



# Master's degree in economic and social policy

Adult education  
Staggered schedule

<https://uclouvain.be/fr/facultes/espo/fopes>



## Key features

- Starting point
- What?
- How?
- Who?
- Some focal points

## Starting point

- Creation of the master in 1974 as an experiment
- Joint project between the Christian Labour Movement and the University of Louvain-la-Neuve
- Common goal : promotion of higher education for adults
- Framework > open universities / democratisation of access to higher education
- Second chance in education
- Validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning
- A master's degree for people engaged in socio-economic life (trade-union representative, social actors...)

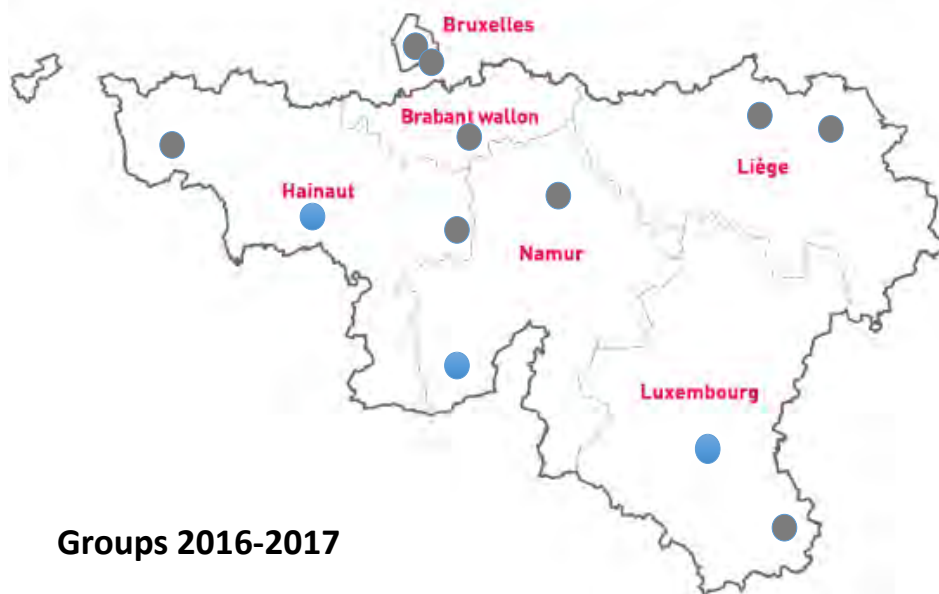
## What?

The Master 120 in economic and social policy develops the ability:

- to master the essential elements of disciplinary analytical frameworks to understand the main economic and social issues of contemporary society;
- to master the different dimensions of economic and social policies;
- to situate the actors and issues in their historical, institutional and cultural context;
- to make proposals concerning these policies and/or specific mechanisms;
- to stimulate exchanges, identify and discuss different points of view, solve problems, consult each other and develop common proposals through cooperative learning.

## How?

- Staggered schedule
  - mostly on Saturday + one evening during the week (often Thursday)
  - or one day during the week Thursday + an evening (often Tuesday)
- Decentralisation > bringing the university closer to students
  - Groups all over the French community
  - Each year > 9 groups (3 X 3) average size of the groups: 25 persons



## How?

- The master is an « orphan » master. It is not preceded by a corresponding first cycle.
- The program is organized over three years: block 0 (complementary courses), block 1, block 2.
- It includes:
  - a common core of 65 credits (including the thesis),
  - a specialized finality « policy analysis and evaluation » of 30 credits
  - and 25 credits of courses to be chosen among the following fields:
    - sociology,
    - philosophy,
    - administration and management,
    - economic and economic policies,
    - politics, actors and institutions.

## How?

- A specific pedagogical framework
  - A training advisor for each group during the whole training
  - A group pedagogy > specific tasks in the programme handled by sub-groups
  - Progressive evaluation: formative and certificate evaluation
  - A specific attention to the thesis process
- Possible access through validation of experience (50% of the students)
  - Free preparatory courses / admission tests (economy and understanding of scientific texts)
- The core philosophy > accompanying adults (leaflet for all new member in the teaching staff)

Programme	ECTs	Persons in charge
<b>Bloc 0 Complementary courses</b>		
Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economy, sociology, philosophy, quantitative methods, university work training</li> </ul>	40	Professors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-group work, pedagogical coordination</li> <li>Seminars and thematic projects</li> </ul>	20	Training advisors + guest speakers (seminars)
<b>Bloc 1 Master 1</b>		
Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business analysis, sociology of organizations, psychology, political science, qualitative methods, thesis preparation</li> </ul>	42	Professors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-group work, pedagogical coordination</li> <li>Seminars and thematic projects</li> </ul>	18	Training advisors + guest speakers (seminars)
<b>Bloc 2 Master 2</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optional courses, special questions</li> </ul>	28	Professors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thesis preparation</li> </ul>	3	Professors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-group work, pedagogical coordination</li> </ul>	7	Training advisors + guest speakers (seminars)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thesis</li> </ul>	22	Promoter + commission
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	

## Who?

### In 2017-18

- 45% women and 55% men. In 1974, women 26% and men 74%.
- Average age > 40 years. Has decreased by 3 years since 2010.
- Citizenship > among the 270 students > 243 are Belgian, 11 African and 16 from other European countries. Beyond these figures, a significant proportion of students have parents who were not born in Belgium. Importance of diversity within the programme.

### According to a 2011-18 students survey:

- Access: 50% validation of experience, 40% a recognised bachelor's degree, 10% another master's degree
- At the beginning of the master's degree > most students live with a partner (64%), 52% have one or more children, 10% are single with children.
- When starting the master's programme > 67% hold a bachelor's degree, 10% have a lower level degree, 12% have already a master's degree.

## Some focal points

### High degree of satisfaction among students (Survey 2019 > students 2011 to 2018)

- More than 95% find that the training provided in this master's degree is of high quality
- More than 95% are satisfied with the knowledge and skills they have acquired in this master program
- 9 out of 10 would recommend this master to their friends

### Focal points for us

- Completing the master thesis
- The socio-affective tensions in sub-group work
- The workload during the training
- The triple conciliation: work-family-training