



unine^o
Université de Neuchâtel
Faculté des sciences
économiques

Hes·SO
Haute Ecole Spécialisée
de Suisse occidentale
Fachhochschule Westschweiz
University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Western Switzerland

swissuniversities

Transdisciplinary Institute of Social Work (ITTS)

INFORMATION SESSION : PHD PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL WORK

Thursday 28 November 2024, 12h00-14h00

Barbara Waldis, Director and Professor ITTS, Faculty of Economics and Business

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1) The ITTS team



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Ophélie Bidet

Responsable pédagogique
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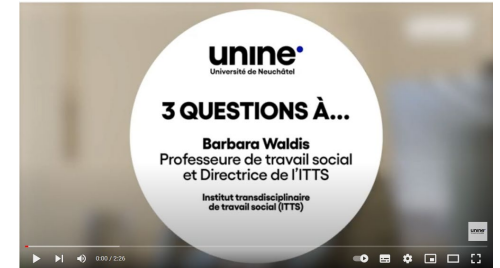
Marta Marques Castanheira

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Research assistant (50%)
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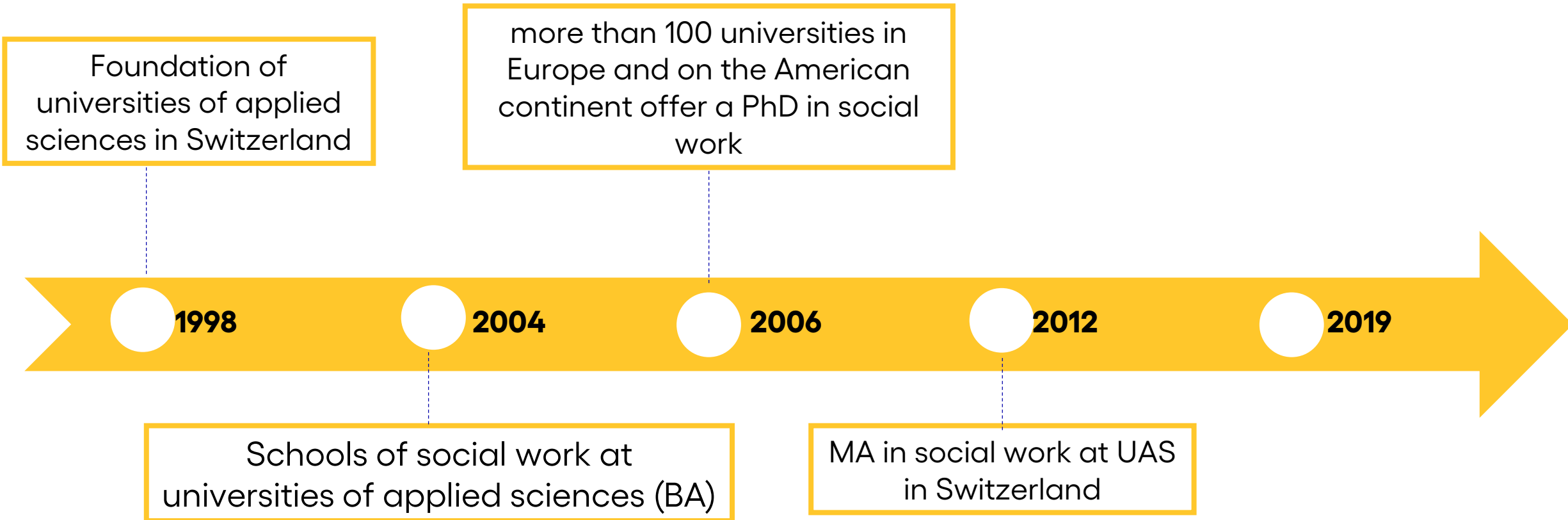


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrrLkWTt0p0>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Kazr4ElohQ>

2) The creation process of ITTS (1): International academic context



2) Creation process of ITTS (2): Legal base

Regulation of the Council of Universities on the coordination of training at Swiss universities (Art. 11 Uni: BA MA, PhD; Art.12 FH: BA, MA)

1998

2004

2006

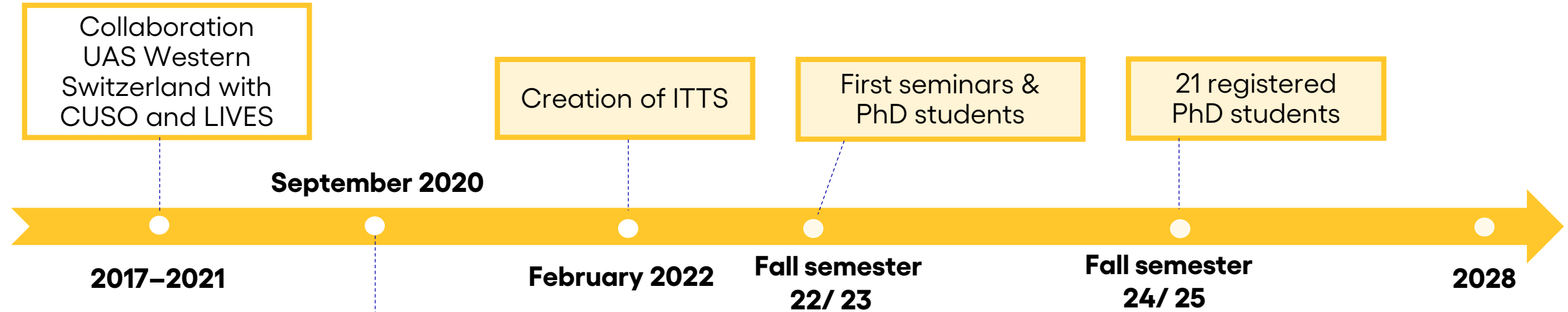
2012

2019

Art. 4,2 : For the third cycle, universities and other academic institutions in the university sector offer universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education opportunities for cooperation in a spirit of partnership.

<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2019/722/fr> ; <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2019/722/de>

3) The goals of ITTS



Acceptation of the ITTS project by swissuniversities

- ### Goals of the ITTS
- Institute for the PhD in Social Work
 - Promotion of younger generations for social work training in the 3rd cycle
 - Capability of examination of practice on the bases of theoretical foundations
 - Contribution to the development of new knowledge by scientific studies in social work

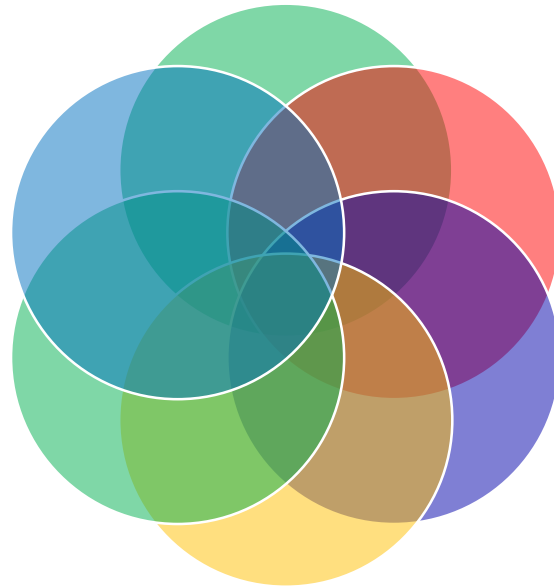
4) What is specific about the ITTS & its PhD?

Hes·so **n|w**

A collaboration of UniNE and the School of social work of the UAS Western Switzerland – and of the UAS Northwestern Switzerland starting January 1st 2025

PhD students are supported by a PhD programme (in English)

First institute specifically and exclusively for the PhD in social work in Switzerland



Transdisciplinary perspective as PhD thesis are co-directed by a professor of a UAS in social work and by a professor of UniNE

PhD title in social work delivered by University of Neuchâtel
(in collaboration with HES-SO and FHNW)

Open to holders of a MA of an UAS or a UNI in social work, social sciences, law and economics

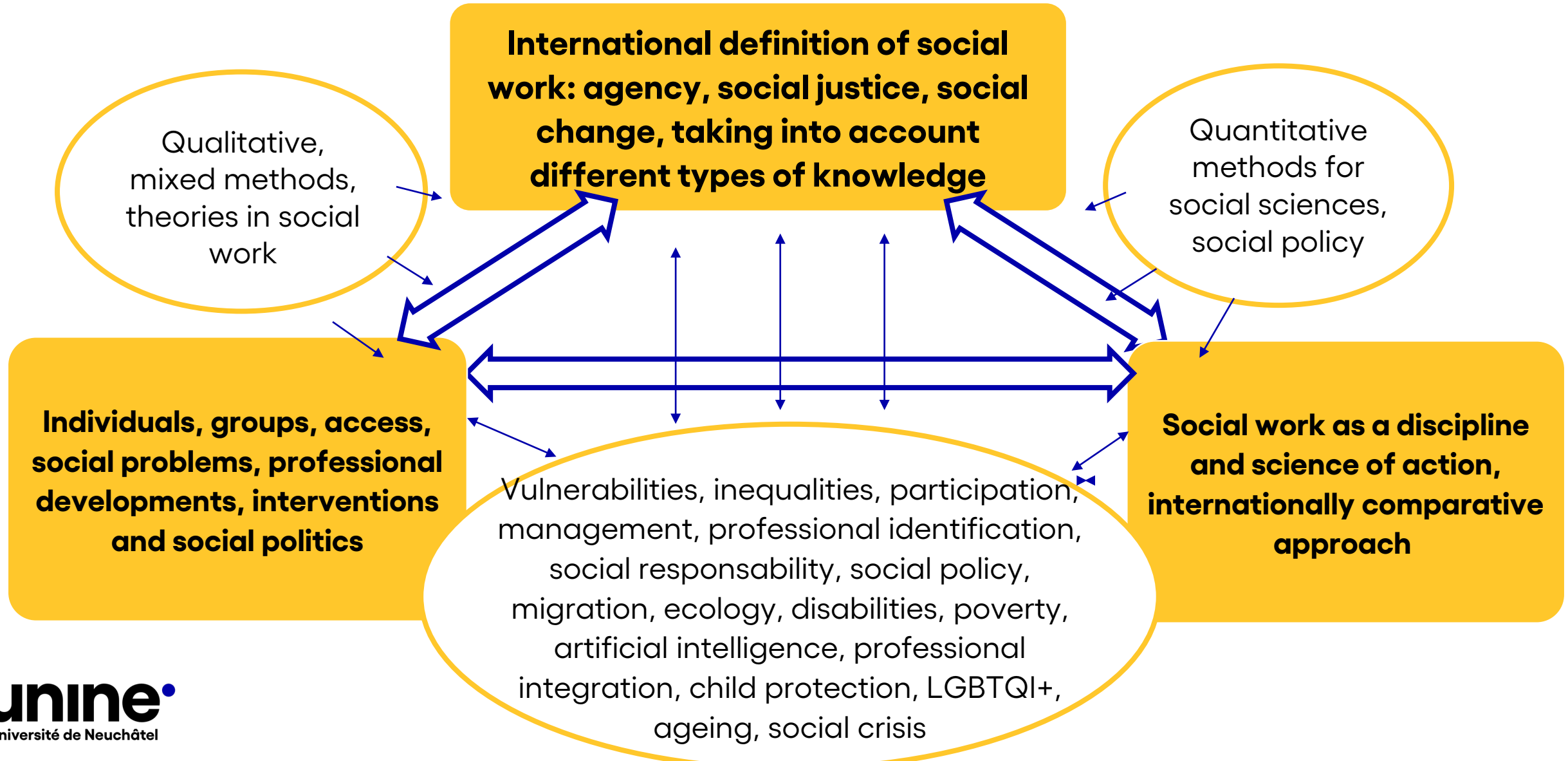
5) Global definition of social work

The following definition was approved by the IFSW General Meeting and the IASSW General Assembly in July 2014:

Global Definition of the **Social Work Profession**

“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.”

6) How does ITTS consider social work as discipline?



7) ITTS PhD students who started in September 2024

Aline Felix, ***Development of social innovation in social work communities***, Hugues Stéphane Rullac (HETS-L)/ Jeannerat (UniNE)

Silvia Domeniconi, ***Emancipatory Social Diagnosis in European Countries on the Background of the Decolonial Approach***, Swetha Rao Dhananka (HETS-FR)/ Didier Ruedin (UniNE)

Philippe Leu, ***Workplace violence***, Gaëlle Aeby (HETS-Valais)/ Adrian Bangarter (UniNE)

Denis Moore, ***Migration flows of RMNAs in CH and social intervention methods***, Milena Chimienti (HETS-GE)/ Marion Fresia (UniNE)

Karine Rossel, ***Impact of family law on single mothers and the work of social workers***, Kim Stroumza (HETS-GE)/ Sabrina Burgat (UniNE)

Tobias Schalk, ***Gender equality in social assistance?***, Lucia Lanfranconi (BFH)/ Barbara Waldis (UniNE)

Selina Steinmann, ***The problem of noise in child protection***, Joël Gautschi (ZHAW)/ Michaela Slotwinski (UniNE)

Matthias Widmer, ***Empowerment and cognitive impairment***, Daniel Oberholzer (FHNW)/ Michaela Slotwinski (UniNE)

8) Why do you need a PhD in social work?

Because you are curious and keen to achieve new, systematic, solid, empirical knowledge about a specific question on a social problem

Because you plan to pursue an academic career in the discipline of social work, do high level research, funded by science bodies, and teach future social workers at BA, MA and PhD level

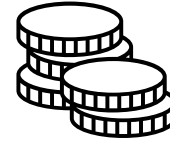
Because you strive for the equal recognition of professional knowledge in the action oriented discipline of social work next to medical doctors, lawyers, psychologists and pedagogues

Because you need to demonstrate a scientifically founded positionality for an officially recognised leadership role in your institutional field of social work

9) How to plan and to finance a PhD?



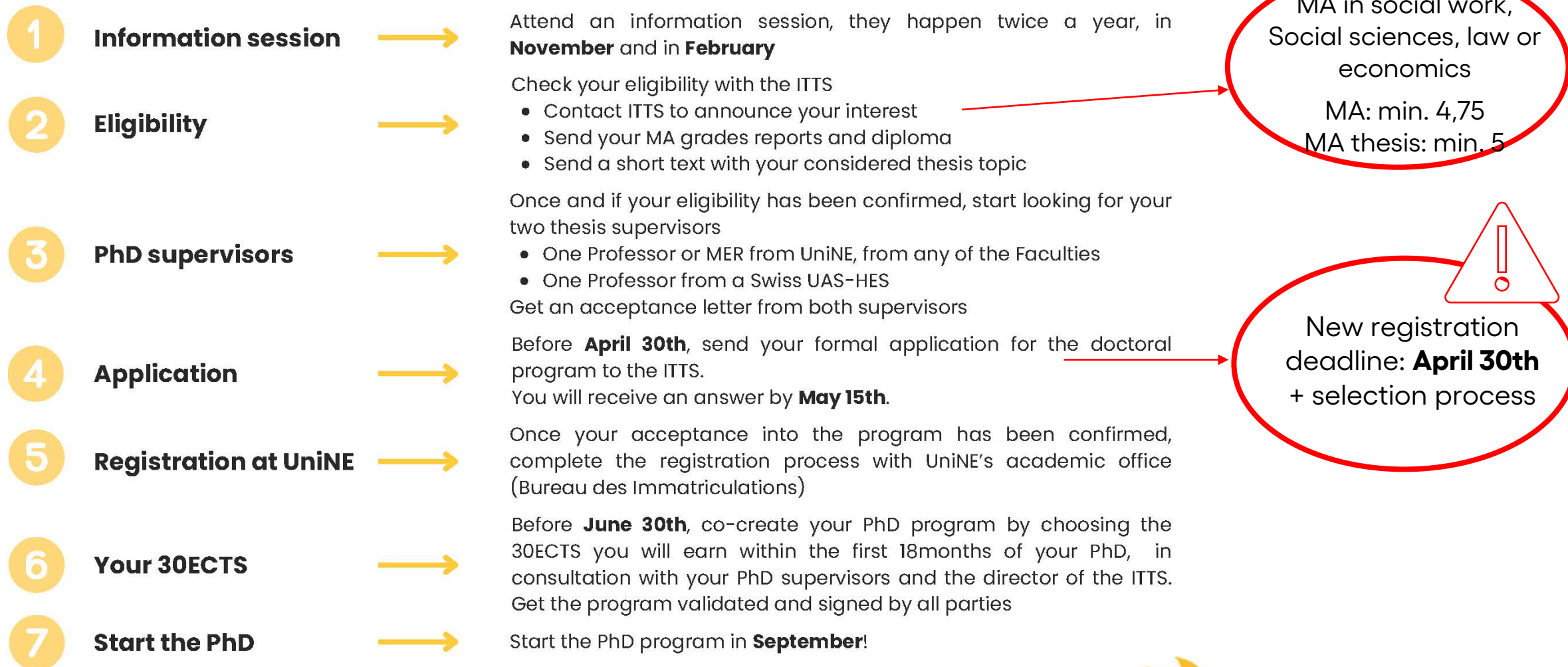
You need time (at least 2 days a week)
Your planning goes over 5 years (10 semesters), limit given by the regulations of the Faculty of Economics and Business at UniNE



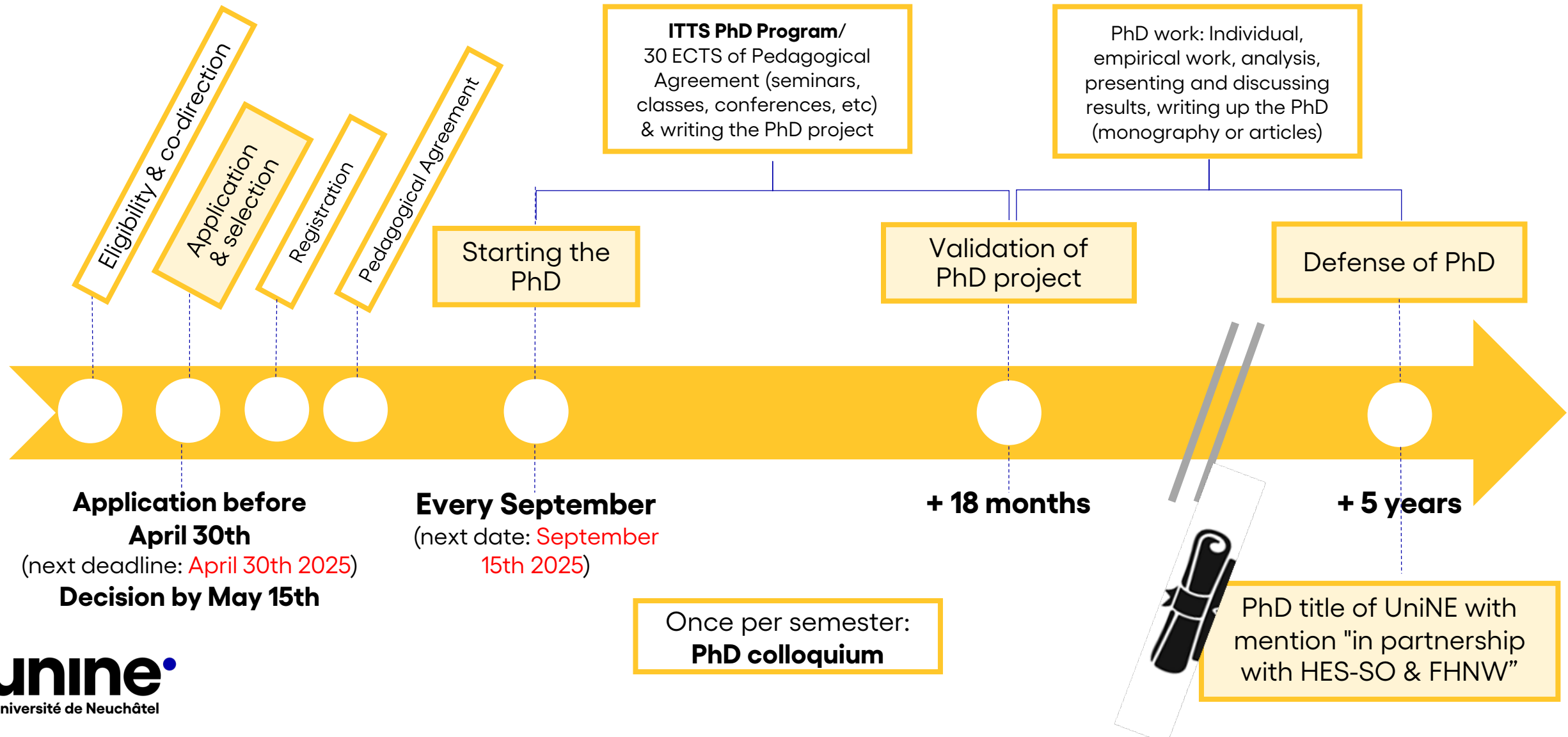
You need to be able to finance this time:

- Participate as an FNS researcher in a project
- Work as a (part-time) teaching and / or research assistant in a UAS of social work or at UNI
- Work part-time in a social institution (max. 60%)
- Apply for grants

The 7 steps to start a PhD at ITTS



11) The PhD process at ITTS



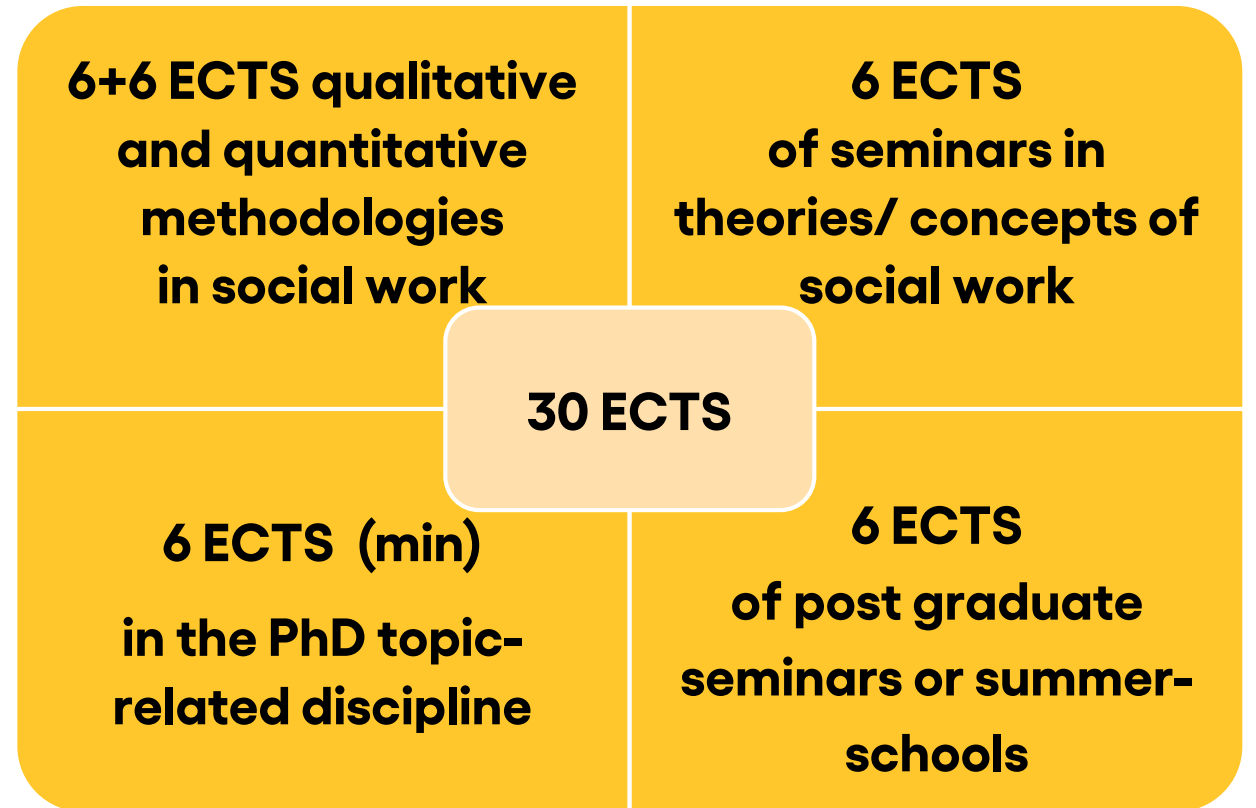
12) Structure of the PhD program

Each PhD-student must complete **30 ECTS** during the first **18 months**.

The PhD student decides upon its own programme, together with the two co-directors and the direction of the ITTS.

The individual programme of 30 ECTS is listed in the pedagogical agreement.

The participation in **international** seminars, conferences are encouraged and the **ITTS / FSE support** these **participations financially**.



13) The pedagogical agreement

l'admission aux études de doctorat requiert au moins une maîtrise universitaire ou un diplôme de facultés sont compétentes pour fixer d'autres conditions d'admission au doctorat. Elles les déterminent dans un règlement.),

le doctorat en Faculté des sciences économiques (¹ Peut être doctorant-e, toute personne immatriculée à l'Université de Neuchâtel, titulaire d'un Master décerné par une haute école universitaire suisse, ou d'un titre jugé équivalent. Dans ce dernier cas, le ou la candidat-e doit présenter une demande de reconnaissance de son titre lors de son immatriculation. ² L'admission au doctorat en travail social fait l'objet d'une directive spécifique du décanat, soumise pour approbation au rectorat. ³ La ou le candidat-e ne doit pas avoir déjà été éliminé-e d'une formation doctorale à l'Université de Neuchâtel ou dans une autre haute école universitaire.),

Vu la directive du décanat de la Faculté des Sciences économiques concernant l'admission au Doctorat en travail social

Vu le(s) titre(s) d'accès présenté(s) à l'appui de la demande d'admission, à savoir :

- XXXXXXXX
- XXXXXXXX

il est convenu que XXXX, né.e le XXX, est admis.e au Doctorat en travail social. Durant les premiers 18 mois suivant son immatriculation, la doctorante ou le doctorant devra accomplir 30 ECTS, selon le programme cadre de l'ITTS et selon les modalités suivantes.

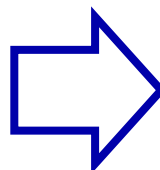
1. Objet

Ces modalités, réglées dans le présent contrat pédagogique, correspondent à l'acquisition de 30 crédits ECTS nécessaires avant le dépôt du projet de thèse auprès de la Faculté des sciences économiques.

2. Programme du contrat de conditions supplémentaires

La personne candidate s'engage à présenter les examens des enseignements suivants :

Enseignements (liste des cours)	ECTS	Semestre 1	Semestre 2	Semestre 3
Théories en travail social (6 ECTS)				
Social Work Theories - Decolonizing Social Work	3	X		
Social work theories: epistemologies, classics, and current issues	3			X
Méthodologies qualitatives en travail social (6 ECTS)				
Qualitative and mixed methods in social work & social sciences	3		X	
Social work research methods: developing a PhD project	3	X		
Méthodologies quantitatives en travail social (6 ECTS)				
See Equivalences				
Séminaires en lien avec la thématique de thèse (min. 6 ECTS)*				
Starting a PhD Thesis	1.5	X		
XXXX	3			X
XXXX	1.5			X
XXXX	1.5		X	
Séminaires de type CUSO (6 ECTS)				
XXXX	5		X	
Total	24.5	7.5	9.5	7.5
Equivalences **				
XXXXXXX	6			
Total	6			



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Nom :					
2	Prénom :					
3	Diplôme de master :					
4	Co-directeur/trice UniNE :					
5	Co-directeur/trice HES-SO :					
6	Immatriculation au doctorat (semestre/année) :					
7						
8	Soft skills for academics					
9	Cours et séminaires					
10	Intitulé du cours/ séminaire	Nom prof.	Institution	Code du cours	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
11	Developing a PhD project (mandatory)	Waldis B./ Slotwinski M	ITTS	5152008	1,5	1 & 2
12						
13						
14	Théories en travail social (min. 6 ECTS)					
15	Cours et séminaires					
16	Intitulé du cours/ séminaire	Nom prof.	Institution	Code du cours	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
17						
18						
19	Conférences et summer/ winter schools					
20	Nom de l'évènement		Lieu	Date/ durée	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
21						
22						
23	Méthodologies qualitatives en travail social et sciences sociales (min. 6 ECTS)					
24	Cours et séminaires					
25	Intitulé du cours/ séminaire	Nom prof.	Institution	Code du cours	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
26						
27						
28	Conférences et summer/ winter schools					
29	Nom de l'évènement		Lieu	Date/ durée	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
30						
31						
32	Méthodologies quantitatives en sciences sociales (min. 6 ECTS)					
33	Cours et séminaires					
34	Intitulé du cours/ séminaire	Nom prof.	Institution	Code du cours	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
35						
36						
37	Conférences et summer/ winter schools					
38	Nom de l'évènement		Lieu	Date/ durée	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
39						
40						
41	Cours/ séminaires en lien avec la thématique de thèse (min. 6 ECTS)					
42	Cours et séminaires					
43	Intitulé du cours/ séminaire	Nom prof.	Institution	Code du cours	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
44						
45						
46	Conférences et summer/ winter schools					
47	Nom de l'évènement		Lieu	Date/ durée	ECTS	Semestre (1, 2 ou 3)
48						
49						
50	Equivalences (max. 6 ECTS)					
51	Cours et séminaires					
52	Intitulé du cours/ séminaire	Nom prof.	Institution	Code du cours	ECTS	Date
53						
54						
55	Conférences et summer/ winter schools					
56	Nom de l'évènement		Lieu	Date/ durée	ECTS	Date
57						
58						
59	TOTAL ECTS					
60						

14) Seminars: Spring semester 2025

Seminar	Professor(s)	Credits	Dates
<i>Soft Skills for Academia</i>			
Colloquium on academic writing	Emmanuelle Reuter	3 ECTS	Friday, full day, 28.02.24; Thursday +Friday full day: 13.+14.03.25; Friday, morning: 25.04. 25
Writing Bootcamp	Mirjam Godskesen	2 ECTS	17-19 June (+ preliminary online session on May 26)
<i>Theories in Social Work</i>			
Social Work Theories: Decolonizing Social Work	Barbara Waldis	3 ECTS	Week 7: 10-14 February 2025
<i>Methodologies</i>			
Introduction to Survey (Experiment) Methods in Social Science Research	Michaela Slotwinski	3 ECTS	Friday morning: 21.02.25; 07.03.25; 21.03.25; 04.04.25; Friday, full day: 16.05.25; Friday morning: 23.05.25
Qualitative and mixed methods in social work & social sciences	Barbara Waldis	3 ECTS	Friday, afternoon: 21.02.25; 07.03.25; 21.3.25; 04.04.25; Friday, full day: 02.05.25; Friday afternoon: 23.05.25

15) Seminars: Fall semester 2025/26

Seminar	Professor(s)	Credits	Dates
<i>Theories in Social Work</i>			
Social Work Theories: Epistemologies, Classics, and Current Issues	Barbara Waldis	3 ECTS	Thursday +Friday, full day, 05.+06.11.25; 04.+05.12.25
<i>Methodologies</i>			
Developing a PhD Project / Introduction Seminar	Barbara Waldis/ Michaela Slotwinski	3 ECTS	Friday, full day: 18.09.25; 19.09.25; 03.10.25; 30.01.26 Friday, afternoon: 17.10.25; 31.10.25; 14.11.25
Making Sense of Data: An Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning in Social Sciences	Michaela Slotwinski	3 ECTS	Friday, morning: 17.10.25; 31.10.25; 14.11.25; Friday, full day: 28.11.25; 12.12.25

16) How about other doctoral seminars elsewhere?

Other possibilities: CUSO & BENEFRI & programme UNINE

<https://competences.cuso.ch/en/welcome>

<https://www.unine.ch/mobilite/home/etudiant-e-de-lunine/un-cours-ou-un-pilier-ailleurs/benefri.html>

<http://www10.unine.ch/descriptifs/>

Watch out for excellent international teaching offers (post graduate level) regarding your topic & your methods. Discuss with your PhD supervisors.

17) In case of questions

ITTS administrative matters



messagerie.itts@unine.ch

Any other question
(admission criteria, search for supervisors, pedagogical agreement,...)



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Registration at UniNE
(in due time)



Service des
Immatriculations
immatriculation@unine.ch

Thanks for your attention, now it's question-time !

Institut transdisciplinaire de travail social

https://www.unine.ch/seco/home/instituts_recherche/institut-transdisciplinaire-de-t.html

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