminar (2 CH)*	*1 Unsupervised written assignment or 1 Oral examination*	*5*	*English*
Diagnoses of Time in Social Work [MEd-SozP-14]	*During this module, students refer to current diagnoses of time with reference to questions of educational and social policy, and relate these diagnoses to the international state of research on social pedagogy.*	*1 Seminar (2 CH)*	*1 Unsupervised written assignment or 1 Oral examination*	*5*	*English*

Continuation Modules of the Master's program in Social Work Research

Compulsory modules

Modules	*Content*	*Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)*	*Module requirements*	*CP*	*Comments*
3rd semester					
Science Communication [MA-SWR-7]	*This module examines the foundations of effective science communication in the context of social work research. Through practical exercises, students learn how to translate complex research findings into compelling messages for non-academic audiences. Students discuss the social relevance of science communication and consider its potential as a tool for empowerment, advocacy, and evidence-based decision-making. Best practices for navigating specific challenges in science communication, such as engaging with a hostile audience, will be examined.*	*1 Seminar (1 CH)*	*1 Combined assessment or 1 Unsupervised written assignment*	*5*	English
4th semester					
Master's thesis [MA-SWR-8]	*Students write a Master's thesis in which they draw on their prior academic experience and develop a research question which they answer empirically and discuss against the background of prior research on the topic.*	*None*	*1 Master's Thesis*	*30*	*English*

SECTION II

The subject-specific annex shall enter into force on October 1, 2026, following approval by the Presidium and publication in the Official Gazette.

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