

Target Group

The doctoral program targets students of various disciplines dealing with the issues of the umbrella themes in different ways: sociology, social policy, social work, political sciences, special education, educational sciences, criminology, economics, science of religions, social anthropology, or contemporary history. Candidates must have a supervisor for their PhD project. The doctoral program offers no scholarships.

Learning objectives

To promote the participation of international doctoral students and also bridge the French-German divide, a large part of the program will be offered in English. The dissertations can be written in any language agreed with the supervisor(s). The doctoral program is research-oriented, interdisciplinary and oriented towards learn-processes that qualify graduate researchers academically. Furthermore, the doctoral program aims at enhancing the doctoral students' networks nationally and internationally by motivating and teaching them to organize and actively participate in scientific conferences.

Scientific direction

Prof. Dr. Monica Budowski (Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, University of Fribourg)

Prof. Dr. Winfried Kronig (Specialized Pedagogy, University of Fribourg)

Prof. Dr. Christian Suter (Sociology, University of Neuchâtel)

PROWEL: Social Problems and Welfare An interdisciplinary doctoral program



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Thematic Focus

The doctoral program *PROWEL: Social Problems and Welfare* aims at furthering knowledge on key issues of social problems and social welfare from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Social Problems are issues that (parts of) societies define as problematic or that evolve to be problematic when they are socially and explicitly perceived. The term *Social Welfare* is used in a broad understanding: it refers to both material and immaterial aspects of wellbeing, such as (availability and/or access to) economic resources or social services, but also feelings of belonging, happiness or satisfaction or trust, on various societal levels (the micro, meso and macro level). Sources of wellbeing and welfare are the state, markets, households/families, communities and non-profit organizations. Institutions and actors' actions, omission or negligence of actions, (implicit or explicit) traditions or regulations within specific institutions, or their interplay produce or maintain wellbeing and welfare.

Social inequalities provide a theoretical and analytical framework for the analysis of social problems and welfare and build one common point of departure for the doctoral program. Areas of research broadly are the production, re-production, change and outcomes in individual, organizational and societal wellbeing and welfare and include (i) social problems: their identification, perception and handling by concerned or involved actors within institutions; (ii) actors and institutions as well as their interplay (such as states, markets, communities, organizations and households and families); (iii) social outcomes of dealing with social problems.

Timeline doctoral program *PROWEL*

Doctoral students can join the program any time and finish their thesis according to their individual progress.

May 2018 (Workshop Module 1)

4-5 May 2018

Autumn 2018 (Workshop Module 2)

t.b.c. Autumn 2018

Each year, the following modules are offered

t.b.c. Spring 2019

- **Module 1: Thematic two-day workshops with external experts**

t.b.c. Autumn 2019

- **Module 2: Two-day workshop with external experts (work methodology)**

Students are expected to present an input in one workshop every year and to comment on other inputs.

Every doctoral student has the possibility to Present his/her work in progress once a year to a selective group of experts.

Active participation in national or international scientific conferences