

## **MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Approved by the Board at NTNU 09.11.2004 with changes made by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Technology Management 15.01.2010

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **About the programme**

The Department of Psychology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) offers an international master's programme in Human Development. Since all human development takes place in specific cultural contexts, the aim of the programme is to provide an advanced education in human development and change processes on a cultural basis. The programme will focus on the formation, change, and development of the individual in his/her interaction within a culture specific context.

Perceptions of gender, generation, social class, ethnicity as well as personal identity are in constant change, but with different speed in different cultures/societies under the (different) influences of globalization. Thus the influence of media and communication technology is important in these change processes. The ideological context, in terms of art, religion and philosophy, is also central as it contributes to the development of identity in a changing context.

#### **Objective**

The objective of the master programme is to build and develop the students' reflection skills as well as theoretical and practical competence through combining relevant theoretical and applied professional knowledge in the area of human development and change processes. In the transcultural methodological approach it is important that the user's voice is heard and integrated. The programme will thus give a broad introduction to different theoretical and methodological perspectives and cover key concepts in contemporary cultural and community psychology. The student group is an international mix of Norwegians, Europeans and students from developing countries. The aim of the programme is to provide students from both the North and the South expertise that will make them capable of initiating and assisting change processes with cultural reflectivity, either in their home country or abroad.

#### **Career opportunities**

The programme will provide competence for investigatory and practical work in school, family, and in health related issues with specific emphasis on the importance of cultural context. The programme is especially relevant for these fields in multiethnic environments. Integration of cultural and social aspects of human change processes is also important for work environment issues as well as in media. The programme will also prepare for theoretical and applied research in the fields:

- Administration
- Applied science
- Research
- Studies and evaluations for the public sector

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The programme accepts students financed by the Quota Programme, Norwegian /Nordic students and other international students with individual funding. Approximately 10 students will be admitted autumn 2010.

Applicants should hold a Bachelor's degree in Behavioural or Social Sciences, preferably within psychology, or the equivalent including at least 20 ECTS in Statistics, Research Methods and Theory of Science.

A Bachelor's degree in medicine, nursing or social education or the equivalent including at least 20 ECTS in Statistics, Research Methods and Theory of Science will also be considered.

The average grade of the degree must be at least C by the Norwegian grading system, or equivalent, as decided by NTNU.

The language of instruction is English, and the applicants must document their English proficiency by achieving a passing grade from a Norwegian upper secondary school (videregående skole) or through a standardized test (TOEFL 550/230/80 paper based/computer based/internet based or IELTS with 6.0 or better). Applicants may document their English proficiency in other ways and students from some countries may be exempted from documenting their competence in English as described above. For more information, please contact the Office of International Relations or consult the following website: [www.ntnu.no/admission](http://www.ntnu.no/admission)

### EXPERTS IN TEAMWORK (EIT)

EiT is a project course for all master students at NTNU and part of NTNU's interdisciplinary initiative. The objective of the course is to give students practical experience with interdisciplinary teamwork, a competence that is needed in professional working life.

This compulsory course is organised as a *regular village* with teaching every Wednesday throughout the spring semester. It is not possible to take EiT as an intensive course in this programme.

### WRITING COURSE

The MPhil students are welcome to attend a writing course offered by the Department of Psychology. This course has no formal exam, and is foremost thought as help to get started (writing, APA manual, web based literature search etc).

In addition, all the MPhil students must attend a master thesis seminar (2 hours per week for 15 weeks). This seminar is compulsory and aims at preparing the students for their master's thesis. The seminar is also a forum for discussion and presentation. The students have to present their master project as part of this forum before submitting their master's thesis.

### COURSE OUTLINE

*Outline of the MPHIL Programme in Human Development:*

Semester	Course (7,5 Cr)	Course (7,5 Cr)	Course (7,5 Cr)	Course (7,5 Cr)
4th sem/spring	PSY3908			
3rd sem/autumn				
2nd sem/spring	PSY3529 Specialization in Community Psychology	PSY3087 Research in Practice	PSY3543 Specialization in Cultural Psychology	EiT - Experts in Teamwork
1st sem/autumn	PSY 3001 Research Methodology		PSY3086 Introduction to Individual and Context	

The programme involves 2 years of full-time studies. The normal workload for a full-time student for one academic year is 60 ECTS. The programme is structured around core courses (52.5ECTS), which provide a general introduction to theory and methodology and students with an opportunity to specialize within particular topics, including Experts in Teamwork (EiT), 7,5 ECTS. In addition to this, the programme consists of a master's thesis (60 credits).

### Courses

Code	Title	Credits	Term	Admission
PSY3001*	Research Methodology	15	Autumn	Admission to programme required
PSY3086*	Introduction to Individual and Context	15	Autumn	Admission to programme required
PSY3529	Specialization in Community Psychology	7,5	Spring	Open
PSY3087*	Research in Practice	7,5	Spring	Admission to programme required
PSY3543	Specialization in Cultural Psychology	7,5	Spring	Open
PSY3908	Master's Thesis in Human Development	60	Autumn and Spring	Admission to programme required
EiT	Experts in Teamwork	7,5	Spring	Restricted admission

\* Admission to the programme is required. Exchange students interested in taking one of these courses must consult the Department of Psychology first.

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### PSY3001 Research Methodology

**Teaching:** Autumn, 15.0 Cr

**Language of instruction:** English

**Credit reduction:** PSY3000: 15.0 Cr, SVPSY300: 15.0 Cr, PSY3081: 15.0 Cr

**Grade:** Letter grade

**Compulsory assignments:** Written assignment

**Learning objectives:** The course will give a scientific philosophic rational for the choice of research methods, a basis so that students independently can develop and carry out structured research interviews and collect and process quantitative data and knowledge of qualitative methods and approaches for analyzing. The course will also provide students with knowledge about a variety of suitable scientific designs and appropriate choice of methods as well as practical implementation of research.

**Academic content:** The course provides an introduction to scientific research methods where both quantitative and qualitative approaches are presented. The course emphasises rationales for quantitative research methods, different designs and analyses. Students are given a broad introduction to multivariate designs and will use statistical analyses like analyses of variance, regression, and factor analyses. Interpretation and use of results will be emphasised and practical exercises using SPSS are included. The course further focuses on the general theoretical scientific rational for qualitative research methods and gives a thorough introduction to the most applied qualitative methods. Different approaches to collecting and analyzing qualitative data will be presented. The students will participate in a practical project using qualitative methods and analytical computer programmes.

**Course materials:** Required readings approx. 800 pages.

**Teaching methods and activities:** Lectures, seminars, fieldwork, practical exercises. Admission to one of the following programmes is required: Master of Science in Psychology, Master of Philosophy in Human Development, Master of Philosophy in Risk Psychology, Environment and Safety, Master of Science in Media, Communication and Information Technology. Exchange students interested in the course must consult the Department for possible admission.

**Assessment:** Assignment/Written examination

Forms of assessment	Time	Percentage	Deadline
Assignment		½	
Written examination	6 Hours	½	

### **PSY3086 Introduction to Individual and Context**

**Teaching:** Autumn, 15.0 Cr

**Language of instruction:** English

**Grade:** Letter grade

**Compulsory assignments:** Approved individual selected syllabus

**Recommended previous knowledge:** None.

**Required previous knowledge:** None.

**Learning objectives:** The course will provide the basis conceptual tools for the understanding of the interplay between the individual and its cultural context. The subject also will provide an introduction into preventive work, counseling models, consulting methods as well as methods for evaluation of community psychological efforts.

**Academic content:** The course outlines the ways in which cultural processes organize emotional processes and emotional experience and how these processes are basic for the formation of the self and are influenced by the self as the mediator between culture and behaviour. The course also aims at providing an advanced introduction to community psychology and its historical development as a sub-discipline of psychology in various contexts. The course provides an introduction to the values, perspectives and theoretical traditions of community psychology. The course covers and appraises the basic theoretical community approaches of intervention, treatment, health and safety promotion, and local community research within the field of Western and Eastern community psychology. Topics include: social support, stress and coping, research strategies in community psychology, health and safety promotion within a community psychology approach and other community change strategies and objective attributes of community as a basic socio-cultural unit.

**Course materials:** Syllabus: 500 pages mandatory and 300 elective pages

**Teaching methods and activities:** Lectures and seminars and presentations. The course is reserved for students admitted to a particular programme. Exchange students interested in the course must consult the Department for possible admission.

**Assessment:** Assignment

Forms of assessment	Time	Percentage	Deadline
Assignment			

### **PSY3529 Specialisation in Community Psychology**

**Teaching:** Spring, 7.5 Cr

**Language of instruction:** English

**Credit reduction:** PSY3528: 7.5 Cr

**Grade:** Letter grade

**Compulsory assignments:** Individually selected text

**Recommended previous knowledge:** Bachelor's degree in Psychology or the equivalent. PSY3001, PSY3021 or PSY3086.

**Required previous knowledge:** None.

**Learning objectives:** The course will give the students foundational knowledge in health support and health preventive work in a local context, for instance in a local municipality. The course will also provide students with knowledge connected to the charting of psychological problems and knowledge in completing and evaluating preventative measures in the local community.

**Academic content:** The course places focus on community psychology work in the local community. Through the completion of this course, students will develop a competence in project work which will include the charting of health problems in a local community, carrying out health promotion measures and project evaluation.

**Course materials:** Obligatory (app. 250 pages) and individually selected texts (app. 150 pages).

**Teaching methods and activities:** Mandatory syllabus: Lectures/seminars 2 hours per week. Self selected syllabus: Self study. Excursions to selected communities.

**Assessment:** Assignment

Forms of assessment	Time	Percentage	Deadline
Assignment			

### **PSY3087 Research in Practice**

**Teaching:** Spring, 7.5 Cr

**Language of instruction:** English

**Grade:** Pass/Fail

**Compulsory assignments:** Approved oral presentation

**Recommended previous knowledge:** PSY3001

**Required previous knowledge:** None

**Learning objectives:** To generate basic knowledge of how to prepare and design scientific research projects and to be able to manage an appropriate method. The students are expected to develop a research design, including an empirical study, which they are going to develop as part of their thesis.

**Academic content:** The course aims to prepare students for their work with the master thesis. The various stages of the research process will be introduced, such as defining a research problem, how to make use of acquired knowledge of theory and methodology, how to analyze etc. During the course the students must develop their master projects. Each student project will be discussed in the course and methods appropriate for the projects will be focused on. By the end of the course, a final project description must be submitted.

**Course materials:** Syllabus 400 pages

**Teaching methods and activities:** Seminars and assignments. The course is reserved for students admitted to the MPhil in Human Development.

**Assessment:** Report

Forms of assessment	Time	Percentage	Deadline
Approved report			

### **PSY3543 Specialisation in Cultural Psychology**

**Teaching:** Spring, 7.5 Cr

**Language of instruction:** English

**Credit reduction:** PSY3540: 7.5 Cr

**Grade:** Pass/Fail

**Compulsory assignments:** Approved individually selected text

**Recommended previous knowledge:** Bachelor's degree in Psychology or the equivalent, PSY3001, PSY3021 or PSY3086.

**Required previous knowledge:** None.

**Learning objectives:** The course will provide the students with an insight into the theory and method of cultural psychology, including recent research.

**Academic content:** In this course concepts of cultural psychology are emphasised and various theories will be provided and discussed. The fundament of cultural psychology and cross-cultural research is examined and contemporary schools of cultural psychology are emphasised, especially traditions dealing with cultural conflicts and conflict transformation. The social change processes and methods including dialogue groups, organisational and community based interventions as well as interventions related to the individual and small groups are also given priority. Challenges related to the public health care system will be discussed. The user perspective in evaluation of health care as well as the cultural content of disorders and illnesses are central topics.

**Course materials:** Obligatory approx. 250 pages and self selected text approx. 150 pages

**Teaching methods and activities:** Lectures, seminars, project work 3 hours per week. In addition comes self-study.

**Assessment:** Assignment

Forms of assessment	Time Percentage	Deadline
Assignment		

### **PSY3908 Master's Thesis in Human Development**

**Teaching:** 1st sem. autumn, 2nd sem. Spring, 60.0 Cr

**Language of instruction:** English

**Credit reduction:** PSY3904: 45.0 Cr

**Grade:** Letter grade

**Compulsory assignments:** Master's thesis seminar, Supervision

**Recommended previous knowledge:** The students are welcome to attend a writing course offered by the Department of Psychology. This course has no formal exam, and is foremost thought as help to get started (writing, APA manual, web based literature search etc).

**Required previous knowledge:** All examinations in the MPhil in Human Development must be successfully passed before submitting the thesis.

**Learning objectives:** After having completed the Master's thesis in Human Development the student should have acquired ability to (1) carry out a scientific research project, (2) think in a principled and logical way, (3) work independently, (4) carry out a large project within a predefined time frame.

**Academic content:** The master thesis in Human Development consists of a theoretical or empirical investigation of a subject chosen within the above described enlarged definition of Human Development, preferably related to one or several of the specializations studied. The student should contact teachers in the master programme for advice on choice of subject. Students are required to attend a seminar which aims at preparing the students for writing the thesis. Supervision is an important part of the work with the thesis. It will ensure that the students acquire relevant knowledge and high standards in collection and analysis of data. The seminar will also ensure that the students follow the guidelines for research ethics. Supervision is therefore compulsory for every student that wishes to submit a master thesis. A Master agreement must be signed before supervision can take place.

**Course materials:** Please consult the Department.

**Teaching methods and activities:** Self-study with supervision.

**Form of assessment:** A Master's thesis in monograph form or a collection of articles. Oral examination based on the Master thesis work (A through F). In addition to their exam registration, students must announce the delivery of their thesis on a specific formular, not later than 8 weeks before submission. The thesis must be submitted in six copies. Deadline for submis-

sion is 15 May if the student wants the final examination result registered before the end of the spring semester (15 August). The thesis must be submitted no later than 7 May if you want the oral examination to take place before 15 June. The course is reserved for students admitted to the MPhil in Human Development.

**Assessment:** Thesis

Forms of assessment	Time	Percentage	Deadline
Thesis			

**CREDIT REDUCTIONS DUE TO OVERLAP IN CONTENT**

PSY3081	PSY3001	15 ECTS
PSY3000	PSY3001	15 ECTS
PSY3540	PSY3543	15 ECTS
PSY3528	PSY3529	7,5 ECTS
PSY3904	PSY3908	45 ECTS