

An international semester programme (30 ECT)
English taught, future proof educative approach
and innovative oriented.

SOCIAL WORK IN URBAN AREAS

AUTUMN SEMESTER
SEPTEMBER 2024
JANUARY 2025

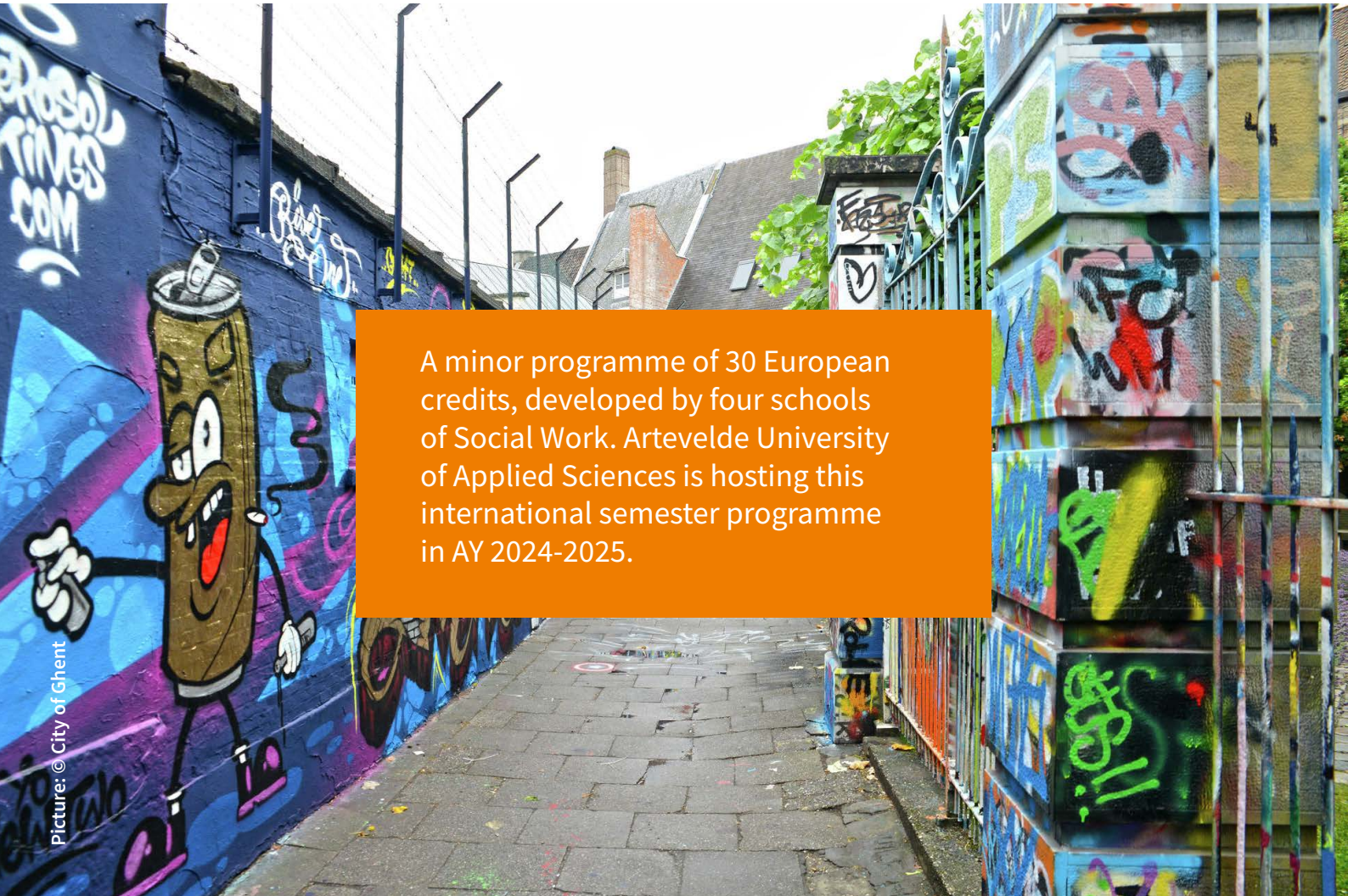
Four Schools,
One Semester,
One Language

Would you like to study in an international environment in Ghent with students and teachers from around Europe? Do you want to develop your skills and find creative and innovative solutions to identified social needs and problems?

Picture: © City of Ghent

Course Focus

The course explores the concept of urbanization and the challenges this poses to the social work profession. The diversity of Ghent will be explored through observations, environmental screenings, field visits and lectures from practice based guest teachers.



A minor programme of 30 European credits, developed by four schools of Social Work. Artevelde University of Applied Sciences is hosting this international semester programme in AY 2024-2025.



Picture: © City of Ghent

Key Concepts

The theory focuses on four key concepts:

- Urbanisation
- Migration
- Globalisation
- Diversity

These key concepts will be linked to social work practice and to methods within community work, empowerment approaches as well as human rights and ethical challenges.

Critical Thinking

Critical reflection is a generic aspect of the course in order to enhance critical thinking in problem solving as well as in social interventions. In order to strengthen your learning and train for practice, you will work on written assignments – individually as well as in groups.

Programme

The semester is divided into 6 loops, each of 3 weeks duration ended by a reflection day. The last two weeks of the program is an assessment period.

- **Loop 1 (week 1-3):**
Making sense of the city
- **Loop 2 (week 4-6):**
Discovering Challenges in Urban Areas
- **Loop 3 (week 7-9):**
Ethics, Empowerment, and Critical Thinking
- **Loop 4 (week 10-12):**
Facing Superdiversity
- **Loop 5 (week 13-15):**
Exploring Community Based Development
- **Loop 6 (week 16-18):**
Rethinking Urban Social Work (Project work)

Learning targets

The student demonstrates knowledge of:

- Globalisation processes including migration patterns effecting social work.
- European welfare systems in a comparative perspective.
- Urban areas with social and cultural diversity.
- Social problems and living conditions in urban areas (segregation, unemployment, poverty and processes of exclusion, stigmatisation, radicalisation).
- Social interventions and methods directed at group and society levels.
- The professional code of ethics for social work.
- Identification of issues, project design and academic methods.

The student demonstrates ability to:

- Identify and analyse social issues and suggest relevant interventions.
- Search for, process and analyse information from a variety of sources.
- Plan and complete course work and preparing and carrying out a project plan within the established time frame.
- Apply social work methods to concrete cases.
- Communicate and establish professional relations with clients and other stakeholders.

The student demonstrates competences to:

- Participate in group work and interact constructively with fellow students, clients and other stakeholders regardless of social and cultural background.
- Apply knowledge of social problems, interventions and methods in practical situations.
- Undertake basic research applying academic skills and methods.
- Evaluate the quality of work produced.
- Find creative and innovative solutions to identified social needs and problems.



Picture: © City of Ghent

FUTURE SOCIAL WORKERS IN URBAN AREAS

Globalisation and urbanisation have far reaching consequences. More than 50% of the European population lives in urban areas, a number that will increase to 75% by 2050. Factors such as migration, economic recession and increasing inequalities are changing our cities. The city is involved in global processes but also has impact on local decision-making processes that influence the life of citizens. This context challenges social workers who experience limits and constraints on influencing the situation.

Social workers are key stakeholders in the process of organising in a multi-voiced world in order to maximise the voice of the vulnerable and marginalised citizens and communities in any city. They promote the 'right to the city' for all. This programme offers perspectives and tools on how social work can link the Global Agenda to an urban context and thereby motivate future social workers to envision the type of city we need.

WHY SWUA?



“It is very interesting to go out of the classroom and really see what is going on in the field. Also because of the different teachers and the many different subjects, I have a broader perspective now on social work.”

Karine Kaptein
student of Social Work in Urban Areas

“The mixture of field visits and lectures with international teachers makes it a different experience of studying, which you will like if you are open for new ways of teaching, studying in English and happy to participate in conversations about a wide range of topics, such as human rights, ethics, community development and globalisation.”

Nadine Dinkelacker
student of Social Work in Urban Areas

“The focus is on presenting ‘the city’ as a new point of departure for contemporary social work, with innovative and alternative approaches in social work practices. The programme merged social science perspectives with social work practices and in doing so stimulated my comprehension and critical reflection skills.”

Mathilde Verhelst
student of Social Work in Urban Areas

“It is so interesting that it’s in an international class, because I am learning an extra dimension on the knowledge by swapping experiences with peers from other countries. After this minor, I feel like I am a ton of knowledge wiser which helps me become a more professional social worker!”

Derk van Winden
student of Social Work in Urban Areas

PRACTICAL MATTERS

Host

Host for the autumn semester 2024:
Artevelde University of Applied Sciences, Ghent,
Belgium.

Course period

Social Work in Urban Areas always follows the
academic calendar of the host institution: Half
September 2024 - End January 2025.

You are expected to arrive in time for the
introduction and welcome week for exchange
students.

Application deadline

Before May 1, 2024.

Application procedure

- If you are a student at one of the partner schools;
consult your international coordinator.
- If you are a student at another university; consult the
international coordinator at Artevelde University of
Applied Sciences: [international.socialwork@
arteveldehs.be](mailto:international.socialwork@arteveldehs.be).

Prerequisites

- In order to participate in the Social Work in
Urban Areas programme, a level B2 in English is a
prerequisite.
- To be admitted to the programme you must have
completed at least one year of a Social Work
programme at your home institution.

CONTACT

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