

## DESCRIPTION OF DEGREE PROGRAMME (admission year: 2021-2022)

1.

Title of the degree programme	National Code
Social Work with Children and Youth Master`s Degree Programme (Joint Master, issued by MRU, Riga Stradiņš University, Latvia, The Catholic University in Ruzomberok, Slovakia and Iscte - Lisbon University Institute, Portugal)	6281JX003

2.

Official name of the awarding institution(s)	Language of instruction
Mykolas Romeris University	English

3.

Kind of study	Cycle of studies	Level of qualification
University studies	II cycle	VII level

4.

Mode of study and length of programme in years	Length of the degree programme in ECTS credits	Student's workload	Contact work hours	Independent work hours
Full-time study 2 years	120	3240	740	2500

5.

Group of Study Fields	Field of the programme
Social Sciences	Social Work

6.

Degree and/or qualification awarded
Master of Social Sciences

7.

Programme Director	Contact information
Dr. Raminta Bardauskienė	raminta@mruni.eu

8.

Accreditation organization	Period of reference
Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education	2024.08.31

9.

Purpose of the programme
The goal is to prepare highly skilled professionals to be leaders in the field of international, intercultural social work with children and youth. The students will possess an educational and experiential foundation that combines theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, comparative international research, social policy development and the newest knowledge of using ICT in social work practice with children and youth. These specialists will be able to promote empowerment and liberation of children and young people, based on principles of social justice, human rights, responsibility and respect for diversities.

10.

Profile of the programme		
Study content: discipline(s)/subject area(s)	Orientation of the programme	Distinctive features
<p>Semester 1 (MRU, Lithuania). The main aim of the 1st semester is to establish a common foundation among students in the knowledge, skills and ethical principles needed for advanced understandings European and national children and youth policy, social work theories and scientific research methodology.</p> <p>Semester 2 (RSU, Latvia). The aim of the 2nd semester is to focus on management and leadership, interactive methods with children and youth, as well as social work with family. Field visits are complemented by the courses Interactive Methods Working with Children and Youth, Social Work with Family. Students can choose one optional course from a list. They also start preparing their Master Thesis.</p> <p>Semester 3 (CU, Slovakia). The aim of the 3rd semester is to focus on application of ICT in social work practice, development and evaluation of social projects, as well as development of intercultural communication and socio-cultural knowledge and skills. One month is dedicated Scientific Research Practice to Students are trained and Scientific Research Practice which is related with Master Thesis and include interconnected tasks: students are obligated to carry out a pilot research, collect empirical data and/or search for any other relevant data and information for their Master thesis.</p> <p>Semester 4 (ISCTE Portugal). 4th semester's focus is on deepening the knowledge of scientific research and help to improve Master thesis (Master thesis peer review, data presentation, academic discussion with Master Thesis supervisors, research methodology teachers and other students). After workshops students prepare final thesis for defense by working individually, and consulting with a Master Thesis supervisor. At the end of the 4th semester defense of Master's Theses is organized.</p>	<p>The Programme is of deepening type.</p>	<p>The structure of the programme and the content of its subjects allow gaining competence to manage information, integrate theoretical knowledge and practical experience in social work with children and youths; to carry out relevant quantitative and qualitative research, to do qualified analysis of children and youth issues and to use the best available scientific knowledge as one basis for guiding professional interventions combined with professional ethical standards and practice wisdom; to take leadership, entrepreneurship, managements and digitals competence in providing services for children and youth; to plan personal learning and career process, pursue the personal and professional growth.</p> <p>The educational practice model applied in Programme develop the principles of supervision, reflection and research activity.</p>

<b>Qualification requirements and regulations</b>		
<p>According to the Description of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework, level VII qualifications are acquired through graduate university (II cycle) studies.</p> <p>The qualification provides for complex activities consisting of different interrelated tasks which may cover several related areas of professional activities. That is the reason why the performance requires expert evaluation of the most recent knowledge in the close and more distanced areas of activities; discovery of new facts in applied research of the professional activity area, creative theoretical knowledge and application of the results of scientific research.</p> <p>The activities are performed independently, by way of setting prerogatives of an activity area, making independent decisions, which are oriented towards improvement and perfection of the activities. The activities imply managing the activities of other employees, thus qualifications of this level include abilities to independently carry out applied research, to provide consultations in an area of activities, to coordinate projects related to the upgrading of other individuals' qualifications and implementation of innovations, to analyse and present activity results.</p> <p>As the technological, management and organizational progress is witnessed in all areas of activities, the activities and their environment are subject to constant change, the changes are difficult to anticipate, the activities consist of volatile combinations of tasks. The activity change requires the ability to make innovative decisions based on research results, to assess alternative solutions and possible social and ethic consequences of the activities.</p>		

**11.**

<b>Admission requirements</b>	<b>Specific arrangements for recognition of prior learning</b>	<b>Specific requirements for graduation</b>
<p>Applicants eligible for the Programme must be the holders of Bachelor's degree/1st Cycle or the equivalent University level higher education degree in the field of Social and Educational sciences. Graduates from other fields of studies can be admitted if their completed education is assessed by the Universities (Governing Board) as equivalent/sufficient. Proficiency in written and spoken English at a B2 level.</p> <p>When the field of the second-cycle studies selected is different from the completed first-cycle study field, during first year of studies student have to pass extra study subjects - Social Work Theory and Practice and Methodology of Social Work.</p>	<p>The Procedure for Recognising Academic Credits at Mykolas Romeris University establishes the crediting of studying results achieved in other higher education schools and international academic organisations and the principles of issuance and formal execution of certificates about the studying results achieved at the University intended to be transferred to other higher education schools.</p>	<p>collect 120 ECTS, to implement practice, to follow the mobility path, to prepare and defend master thesis</p>

12.

<b>Access to further studies</b>
The graduates may continue in doctoral studies and seek academic careers in national or foreign universities and research institutions.

13.

<b>Occupational profiles of graduates with examples</b>
<p>The programme graduates will have career opportunities in all kind of socio-educational service institutions that provide different social services for children and youth. Graduates will be able to design, implement and develop modern social work strategies in the international labour market. Programme graduates, as qualified social work with children and youth specialists, will be able to realize their career tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in children and youth day centers especially working with children and youth from social risk families;</li> <li>• in juvenile justice institutions as providers of social services for delinquent children and youth.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in implementing youth policy in municipalities.</li> <li>• in improving quality of social work with migrants</li> </ul> </li> <li>• in developing career guidance services for children and youth.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in developing universal multifunctional centers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>During the Programme acquired knowledge and skills would allow graduates to address above mentioned needs of children and youth and to plan, organize, manage and evaluate social work process in different multicultural environments.</p>

14.

<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
<p>Teaching approach is based on: 1) Student-centered learning (SCL) which focuses on the learner and their needs, develops student autonomy and independence and puts responsibility for the learning path in the hands of students, enables life-long learning and independent problem-solving. 2) Inclusive teaching (IC) refers to modes of teaching and learning designed to actively engage, include, and challenge all students. The learning/research methods are used as follows: debate, case study, reflexive learning, problem-based learning, discussion, workshops etc. By introducing a reflexive learning method into the study process, students' ability to reflexive thinking, self-evaluation, better organization and management of time and self-directed learning are developed.</p>	<p>Achievements of students are assessed based on 10 grade scale and certification. Key assessment methods include examination and final master's thesis (10 grade scale). Students are subject to cumulative assessment: colloquia, individual and group tasks, social projects etc. Under the terms of the Erasmus Mundus project, 10-point scale is converted to the ECTS scale.</p>

15.

Generic competences		Programme learning outcomes	
1.	Social skills	1.1	Will be able to understand others intellectually, culturally and emotionally and perform effective communication and collaboration; strive for high level of emotional intelligence, that is self-awareness, empathy and sensitivity to others; advocate for clients and deal with conflict within an organization or community group, help children and youth to learn how to deal with conflict in their own lives more effectively.
		1.2	Will be able to be culturally responsive and approach clients who are from different racial, socio-economic, and ethnic communities with respect and openness; develop social and cultural communication competences of children and youth; promote interprofessional collaboration ensuring democratic manner of communication and decision making; endeavour that shared knowledge and skills of social services providers and consideration the service user in a holistic way will allow influence the ways service for children, youth and their families are provided.
2.	Personal skills	2.1	Will be able to develop personal competencies: citizenship and responsibility, critical and system thinking, social justice, respect to human rights and diversity; pursue the personal and professional growth continuously building competences highly relevant for social work in rapidly changing world; apply creativity and innovations to deal with situations in professional activities employing an entrepreneurial mentality.
Subject specific competences		Programme learning outcomes	
3.	Knowledge, its application	3.1	Will be able to understand, critically analyse and evaluate contribution of different theories of social sciences and humanities as well as indigenous knowledge to micro-macro practice and research of social work with children and youth; analyse and critically evaluate policy decisions regarding their impact on young people across all sectors, notably employment, education, health and social inclusion.
		3.2	Will be able to systematically and critically analyse the newest knowledge about diversity of needs and behaviours of children and youth in multicultural environment, when implementing innovative social services and influencing family and social policy for the welfare of children and youth; manage information needed for effective work with children and youth; establish the policies, procedures, and guidelines necessary for effective social work practice

4.	Ability to conduct research	4.1	. Will be able to initiate, organize social research applying quantitative and qualitative research in comparison perspective; carry out analysis of social research and results within interdisciplinary context in national and international perspective.
		4.2	Will be able to investigate and analyse social needs and problems of children, youth and their families and provide directions to policies and actions that help to make remedial goals identifiable and achievable; analyse, synthesize and critically evaluate research findings; apply research results in changing and uncertain situations; ensure the well-being of children and youths through evidence-based practices.
5.	Special skills	5.1	Will be able to enable young people to be architects of their own lives, support their personal development and growth to autonomy, build their resilience and equip them with life skills to cope with a changing world; initiate, develop and coordinate social projects striving to invent new strategies to meet client needs and foster social change; assess a situation and develop a reasonable plan to resolve conflicts and overcome challenges for their clients; organise, coordinate and evaluate process and results of social support for children and youth, perform social management and administration skills shaping institutional or organizational structures which facilitate the achievement of goals.
		5.2	Will be able to systematically assess diverse needs of children and youth, and actively engage children and youths in addressing their needs; apply empowering social work intervention methods; advocate for resources and system reforms that will improve services for children and youths; incorporate and use new IC technology appropriately and effectively in multiple areas providing services to children and youth; educate children and youth risk management using ICT.



	Children and Youth Behaviours by Bio-psycho-social Aspects	6	162	50	112	x			x	x				
	Children and Youth Career Guidance	6	162	50	112		x			x			x	x
	Cross-Cultural Mediation	6	162	50	112		x			x		x	x	
<b>2nd YEAR</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>1620</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>1360</b>									
<b>3 SEMESTER</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>584</b>									
<b>Compulsory courses</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>584</b>									
	Development and Evaluation of Social Projects	6	162	50	112	x		x		x			x	
	Digital Social Work with Children and Youth	6	162	50	112	x			x		x		x	
	Youth Intercultural Communication	6	162	50	112					x		x	x	x
	Scientific Research Practice and Master Thesis	6	162	26	136	x		x	x	x				
	Socio-Cultural Empowerment of Different Children and Youth Groups	6	162	50	112		x				x		x	x
<b>4 SEMESTER</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>776</b>									
<b>Compulsory courses</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>776</b>									
	Master Thesis	24	648	0	648	x	x	x	x					
	Master Thesis Project (Workshop)	6	162	34	128	x		x	x					

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