

Masters in Children's Rights and Childhood Studies (MICRACS)

Interdisciplinary MA with leading discipline: Pedagogy, Institute of Education Level: Second-degree studies (2 years: 1 year online, 1 year in Poland)

Apply by 31 August 2023 (proof of your highest degree, Bachelor minimum and its translation into English will be needed)

Start online in October 2023

Generous summer breaks from July to September

Study for 2 years to gain 120 ECTS/945hours of tuition

Do internship/practical work for 3 months 300h

Tuition fee 22800 PLN* [=4850 euro] (incl. enrolment fee)

Fees can be paid in 1 lump sum, or in 4 instalments

Basic accommodation @ 650PLN [=140 euro]/per month

Class size average is 24 participants

Core 6 Modules:

- Pedagogical Module (PM)
- Legal Module (LM)
- Medical Module (MM)
- Social Policy Module (SPM)
- Practical Module (Practicum)
- Individual Development Module (IDM)

The 6 Modules address 4 main themes:

- Theories of Childhood and Society
- Children's Rights – Philosophy, History and Practice
- Social Pedagogy and the Study of Contemporary Social Problems
- Child's welfare, wellbeing and development

Elective Streams o EAP

- Language Preparation @ PEARSON CENTRE
- Social Pedagogy/Korczak certification @ UNESCO JK Chair International Summer School
- Holocaust Education @ UNESCO JK Chair

Registration for Studies is opened until August 2023.

MA in Children's Rights and Childhood Studies (MICRACS)- II level degree Academic discipline: PEDAGOGY (PE)

The MA program is led by the Chair in Social Pedagogy and the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair at the Institute of Education. The MA is to be overseen by the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair which aims to become an international research centre of excellence on social pedagogy, democracy in practice and the philosophy of Janusz Korczak. Post-graduate students are invited to join this developing international network of research with active and engaged scholars and practitioners.

This internationally focussed MA will examine current social theories and practices within globally diverse childhoods as compared against the historical and contemporary understanding of human rights. Gaining the contemporary and historical understandings of children, childhood and child rights, students will engage with international academics, researchers and practitioners to critically explore policy, project outcomes, case studies and innovative projects in order to develop their own critical leadership in working with children and young people to change society.

The MA program bridges theoretical knowledge and practical experience to enhance student's professional knowledge, leadership and research skills, creativity and network for co-operation and collaboration. Gaining an understanding of how to use available resources within a sustainable, rights-based framework prepares graduates to consolidate a global outlook with grassroots approaches. Collaborating with national and international institutions for project implementation and management within different countries provides graduates with the necessary leadership and project management skills for career development and guiding institutional reform.

Expected Outcomes

Graduates who complete the MA degree are expected to be well equipped to take on a range of academic and professional roles internationally and within their home country. Building upon previous studies and experience, graduates may choose to electives from within the streams of Academic/Research, Advocacy/Project Management and Practitioner. The MA program is highly suited to professionals and practitioners seeking positions of leadership and management in children's and youth services; education; health; legal; social policy and care; and non-government organisations.

Graduates of the MA will gain a deeper theoretical understanding and practical tools for their work as educators, pedagogues, health and social workers and as child advocates within NGOs. Expected outcomes relate to graduates developing the diverse knowledge, skills and competencies to:

- Understand how the local and global intersect in the context of policy and practice in a variety of international settings
- Conduct creative projects and research in participation with children in educational and community settings
- Critically analyse policy, organisations and professional practice based on nuanced understanding of children's rights, democracy and power
- Contribute to public debate on challenging issues such as child labour, role of technology and democratic education
- Identify socio-historical influences and explore innovative approaches within local contexts for collaboration with diverse participants in working with and for children
- Employ innovative methodological tools and a range of research skills to compare and critically analyse national and international socio-educational issues
- Undertake institutional reform, socio-educational and democratic projects, under the auspices of the theory and practice of Janusz Korczak (*eligible for professional certification)
- Promote Social Pedagogy as a disciplinary field of policy and practice (*eligible for professional membership)

The MA program also provides a dynamic entry into this growing field of academic scholarship, with graduates being rigorously prepared for English-speaking roles as policy advisors, university lecturers, researchers or to pursue further doctoral study. With electives on the arts, media and culture, the

MA takes a creative approach in encouraging graduates to employ innovative and exciting models within the fields of communication, technology, community building and project design.

Programme Outline

Graduates will develop the critical analysis and research skills to understand the local environs within a complex and dynamic global context. The programme themes relate strongly to the philosophy and history of education and child rights with a specific focus on the Polish context through the work of Janusz Korczak and the development of the social pedagogy movement. By examining sociological and philosophical perspectives of childhood and child rights, graduates will be able to identify and analyse the key socio-cultural, political and economic influences impacting on the current status and agency of children and young people in different contexts.

The modules are designed to facilitate ethical leadership and practitioner research. Students undertake modules to the value of 120 ECTS credits, with six modules, and two additional elective modules, internship placement and independent research dissertation (Master's thesis). By undertaking a research project and internship, students will gain hands-on experience exploring the links between child rights, childhood and the lived experiences of individual children and young people.

The courses are offered only in English, using a diversity of teaching approaches including both pedagogical theory and practice suitable for teacher education and social pedagogy. Each module is delivered during the day, full-time on campus and other sites in various formats including lectures, workshops and tutorials unless specified. Intensive modules combine an online learning environment with guest speakers, visiting academic fellows, conferences, summer schools and excursions. The course is primarily based upon academic readings and real-world case studies with students encouraged to engage with literature, media and art through electives, off-campus events and group discussions.

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Assessment

During the course of study, students write regularly in their own journal which forms the basis of their critical reflection upon their personal and professional journey. Each core module is assessed by a written assignment, presentation or an examination, with tutorials and seminars for preparation and support. All students undertake a minimum of 3 months internship and conduct an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 20,000 words minimum.

Course Pre-Requisites

International and Polish applicants are advised to apply as early as possible as places for this new and exciting MA are limited.

Applicants should hold the equivalent qualification of a bachelor's degree from a recognised university in education, health, social work, law, cultural studies or a social science related field. Other qualifications may be accepted if combined with experience in education, health, law or social and childcare. All applicants will be required to demonstrate their experience of working with and for children.

Recognised qualifications are to be the equivalent of the Polish award of any of the following from a recognised institution:

- Bachelor's awarded 2006 onwards with an overall mark of 4.0/5
- Master's awarded before 2006 with an overall mark 3.75/5
- Medical / Dental degree; Master's awarded 2006 onwards

Visa Requirements

EU Citizen:

To enter Poland, the student requires a valid travel document or a document confirming identity and citizenship (national ID or passport). For residence in Poland, an EU student will need to register at the Voivodship Office in Warsaw within 90 days of their arrival and will be issued a cost-free certificate of registration with non-limited period of validity proving their right to stay in Poland. EU students do not need to apply for temporary residence permits.

Non-EU Citizen:

To enter Poland, the student requires a valid travel document (passport) and a visa (if required). Generally, visas are required to enter Poland, but there are a number of countries that are free of this requirement. Students should check if their country is listed here: www.msz.gov.pl

As part of the Schengen zone, a Polish visa allows the student to travel all around Europe (except for the United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and states outside of the EU). The type of visa required for study is "D" type, which is a long-term national visa issued for up to one year allowing travel around the Schengen area for up to 90 days in a 180 days period. Getting a visa is done in 5 easy steps:

- 1) Find a Polish consulate that can process the application using the search engine at www.mfa.gov.pl
- 2) Read carefully ALL the information concerning visa application on the consulate's website and follow ALL the instructions
- 3) Book a visa appointment with the consulate, usually registered through the website www.e-konsulat.gov.pl
- 4) Prepare the necessary documents as specified in the consulates website, which may include:
 - a. application form;
 - b. travel document (passport);
 - c. biometric photo;
 - d. health insurance;
 - e. evidence of sufficient means to support yourself;
 - f. documents confirming the purpose of your stay (enrolment offer)
- 5) Submit all the documents including a printed and signed application form and the visa fee.

Your visa application is complete. It will take up to 15 days for it to be reviewed.

Temporary Residency

Each non-EU student will need to apply for a Polish temporary residence permit once they have arrived in Poland and before the expiration of their visa. After receiving the permit, the student will be issued a Temporary Residence Card, an ID card that proves that you have a residence permit. Together with your travel document it allows you to cross the Polish border as many times as you wish. The first residence permit is issued for the period of 15 months and can be renewed for the remainder of the course.

Application for the Temporary Residence Permit is made with the local Voivodship Office in Warsaw. The documents a student requires to legalise their stay include an application form, photos and documents proving your identity and citizenship, address, purpose of stay (a certificate from the university) health insurance and possession of sufficient funds. The cost of the application is currently 390 PLN (90 Euro) and detailed information is on the website www.migrant.info.pl/

Language Requirements

This program is conducted in the English language and no Polish is necessary. Graduates will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency equivalent to [Good]. Students whose first language is not English and who are not from a majority English speaking country, will be required to provide recent evidence of their current level of English language skills. Candidates who obtained qualifications to teach in kindergartens and/or classes I-III of primary schools during undergraduate level, graduate level or uniform master's degree must have the English language proficiency at B2 level. Other candidates must have knowledge of English at C1 level, confirmed by an appropriate certificate or grade in transcript /supplement, provided that the credit of the English language was held in the form of an exam and the level of proficiency was specified there. Applicants who have completed an academic qualification or work experience for a minimum of twelve months in a majority English speaking country may apply for recognition of prior knowledge and receive an exemption from the EAP electives.

Applicants without the required standard of English for enrolment are encouraged to apply for a conditional offer based on successful completion of the additional English-language summer school (see below). The EAP courses are designed for international students who need to improve their academic English for postgraduate studies and provides a professional development pathway for teachers of English as a second language (TESOL).

EAP Stream1

Students with a conditional offer who require improved proficiency in English are required to choose all elective EAP modules and undertake an external exam.

The course will focus on academic texts in the field of Education and Social Sciences and include:

- English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and language development
- Critical reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Structure and coherence in academic writing
- Extensive reading, note-taking, summarising and referencing
- Presentation and public speaking (including pronunciation)
- Lectures by academics and practitioners in English
- Language for research and teaching

Internship/Practical Work

Students will receive administrative and financial support with an international internship placement and in country support from international partners active in 26 countries around the world. Students with limited financial resources will be assisted with a local placement in Poland or within their home country. Sample of potential Polish projects include;

- Fostering intergenerational relations by using multimedia in the development of an interactive History of Education exhibition (Museum of Warsaw)
- Comparing cross-national communication strategies for dissemination of research findings on child protection and implementation of rights-based approaches (Polish Ombudsman for Child Rights/ Human Rights Ombudsman Office)
- Developing a guide for teachers, youth workers and psychologists on using children's film and literature as a social pedagogy platform for implementing child rights (Institute of Polish Culture)
- Evaluating child participation in municipality budget allocation and community decision making (City of Warsaw)
- Using participatory methods in action research with children and adults as a professional development strategy for kindergarten teachers (Early Childhood Education Network)
- Investigating the concept of dignity as a response to the current challenges encountered in fields related to education, social pedagogy and civil society (UNESCO Chair in Holocaust Studies)
- Implementing democratic reform and self-governing strategies within residential care homes for young people (Office for Children's Homes)

- Evaluating the capacity of equine therapies and horse-related activities to strengthen parent-child relationships by shifting parents' understanding of their child's (dis)ability (The Hippotherapy Foundation)
- Exploring the social pedagogy model using group-based 'back to nature' tools as alternatives to individual therapy and intervention for children with learning difficulties (various NGOs)
- Exploring the inclusion of conflict within peace education programs as a preventative strategy for violence against minorities, women and children (Blue Line Foundation)
- Exploring the capacity of local environment & sustainability projects to foster democracy through problem solving and dialogue between secondary school students (Commission for Social Dialogue)
- Analysing how child-rights based and self-governance approaches in children's homes may contribute to resilience and positive outcomes for children leaving residential care (Family and Child Foundation)
- Implementing a child-participatory pedagogical project in child care centres, outside-of school-hours clubs and parent education programs for children aged 0-11 years based on the Korczak philosophy (various sites)
- Involvement with the UNESCO activities through the Polish Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair

For more information contact : unescochair@aps.edu.pl or write to general enquiries address at aps@aps.edu.pl to be redirected.

Link to the complete Modules of the Study Program:

[MASTERS OF INTERDISCIPLINARY CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILDHOOD STUDIES \(aps.edu.pl\)](https://aps.edu.pl)

*The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The ideas and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors; they are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.