

OpenSoc - PHD PROGRAMME IN SOCIOLOGY

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OpenSoc is a PhD programme with a total of 240 ECTS. The first year (60 ECTS) corresponds to advanced training in theory and methodology, participation in seminars and preparation of the dissertation project. The remaining 3 years (180 ECTS) correspond to research and to the writing of the dissertation. Students are supposed to complete the dissertation by the end of the 4th year of registration.

Objectives

This study cycle is considered by the group of participating institutions to provide a coherent response to the demands of qualified (fundamental and applied) sociological knowledge, mobilising an extended body of lecturers and researchers who are open to the multiple dimensions of analysis, diverse theoretical paradigms and methodological approaches. Furthermore, the programme is open to contributions from neighboring social sciences. In this sense, besides the aim of providing postgraduate training, within the mission of contributing to the development of sociological knowledge and skills, it is equally important to highlight the participating institutions' mission and acquired experience in relation to the diffusion, dissemination and transference towards society of the knowledge produced within the scope of the doctoral theses. And their commitment to broaden students' employability and qualified trajectories in a global world.

In more detail, we can point out the following aims of the programme:

- a) to provide higher training in the “métier de sociologue”, which requires the students' participation in research activities as members of existing research teams from their early stages in the programme;
- b) this “métier” is a two fold combination: a demanding autonomous exercise leading to scientific progress, as well as the diffusion of its outcomes in varied supports, addressed either to academic or non-academic audiences; both are to receive training in the programme;
- c) to promote students' internationalization, supporting joint publications in international peer-reviewed journals, their participation in international seminars or congresses, research networks, and the use of English as a working language (along with Portuguese). Sociological education, in Portugal, is anyway very cosmopolitan: any higher education student learns science in different languages (namely English, Spanish and French);
- d) to encourage students' mobility inside and outside the OpenSoc partners, ensuring a tailor-made repertoire of disciplines – which is by the way encouraged in the curriculum;
- e) to promote pedagogical quality and innovation, through the reinforcement of tutorial and teaching competences and methodologies, among the teachers/researchers involved in lesson and supervision activities;
- f) to reinforce scientific cooperation and collective research projects among teams belonging to different academic institutions, now integrated in a common doctoral programme.
- g) to promote the quality of students' life and working conditions during their studies;
- h) to promote and qualify their insertion in the labour market, national and international

- i) to increase the visibility of social sciences in the public domain, reinforcing their role in supporting public policies.

Organization

On the organisational level, collegiality is a basic principle in the PhD operating philosophy. In order to meet formal requirements, the ICS-ULisboa is the proponent institution (Coordinator: Ana Nunes de Almeida). But the main decisions will always involve the whole consortium. The Directive Board includes one element from each of the 6 partner institutions.

Regular classes and seminars will take place in Lisbon. At the ICS-ULisboa (1st edition – 2014/2015). Intensive courses or seminars will occur at the University of Évora or the University of the Algarve.

Plan of studies

<p>1ST YEAR</p> <p>1st Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contemporary Theoretical Debates - Research Methodology - Advanced Seminar in Sociology I - Research Seminar I <p>2nd Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Seminar in Sociology II - Research Seminar II - Conditioned Option - Free Option 	<p>2ND YEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis - Research Seminar III
	<p>3RD YEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis - Research Seminar IV
	<p>4TH YEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis - Research Seminar V

Compulsory curricular units are placed in the 1st year. Some have fixed contents and syllabus, whereas the seminars are tailor-made, adapted to the students' profiles and research interests. Two optional courses are offered during the 1st year, one to be chosen among an annually defined set of courses (e.g., a course on classical and modern sociology will be suggested to students lacking a strong sociological background), and other freely selected among the 3rd cycle programmes of the partner institutions (inside or outside the social sciences domain).

Career Opportunities

Researcher (university, government or private sector);
Lecturer in Higher Education Institutions;
Research Manager;
Public and private organizations consultant;
Non-governmental Organizations Expert;
Development organizations;
Urban planner;
Community developer;
Policies analyst;
Advice worker;
Etc.

Access conditions

Candidates eligible to apply to OpenSoc must be included in one of the following conditions:

- holders of Master's degrees or the legal equivalent in the field of Sociology, Social Sciences and Humanities, with a minimum grade of 14/20;
- Exceptionally, holders of Bachelor's degrees or the legal equivalent in different scientific domains, or those who possess especially relevant educational or scientific CV that the Directive Board recognizes as a proof of the candidate's ability to undertake this study cycle;
- Exceptionally, candidates that hold an outstanding professional CV that the Directive Board recognizes as a proof of the candidate's capacities to undertake the PhD programme.

Selection of the best students is exclusively based on individual merit, considering the following criteria:

- Academic grades.
- Academic, scientific and professional curriculum vitae.
- Assessment of a proposal of a research project, as well of a letter of intentions detailing the reasons why they wish to pursue the programme
- An interview

Candidates will be ranked in accordance with the scores that they obtain in the selection process.

The selection of candidates will be carried out by the Directive Board of the Programme. The final decision on the selection process will be taken no later than one month after the deadline of the application process.

Additional Information

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