Master of Arts in Childhood Studies and Children’s Rights (MACR)
Fachhochschule Potsdam/Potsdam University of Applied Sciences

www.fh-potsdam.de

Directors:
Prof. Dr. Stefan Thomas
Dr. Urszula Markowska-Manista

Academic Coordination (Co-Founder)
Dr. Rebecca Budde

Founder and Patron:
Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel
Develop your knowledge and skills to bring children’s rights into your work for local and global social change.

Join the MA programme and have a unique opportunity to study childhood and children’s rights in an international setting with students from all over the world with various different academic backgrounds.

The programme enables you to bring in a children’s human rights approach to work settings and opens new pathways to working with, for and about children - theoretically and practically.

Basic information:
1,5 year MA programme, 90 ECTS, begin in October, annually, face-face sessions at University of Applied Sciences, Potsdam, Germany in blocks from Thursday afternoons until Saturday evenings. Language of instruction: English. **Deadline for applications: 30 April, annually**

Partner Universities:
- Mykolo Romerio Universitetas, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Université de Genève, Centre for Children’s Rights Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
- Akademia Pedagogiki Specjalnej im. Marii Grzegoszewskiej, Warsaw, Poland
- University of Warsaw, Poland
- Białystok University, Białystok Poland
- Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- University College London, United Kingdom
- University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Contact:
www_fh-potsdam_de_macr
macr_fh-potsdam_de

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**Patron:**
Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel
- Structure & Curriculum
- Teaching & Learning Methods
- Theory and Praxis, Networking
- Students & Lecturers
- Alumni & career prospects
Programme Organisation

The course is a 3 semester (1,5 years) course, organised in 7 Modules plus a final MA thesis and defence

- Semester 1 is dedicated to 3 basic modules upon which the following modules in semester 2 and 3 build.

- Modules equal 10 Credit Points (ECTS), MA thesis: 20 Credit Points (ECTS); TOTAL: 90 ECTS

- The course is organised in a blended learning format
Structure & Curriculum

Semester 1

Introductory Workshop: Power Relations between Children and Adults. A Critical (Self) Reflection on Adultism

M1: Childhood Studies
- Seminar 1: Childhood and Children: Sociological Approaches
- Seminar 2: Childhoods in Global and Local Perspectives

M2: Understanding Children’s Rights
- Seminar 1: History and Concepts of Children’s Rights
- Seminar 2: Legal Aspects and Child Rights Based Approaches in Practice
- Tutorial: Norms and Policies

M3: Methods and Techniques of Childhood and Children’s Rights Research
- Seminar: Qualitative Social Research Methods. With, for and about children.
- Tutorial: Student Research Projects
## Semester 2

### M4: Work and Education of Children in an International and Intercultural Comparison
- Seminar 1: Children’s Work and the Implementation of CR Comparing the Global North and South
- Seminar 2: Children’s Rights to Education
- Colloquium 1: The Child Labour Debate
- Colloquium 2: (Educational) Rights of Children in “Welcome Classes”

### M5: Children Out of Place and Child Rights Oriented Practice
- Seminar 1: Social Exclusion, Discrimination and Social Justice: Aims, Risks and Perspectives of Advocacy for Children and Their Rights
- Seminar 2: Socially and Culturally Disadvantaged and Marginalised Children and Their Rights
- Tutorial: Participation of Children Out of Place

### M6: Children and Media
- Seminar 1: Children’s Participation in the Media and Human Rights Education
- Seminar 2: Children and Media (Impact, Ethics, Potentials and Risks)
- Tutorial: Creation of Media Product with/for Children and Young People
Structure & Curriculum

Semester 3

M7:

a. Internship (Child Rights Organisation/Foundation/School/Kindergarten/Ministry) - or

b. Practical Project (Conceptualisation, Implementation, Evaluation) or

c. Research Proposal

Master Thesis, Defence
Partner Universities (Exchange)
Exchange via Erasmus

- Vilnius, Lithuania: Mykolo Romerio Universitetas
- Geneva, Switzerland: Université de Genève Centre for Children's Rights Studies
- Warsaw, Poland: Akademia Pedagogiki Specjalnej im. Marii Grzegorszewskiej (Maria Grzegorzewska University) and University of Warsaw
- Bialystok, Poland: University of Bialystok
- Cluj-Napoca, Romania: Universitatea 'Babes-Bolyai' din Cluj-Napoca
- London, United Kingdom: Institute of Education at the University of London
- Edinburgh, United Kingdom: University of Edinburgh
- It is also possible to do the internship abroad
Examinations

• All modules are completed with a written paper of 7,000 words (+/- 10%) on a self-chosen topic related to the module's theme.
• In addition, every student must hold one presentation per semester (approx. 10-15 minutes with moderation of a short discussion afterwards) on a topic of his/her choice related to the respective seminar's contents.
• The programme is completed with a final MA thesis of 18,000 words (+/- 10%) and its public oral defence (approx. 30-35 minutes in total- presentation and Q&A).
Book Series:
*Childhood Studies and Children’s Rights*

publication of excellent master’s theses
Teaching & Learning Methods

Blended Learning:
Mixture of intensive face-to-face and online teaching and learning

Beginning of studies (Mid-October 2020):
Intensive Summer School in Potsdam.

Aim:
• Personal contact to teachers and fellow students; creation of group identity; establishing basis for learning.

Topics:
• Introductory Workshop: Power Relations between Children and Adults. A Critical (Self) Reflection on Adultism; first seminars in Modules 1, 2 & 3; Introduction to online learning tools; setting tasks for further online studies
Beginning of second semester (Early April 2021):
Intensive face to face period (10-14 days)

**Aim:**
- Personal follow up on first semester
- Presentation of student module papers
- Personal contact to lecturers of the second semester
- Further group finding process
- Preparation for online phase 2
Final meeting: early April 2022

Public defence of thesis and graduation

Group of 2018-2020

Group of 2017-2019
Teaching & Learning Methods

• **E-learning Platform Moodle** (Literature, material, tasks, forums, shared documents, videos, digital presentations)

• **Big Blue Button (Open Source)**, internal server of the University of Applied Sciences, Potsdam. Via this tool, webinars are held, students work in break-out rooms and use whiteboard and screensharing for group work and (live) student presentations.
Teaching & Learning Methods

Problem Based Learning

• Mixture of methods-
• Traditional lectures
• Group work
• Discussions
• Simulation games
• Quizzes and more....
Target Groups

The MACR is directed towards everybody interested in working in the field of children’s rights and in particular towards:

• Graduates of social sciences, law, education, social work and other disciplines with first professional experiences

• Professionals in governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations in the field of youth work, education, social services, health and law
Students

- Max. 30 students
- On average from 12 different countries
- Several academic and professional backgrounds
Group of 2016-18

Picknick on Campus
Fields of Work

• Children's Rights Knowledge Centre, Belgium: research and political advocacy on Children’s Rights
• Children’s ombudsperson in a local NGO
• Adviser for child protection in Swiss development cooperation
• Academic research staff in the fields of Human Rights and Children’s Rights
• Child Protection Officer (UNICEF)
• Programme director (International, Children’s Rights and Media, Latin America) in NGOs such as Save the Children, Plan International
• Governmental Institutions (e.g. GIZ, ministries)
Alumni

• Employment at NGOs, in Germany e.g. Kindernothilfe/Save the Children Deutschland

• Many of the international alumni have returned to their home countries and work there (i.a. in NGOs, as teachers, educators)

• Some remain in research and are for instance working on their dissertation
Admission Criteria

• First academic degree (BA or equivalent)
• Professional experience after completion of first university degree (generally 12 months)
• Knowledge of English (level C1)
• VPD (Uni-Assist)
• Motivation Essay (engl, ca. 900-1000 words)
Theory & Practice (Advisory Committee)
Networking & Partnerships

• The MACR is a member of the Children's Rights European Academic Network (www.crean-network.org):
• Biannually, the network organises an international conference on a topical (international and interdisciplinary) children's rights theme, students assist in its conceptualisation and organisation and have priority access. Symposia are also offered with partner universities.
• We cooperate in international research projects.
• On a national level, the MACR cooperates as a member in the National Coalition for the implementation of the UNCRC in Germany
Thank you for your attention
Further information:
www fh-potsdam de/macr
Contact:
macr@fh-potsdam.de