



Studies, work or vacation – what takes us farther?

One central question of sociology is how strongly participation in spheres of life such as family, career and leisure contributes to our satisfaction with life. What interests us here is not just the interplay of events and occurrences, but also their biographical sequence over the course of life. Educational choices depend explicitly on influences including social factors.

Master of Arts in Social Sciences

**Major / Minor
in Sociology**



UZH Institute of Sociology

We are delighted that you share our passion for sociology, the science of human social coexistence. The University of Zurich Institute of Sociology has been teaching and conducting research for more than half a century and ranks among the leading sociological institutes in Europe. We strive relentlessly to produce and disseminate outstanding research. Our students are continually involved in this process.

Master's Program: Structure

The master's program broadens your foundational knowledge and expands your analytical skills, equipping you with ideal prerequisites to enter exciting, challenging, specialist professional fields.

You begin by building out your methodological skills to acquire the ability to conduct and lead complex inquiries and analytical work, including with the aid of leading statistical software. At the same time, you delve into the realm of sociological theory to acquire the ability to ensure that it is continually embedded in research projects and proposals and in reflections on research findings.

In the Current Sociological Research module, we give you insights into the latest projects being conducted by Swiss and foreign researchers. You take part in their discussions and can draw inspiration here for your master's thesis.

From the second semester onward, you will also delve into one or more of the Institute of Sociology's research focus areas. You will attend the respective introductory course and a corresponding research seminar.

Right from the start, you can enrich your studies each semester with additional elective modules from different areas of sociology and research focal points and gain research-related knowledge from the select teaching staff of the Institute of Sociology. You use the elective modules to shape your studies to fit your own interests, strengths and career aspirations.

The semester course information is intended as a planning aid. The coursework does not necessarily have to be completed within this time frame. You have the possibility to plan the duration of your studies autonomously through part-time enrollment or on the grounds of voluntary traineeships and study abroad.

Major in Sociology, 90 ECTS Credits*

| Module Groups | Modules | ECTS Credits | Compulsory | Free Electives |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|----------------|
| Theory | Analytical Sociology (C) | 6 | All compulsory modules | |
| | Current Sociological Research (C) | 3 | | |
| | Elective Modules | 3 or 6 | | |
| Methods | Data Analysis (CE) | 6 | Minimum of 18 ECTS credits, 6 of which from CE modules | |
| | Quantitative Methods (CE) | 6 | | |
| | Elective Modules | 3 or 6 | | |
| Life Course and Generations (LCaG) | Introduction to LCaG (CE) | 6 | Minimum of 15 additional ECTS credits from electives within the program | |
| | Research Seminar LCaG (CE) | 12 | | |
| | Elective Modules | 3 or 6 | | |
| Economic Sociology (ES) | Introduction to ES (CE) | 6 | Minimum of 18 ECTS credits from CE modules from one of the three module groups LCaG, ES or SNaC | |
| | Research Seminar ES (CE) | 12 | | |
| | Elective Modules | 3 or 6 | | |
| Social Norms and Cooperation (SNaC) | Introduction to SNaC (CE) | 6 | | |
| | Research Seminar SNaC (WP) | 12 | | |
| | Elective Modules | 3 or 6 | | |
| Special Sociologies | Elective Modules | 3 or 6 | | |
| Transferable Skills | Elective Modules | 3 or 6 | | |
| Other Curricular Modules of the Program | Elective Modules | 3 or 6 | | |
| Master's Thesis | | 30 | | |

Abbreviations: C = Compulsory; CE = Core elective

* Information on the minor in sociology worth 30 ECTS credits is available on the Institute of Sociology homepage

Research Focus Areas

Theory

It takes comprehensive theoretical knowledge about societal processes, structural interrelationships and individual actions to be able to explain the results of sociological studies.

Methodological Theory

The scientific study of social phenomena requires a systematic, methodologically controlled investigation approach. Data get collected through means including surveys, interviews and experiments, and are analyzed using advanced analytical methods.

Life Course and Generations (LCaG)

This research focus area studies, for example, intergenerational exchange and conflict and examines the question of how provenance and education or genetic factors affect life, career success and family relations.

Economic Sociology (ES)

Economic change around the world has profound consequences for the social structure and organization of individual societies. This research focus area studies social phenomena such as globalization, digitalization and consumption and their impacts on society.

Social Norms and Cooperation (SNaC)

Norms and cooperation are fundamental elements of human social coexistence. This research focus area examines under what conditions norms and cooperation originate, exist or break down and studies the effects of this. The application areas range from climate change to scientific (mis)conduct.

Application and Admission

→ www.uzh.ch/de/studies/application

Kontakt

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