

Learning outcomes according to Dublin descriptors* of the PhD in Social Work at ITTS

“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledges, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. The above definition may be amplified at national and/or regional levels.”

(Global definition of Social Work, International Federation of Social Worker, General Meeting, International Association of Schools of Social Work, General Assembly 2014).

Social work research implies qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods, collaborative, and community-based methods. As a transdisciplinary action science, social work research creates knowledge relevant for its diverse beneficiaries and professional fields.

- 1 Applying knowledge & understanding** →
 - Apply and use common research methods associated with the discipline of social work
 - Carry out (i.e., conceptualise, design, implement and adapt) research in the domain of study with scholarly integrity
 - Write/prepare scientific texts for seminars, conferences, and scientific publication in social work and in the broader topical field of the PhD
- 2 Making judgments** →
 - Summarise and interpret essential theoretical, topical and methodological texts for social work
 - Write texts for scientific publication in social work and in the broader topical field of the PhD
 - Choose adequate methodological tools for data collection and data analysis for the PhD
 - Practice an adequate position regarding open science, open data, and research ethics
 - Analyse, evaluate and synthesise new and complex ideas
- 3 Communicative skills** →
 - Present scientific texts at seminars and conferences in social work and in the broader topical field of the PhD
 - Communicate about the field of social work with different types of publics (scientific, professional, interested) in a scientifically adequate manner and using different means and levels (including simplifying and vulgarizing for social media)
 - Write a PhD project relevant for social work including topical overviews, formulating research questions and a methodologically coherent research design
 - Defend the PhD thesis comprehensibly before a jury of experts and an interested public
- 4 Learning skills** →
 - Develop technological, social, or cultural advances in a knowledge society within academic and professional contexts
 - Conceptualise original research by extending the limits of knowledge through the development of substantial research that merits publication, at least in part, to the usual standard, nationally or internationally

*In accordance with the Dublin Descriptors and the description in the National Qualification framework for the Swiss Higher Education Sector (nqf.ch-HS)