

Bachelor in Social Work

2025/26



At a glance

Bachelor class: L-39
ECTS credits: 180
Duration of the course: 3 years
Courses will be taught in: Italian,
German and English (trilingual)
Places available: 30 EU + 4 non-EU
Campus: Brixen-Bressanone
Tuition fees: ca. € 1200 per year

Course description

Social issues are at the centre of current challenges societies must face. Demographic developments, increasing inequalities and changing social needs of people in different life situations and with diverse experiences require social policies as well as participatory and integrated forms of support and intervention in lifeworld and local contexts. By developing appropriate solutions and services, social work and social policy contribute to the sustainable shaping of the foundations of social cohesion and development.

The border region of South Tyrol provides an ideal context for a multilingual social work education programme with a strong European and international orientation. Professors from different European regions represent different academic and professional perspectives and traditions.

Online Info Sessions

We offer Online Info Sessions in the coming months during which the bachelor programme will be presented and where interested students can address their questions to professors and students. The Info Sessions take place on the following days:

- Wednesday, 26 March 2025, 18:00: [register here](#)
- Wednesday, 16 April 2025, 18:00: [register here](#)

Structure of the course

The curriculum combines a broad and foundational undergraduate study programme with practice-oriented training to develop knowledge, competences, and attitudes for professional activities in different fields of social work practice. Special attention is paid to the reflexive connection of theory and practice, the development of innovative approaches and a strong research orientation.

Courses on theories, ethics, and methods of social work, together with courses of social policy, form an important core area of the curriculum. In addition, a variety of courses in sociology, psychology, law, anthropology, and pedagogy provide the necessary foundations for understanding human behaviour and personal development in cultural and social contexts.

Special attention is paid to inter- and transnational social work, the critical analysis of social policy contexts, the development of innovative and low-threshold services, and processes of eco-social transformation.

Study Plan - Bachelor in Social Work

1st year

- 6 CP Principles of Sociology
- 6 CP Statistical and Demographic Analysis of Social Phenomena
 - 5 CP Statistical and Demographic Analysis of Social Phenomena
 - 1 CP LAB: Statistical and Demographic Analysis of Social Phenomena
- 6 CP Qualitative Methods and Methodologies in Social Research
- 11 CP Fundamentals of Social Work and Social Policy
 - 6 CP Fundamentals in Social Work
 - 5 CP Social Policy
- 6 CP Fundamentals of the Legal System and Fundamental Rights
- 6 CP General Psychology for Social Work
 - 4 CP General Psychology
 - 2 CP LAB: Life Skills
- 11 CP Social Pedagogy and Social Psychology
 - 5 CP Social Psychology
 - 6 CP Social Pedagogy Throughout the Life Cycle
- 4 CP Free Choice
- 4 CP Internship

2nd year

- 10 CP Social Work Methodology and Organisation
 - 3 CP Methods and Techniques of Social Work
 - 2 CP LAB: Methods and Techniques of Social Work
 - 5 CP Fields and Organisation of Social Work Practice
- 6 CP Social Work in Historical, Inter- and Transnational Contexts
 - 3 CP Inter- and Transnational Social Work
 - 3 CP History of Social Work
- 11 CP Parenthood and Family
 - 5 CP Sociology of the Family
 - 6 CP Family Gender and Power
- 12 CP Life Cycle Psychology
 - 5 CP Developmental Psychology in Childhood and Adolescence
 - 2 CP LAB: Observation of Parental Skills in Social Professions
 - 5 CP Psychology of Aging
- 5 CP Family and Minors Law

- 2 CP LAB: Digitalization and AI in Social Work
- 4 CP Free Choice
- 10 CP Internship

3rd year

- 9 CP Marginality, Social Change, Crime
 - 6 CP Criminal Law and Penitentiary Law
 - 3 CP Marginality and Social Change
- 10 CP Welfare, Territory and Sustainability
 - 5 CP Social Policies and Sustainability
 - 3 CP Planning and Evaluation of Social Policies and Services
 - 2 CP LAB: Co-Programming and Co-Design
- 6 CP Community Work and Advocacy
 - 4 CP Community and Outreach Work
 - 2 CP LAB: Policy Practice and Advocacy
- 10 CP Mental Health and Social Work
 - 6 CP Mental Health Promotion and Care
 - 4 CP Clinical and Intercultural Psychology
- 5 CP Strategies and Practices for Socio-Health Interventions
 - 3 CP Evidence Informed and Rights Based Approaches to Health and Social Care
 - 2 CP LAB: Interprofessional Collaboration and Co-Design
- 2 CP Language Skills for Professional Communication
- 1 CP Professionalizing Laboratory
- 4 CP Free Choice
- 10 CP Internship
- 3 CP Final Exam

Compulsory attendance rules are established as follows:

- Compulsory attendance for classes and seminars can be fulfilled, even partially and in accordance with the lecturer, with individual alternate activities. In this event, the individual study tutoring, nevertheless compulsory, will include some extra activities (web activities, extra study texts assignment, etc.) endorsed by the lecturer.
- Workshops' attendance is compulsory. Justified absences must be compensated with extra or supplementary activities.
- The total number of hours allotted to internships must be fully completed.

Exchange programmes and internships

The degree programme is characterised by a strong practical orientation. Numerous cooperations with services in the local and national context as well as abroad enable accompanied placements in various fields of social work practice.

Various exchange programmes and agreements with universities in Europe and beyond are available for study experiences abroad.

Career opportunities

Social workers advise and support people in different life situations in coping with their everyday life and promote their social inclusion and participation. They work with individuals, families and groups in quite different practice fields.

Key areas of social work are in child, youth and family welfare as well as in services for older people, people with disabilities, addictions, or mental health problems. In addition, social workers support people with experiences of refuge and migration, violence, or exploitation, as well as people who are affected by unemployment, homelessness, and precarious housing. They also work in probation services, women's shelters, hospitals, counselling services and social cooperatives.

Other career opportunities can be found in the accompaniment of volunteers and self-help initiatives, in community work, the management of social services, social planning and policy making, projects of eco-social transformation and international development cooperation.



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Application and Admission

You can find all you need to know in order to apply and gain admission to this study programme by browsing through the information below.

Deadlines and important dates

Early Bird Application

Application: 03/03 - 06/05/2025 (by noon local time)

Language exams (online): 17/03/2025 (registration: 03 - 09/03/2025) and 16 - 17 and 22 - 23/04/2025 (registration: 24/03 - 08/04/2025)

Admission exam: 15/05/2025

Publication of ranking lists: by 27/05/2025

Payment of the 1st instalment of the tuition fees: by 05/06/2025 (by noon local time)

Enrolment: from 11/07 - 05/08/2025 (by noon local time)

Late Application (only for EU citizens)

Application: 28/05 - 09/07/2025 (by noon local time)

Language exams (online): 23 - 27/06/2025 (registration: 28/05 - 15/06/2025)

Admission exam: 17/07/2025

Publication of ranking lists: by 29/07/2025

Payment of the 1st instalment of the tuition fees: by 05/08/2025 (by noon local time)

Enrolment: from publication of the ranking list until 05/08/2025 (by noon local time)

Additional Application Session (only for EU citizens)

The faculty can open additional application sessions for single study programmes in August and in September if there are available places. More information on additional sessions will be published in due course.

Preparatory courses and Freshers Days

Intensive language courses: 01 - 19/09/2025 (Monday to Friday, 6 h/day)

Freshers Days: 30/09- 01/10/2025

1st semester

Classes: 29/09 - 23/12/2025

Holidays: 24/12/2025 - 06/01/2026

Classes: 07/01 - 24/01/2026

Exams: 26/01 - 21/02/2026

2nd semester

Classes: 02/03 - 02/04/2026

Holidays: 03- 06/04/2026

Classes: 07/04 - 13/06/2026

Exams: 15/06 - 11/07/2026

Autumn session

Exams: 24/08 - 26/09/2026

Available places

EU citizens and citizens given parity of treatment

Early Bird Application: 20

Late Application: 10

Non-EU citizens (living abroad)

Early Bird Application: 4

Entry requirements

To gain admission to the programme you need one of the following qualifications:

- a secondary school leaving certificate (Italian system)
- equivalent qualification obtained abroad.

Foreign school leaving certificates are considered equivalent if obtained after 12 years of education. In this case, you furthermore must have attended at least the last two years in the foreign school system (e.g. Irish Leaving Certificate: it is not enough to attend one year and obtain the foreign certificate).

The Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research has set specific admission requirements for holders of certain certificates (e.g. American high school diplomas, British and Greek certificates). For more information: apply@unibz.it (Advisory Service).

To be admitted, you must fulfil the language requirements indicated in the section "Language requirements".

According to national regulations, simultaneous enrolment in a maximum of 2 programmes is possible (however, the two programmes must not belong to the same class, e.g., L-18/L-18 and must differ for at least 2/3 of the course contents).

Language requirements

The official teaching languages are German, Italian and English. Therefore, the following language requirements apply, otherwise you will be excluded from the admission procedure:

Entry level (to gain admission)

1st language: B2

2nd language: B2

3rd language: no level required

From the 2nd semester of the first year

3rd language: a B1 level in the third language is a minimum requirement for taking the curricular examinations in that specific language.

Exit level (to graduate)

1st language: C1

2nd language: C1

3rd language: B2

The levels of the Common European Framework of Reference apply.

Your first language is the language in which you have the highest level of proficiency (B2 or C1). Your third language is instead the language in which you are weaker (or in which you are an absolute beginner).

You can demonstrate your language proficiency in the application portal (in the section "upload language certificates" and/or "enrol for language exams") after you have created an application in the section "create/manage applications". The certification is mandatory for the first and second language, for the third language it is recommended (from B1 onwards).

- In case your final certificate has been awarded by an **Italian** public institution, you need to submit a self-declaration.
- In case your final certificate has been awarded by a **foreign** public institution, you need to upload diploma scanned copy of the original.

You can demonstrate language proficiency through:

1. **the main teaching language in your final high school year** if German, Italian or English (recognised as C1) (Ladin upper secondary schools: recognised as B2 in German and Italian). **Foreign qualifications:** If the main teaching language is not clearly stated on your high school diploma, please also upload a letter/document issued by your high school stating the medium of instruction.
2. **a bachelor or master degree** in Italian, German or English (recognised as C1). unibz graduates must upload the language certificates obtained and/or declare that they have passed language exams at the unibz Language Centre (B2, B2+ or C1). **Foreign qualifications:** If the teaching language is not clearly stated on your University degree, please also upload a letter/document issued by your University stating the medium of instruction during your studies.
3. **a recognised language certificate** (see the list of recognised certificates) If you cannot upload the certificates, you can send them by e-mail as PDF files or deliver them in person to the Language Centre by the application deadline (see "Deadlines" section).
4. **language exams organised by the unibz Language Centre.** You can register for these exams online through the application portal (in the section "enrol for language exams") after you have filled out your application in the section "create/manage applications". The registration periods are indicated in the "Deadlines" section. If you start your application outside a language exams registration period, you must return to the portal during one of the periods indicated above in order to register for an exam. Information regarding the structure of the language proficiency exams, their duration, their administration, and

typical processing time for the publication of the results can be found on the following webpage.

Please note that you can only register for **B2 level exams**.

For information on studying in three languages also visit the following page.

Secondary schools in a foreign country/Bi- or multilingual schools

If the foreign language proficiency levels (for German, Italian, or English) are explicitly indicated on the diploma of graduation according to the Common European Framework of Reference (i.e., B1, B2 or C1), and if all four language abilities (reading, listening, speaking, writing) have been assessed, then the indicated levels will be accepted as a proof of proficiency for the second and/or third language.

Please upload your school-leaving certificate to the application portal in the section “upload language certificates” under the respective language. The Language Centre will decide on its recognition.

Third language/Intensive language courses in September

If you have already acquired a language certificate in the third teaching language, please upload it to the portal. If you are not able to certify your language competence in the third language and you are admitted to unibz, you will have to take a placement test. You will receive further information about the test by e-mail. Based on the result of the placement test, you will be assigned to a certain learning path so that you will be able to reach level B2 as soon as possible.

If you are an absolute beginner in the third language, or if you have a level below B2, you may attend a three-week intensive language course during the pre-semester session in September in order to start the learning path.

The dates of the extensive courses are indicated in the “Deadlines” section. Beginner courses (A1) will be offered exclusively during the pre-semester intensive course session in September will no longer be offered during the academic year. Therefore, absolute beginners should start their learning path for the third language by attending the intensive courses in September.

There will be extensive courses (4 hours per week) during the semesters and intensive courses (8 hours per week) during the time between semesters.

The language courses offered by the Language Centre are **free of charge** and aim to help the students reach the following target levels in the third language:

- B1 level by the end of the 1st year;
- B2 level by the end of the 2nd year.

Online application

Your application must be submitted online through the Application Portal. The deadlines are indicated in the “Deadlines” section.

- You need to create an account and upload a valid ID card or passport (front/back). Please note: if your document is invalid, incomplete or unreadable, you will be excluded from the

admission procedure;

- Fill in the online form and upload the attachments listed under “Admission procedure”;
- If you gained your qualification abroad, you must also upload the diploma of your qualification: if you are not yet in possession of the diploma, you’ll need to upload it upon enrolment;
- Complete and submit the online application by the deadline. Once the application has been sent, it cannot be modified. Filled-in forms which have not been sent correctly will not be taken into consideration.

Please note: Mendacious declarations will be criminally prosecuted and will result in the automatic exclusion from the ranking list.

EU-Citizens and equivalent

You might apply for more than one study programme. If you are excluded in the first session, you might apply again in the second one.

Considered as equivalent are:

1. Citizens from Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, San Marino and the Vatican City State;
2. Non-EU citizens with a valid permit to stay in Italy (see article 39, paragraph 5 of decree no. 286 of 25.07.1998: “**permesso di soggiorno**” (residence permit) for work, family reasons, political or humanitarian asylum, religious reasons). In this case, you apply directly to the University as described above and must submit a copy of your valid permit to stay. A permit to stay for study reasons or a visa for tourism is **not** sufficient. If the permit has expired, you must attach a renewal request.

Please note that if you do not upload the permit in the application portal, you will be automatically considered a non-EU citizen living abroad and therefore subject to the admission procedure through the Italian authorities in your country of origin.

Non-EU-Citizens (living outside of Italy)

Only one application period is offered. After the deadline it is not possible to apply anymore. Application fee: € 50. The fee is an administration fee and is non-refundable.

Once the ranking list has been published, if you have gained admission, secure it by paying the first instalment and then start your visa application on the University portal. The application on University is mandatory, otherwise you will not be allowed to enrol. On University you can apply for one study programme only.

Admission procedure

The admission procedure is based on the following criteria:

1. **cover letter** (maximum 6.000 characters) regarding the motivation for choosing the study programme
2. **admission interview** to assess knowledge and understanding of current social issues and communication skills (max. 80 points in total).
The interview will take place in Brixen-Bressanone (see Section “Deadlines”). Location

and time will be published on the website of the study programme. You can choose whether to attend the admission colloquium in English, German or Italian.

3. any **experience** you may have had working **in the field of social work** (max. 20 points).

In the event of equal scores, the younger applicant will have priority.

In the application portal, you shall:

- upload the cover letter;

Please note: Mendacious declarations will be penalised by criminal penalties and will result in the automatic exclusion from the ranking list.

Ranking lists

The Admission Committee will only evaluate the documents uploaded in the portal by the application deadline. The ranking lists with the admitted students will be published here and are only valid for the respective academic year.

Secure your admission and enrolment

If you have been admitted to more than one study programme, you can secure your admission for a maximum of 2 programmes by paying the designated rate twice.

1. Choose the study programme and pay the fees (to secure your admission) in the application portal.

The deadlines are indicated in the “Deadlines” section.

If you do not meet this deadline, you will automatically be excluded and the next applicant in the ranking list will be admitted.

For EU citizens and citizens given parity of treatment only: any remaining places of the early bird application, will be offered in the late application.

Please note: Paying university fees does not confer student status, which is only obtained by enrolling. If you pay but do not enrol, you are not entitled to a refund unless you do not pass your secondary school final exam or, in the event of non-EU applicants living abroad, you do not obtain the necessary documents for enrolment from the Italian authorities in your country.

2. Enrol online in the application portal.

The deadlines are indicated in the “Deadlines” section.

Enrolment is recommended as early as possible, so you have the possibility to upload incomplete documents before the deadline.

If you do not meet the enrolment deadline, you will be excluded and the next applicant in the ranking list will be admitted.

Students intending to transfer from another Italian University to unibz have to submit to the Student Office - at the beginning of the academic year - a copy of the transfer application presented at the university of provenance.

3. If you have a foreign secondary school qualification, during enrolment you need to upload

these documents:

- your secondary school diploma
- an official translation of the diploma into Italian (not necessary for diplomas issued in German or English)

Depending on the foreign education system your qualification belongs to, you must also upload:

a) a) EU countries, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate:

- Statement of **Correspondence** of your secondary school diploma, to be downloaded from the ARDI – Automatic Recognition Database – Italy

b) non-EU countries that are signatories to the Lisbon Convention:

- Statement of **Correspondence** of your secondary school diploma, to be downloaded from the ARDI – Automatic Recognition Database – Italy
- Statement of **Verification** of your secondary school diploma, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

c) non-EU countries that are not signatories of the Lisbon Convention:

- Statement of **Comparability** of your secondary school diploma, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalences (CIMEA)
- Statement of **Verification** of your secondary school diploma, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

unibz performs the necessary checks on your foreign qualification and in case of doubt reserves the right to request additional documents.

Please note that if you do not possess a valid admission qualification, you can be excluded with Rector's decree even after enrolment.

If you are a non-EU citizen living abroad:

Once you are eligible for admission (check the ranking lists) and have also applied on University, the Italian Authorities in your own country will issue you the entry visa for studies/university. This will allow to enrol for the study programme that you have applied for.

According to Italian law, within 8 working days of your arrival in Italy, you must have applied for the residence permit: as soon as you arrive, get in touch with the Advisory Service and you will be given the necessary information for starting the procedure.

Once you will obtain your residence permit (permesso di soggiorno), you have to hand it in at the Student Office personally or via e-mail.

Tuition fees

Fees amount to € 1200

- **1st instalment (€ 600):** includes the revenue stamp of € 16.

- **2nd instalment (€ 600):** must be paid by March of the following year

Delayed payment of the second instalment will result in a fine being levied. If you have not paid the tuition fees, you will be unable to take exams and will not be able to transfer to other universities or other study programmes.

If you drop out of a programme, interrupt your studies or are excluded from studies, you are not entitled to reimbursement of the fees.

Exemption from the tuition fees is granted to:

- Students with a disability recognized under article 3, paragraph 1, of Law No 104/1992, or with a disability up to or exceeding 66%: the disability certificate, issued by the health authorities, must be handed in at the beginning of the academic year.
- Foreign students who have been granted a scholarship from the Italian government.

Students who benefit from a scholarship granted by the Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano are entitled to receive a refund of the tuition fees.

Recognition of credit points from previous studies

Credit points from previous university studies can only be recognised after enrolment if the exams taken at the university of provenance are equivalent in content to those offered at unibz. You can fill out the application after enrolment at your Faculty Secretariat.

The Faculty organises appointments for the preliminary evaluation (Italian and German) of previous university careers.

The Advisory Service provides support regarding your choice of study. In many cases a simple call or a short request is enough to get the relevant information (Tel. +39 0471 012100).

Advisory Service

Universitätsplatz 1 - piazza
Università, 1
Italy - 39100, Bozen-Bolzano
Tel +39 0471 012100
Fax +39 0471 012109
apply@unibz.it

Opening Hours

Tuesdays: 10:00-12:00
Thursdays: 14:00-16:00

Alternatively, you may call us
throughout the week or book an
online appointment