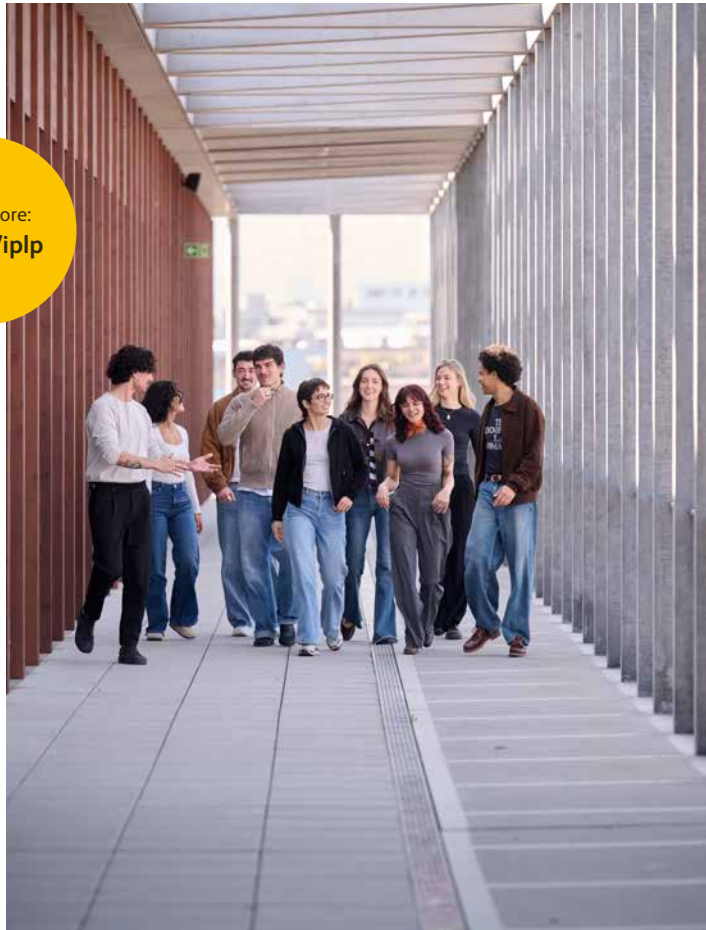


# International Perspectives and Local Practices in Social Work

English-taught modules at the Lucerne School of  
Social Work

Learn more:  
[hslu.ch/iplp](https://hslu.ch/iplp)



# An English-Taught Semester at the HSLU School of Social Work

Experience a unique opportunity to enhance your perspective on social work by enrolling for the programme “International Perspectives and local Practices in Social Work”. Spend an English-taught semester at the HSLU School of Social Work and connect with international students and faculty. You will also have the opportunity to gain practical experience with local organisations in Lucerne.

## Programme overview

The programme “International Perspectives and local Practices in Social Work” is offered each spring semester. It is worth 42 ECTS credits, 12 of which are earned through the compulsory modules “International Perspectives and local Practices in Social Work”, “Development Cooperation and NGOs”, and “Creative Spheres and Urban Development”. Moreover, students may choose modules offered through VirCampus and sign up for study trips and intensive weeks.



### Spring semester:

Mid-February to end of June

Modules on **VirCampus** are taught exclusively online and start in January, before the start of the semester.

**Intensive weeks and study trips** take place after the end of the semester.

International incoming students from partner universities must have been **nominated by their mobility coordinator**.

**Nomination deadline:** Mid-October

**Application deadline:** End of October

Contact and nomination:  
[johannes.kueng@hslu.ch](mailto:johannes.kueng@hslu.ch)

# International Perspectives and Local Practices in Social Work

## Compulsory modules

### **International Perspectives and Local Practices in Social Work:**

This foundational module introduces students to the Swiss social work context, covering local policies, systems, and practices to frame the topics of the semester.

### **Development Cooperation and NGOs:**

Students explore global challenges – climate change, migration, poverty – and examine how Swiss international cooperation and social work skills such as participatory methods contribute to sustainable development.

### **Creative Spheres and Urban Development:**

This module analyses the role of cultural and creative industries in urban development, focusing on temporary use and activist projects in Lucerne and their unique socio-cultural dynamics.

## Elective modules

### **VIRCampus Community Work from an international perspective:**

In this online module, students from diverse backgrounds exchange knowledge and strategies for community work, focusing on mobilising local resources, fostering participation, and addressing structural inequalities through collective action.

Students choose at least one of the three modules “Analysing Communities”, “Methods in Community Work” and “Global Challenges in Communities”.

## Supplementary modules

### **Summer School for Interdisciplinary Urban and Community Planning:**

A one-week interdisciplinary course with case studies in urban research featuring lectures, field trips in Lucerne, and collaborative projects to explore transdisciplinary approaches.

### **Practical Application/Practical Research:**

Students gain hands-on experience in relevant professional fields or work on a piece of research. The module includes writing a reflection report to link practical experience with theoretical knowledge.

### **Study Trip to Albania:**

A six-day trip to Albania focusing on social work projects for minorities (primarily Romani people). It includes visits to local projects and meetings with social work organisations.

This programme is open to international incoming students as well as students enrolled at the HSLU School of Social Work. It offers an opportunity to practice and improve your English in a supportive, academic environment while engaging with diverse perspectives.

We welcome all students, no matter whether you are an exchange student, a German-speaking student looking to challenge yourself, or simply curious about international social work!

**Lucerne School of  
Social Work**  
Walter-von-Moos-Promenade 1  
Postfach  
6002 Luzern

T +41 41 367 48 48  
sozialarbeit@hslu.ch  
hslu.ch/sozialarbeit

