

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN CHILDHOOD STUDIES

Approved by the Board at NTNU 30.08.2005, with changes made by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Technology Management 07.12.2015.

INTRODUCTION

The Norwegian Centre for Child Research (NOSEB) offers an interdisciplinary, international master's programme in Childhood Studies. The degree is awarded by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Technology Management at NTNU and administered by NOSEB. The master's programme offers an advanced education in interdisciplinary social studies of children and childhood.

Admission requirements

The master's programme accepts Norwegian and Nordic students, in addition to self-financing international students.

Admittance to the programme requires a bachelor's degree in the social sciences or humanities, or other equivalent education. The average grade of the degree must be at least C by the Norwegian grading system, or equivalent, as decided by NTNU. A background in childhood studies, social anthropology, geography, sociology or history is recommended.

The language of instruction is English, and 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 600/90 paper-based/internet-based or IELTS with 6.5 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.edu/studies/imp/admissions.

Employment opportunities

The MPhil in Childhood Studies qualifies for work related to research, teaching, supervision and consultancy in the fields of children, welfare and social development. The master's programme will be relevant for building a career related to children and childhood in different public sectors in governmental organisations. This may include policy and planning for children's living conditions in ministries and institutions which concern children, both locally and internationally. Another important area is non-governmental organisations (NGOs), such as Save the Children and the Red Cross.

Ph.d.

MPhil in Childhood Studies qualifies for the PhD Programme in Interdisciplinary Child Research, as well as several other PhD Programmes within the social sciences.

Social and academic arrangements for students

At the beginning of the first semester, a common ground between students and teachers will be established. Through social and academic arrangements everyone will have the opportunity to get

to know one another. Both students and teachers are encouraged to share experiences from their own childhoods and/or childhoods in their “home country”, and basic theoretical perspectives within Childhood Studies will be introduced and discussed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A candidate who has completed the Master's programme in Childhood Studies should have the following learning outcomes defined in terms of knowledge, skills and general competence:

Knowledge

- has been given knowledge and perspectives regarding contemporary debates in childhood studies
- has knowledge on how childhoods and children’s lives vary and are shaped by historical, social, cultural, political, economic and everyday life contexts
- has knowledge on international and regional conventions on children’s rights and how they might be used to improve children’s well-being

Skills

- can carry out independent research on children’s lives and on childhood as a social phenomenon
- has the skill of contributing to promoting children’s views and perspectives in public services

General competence

- has been given practical training in various steps of planning and carrying out project work and research on children’s lives in different settings and in a global context
- has knowledge and experience of multicultural environments through being an active student in the programme
- has academic communication skills (writing and verbal) and reflexivity in contexts in which several parties are involved

Furthermore, a main focus of the programme is to generate knowledge about childhood, children’s life-worlds, and the politics of childhood in changing societies. The programme will give a broad introduction to different theoretical and methodological perspectives and key concepts in contemporary social and historical research on children and childhood. The central issue is childhood and related themes such as generation, gender, class, identity and ethnicity, as these take form through varying processes like globalisation, institutionalisation, consumption and commercialisation.

The master’s programme is theoretically and methodologically related to interdisciplinary social studies of childhood. A child perspective, including participatory approaches and conducting research with children, represents a main integrative approach. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is discussed as a tool to promote children’s well-being worldwide. Important topics are children as participants in play, education, child labour, community building, and the social, political and economic reproduction of society in general. CRC can be seen as part of

globalisation processes, producing particular images of what it means to be a child. An important aim is to encourage comprehensive insights in and an understanding of how the globalised conditions under which children grow up affect “local” and “national” childhoods in both the global North and the global South. The ways in which children themselves explore and experience their everyday lives and childhoods are also explored.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The master’s programme in Childhood Studies involves two years of full-time study. The normal workload for a full-time student for one academic year is 60 credits. Most of the courses during both years have minimum 80% compulsory attendance. The programme is structured around a combination of core courses (52.5 credits) and elective courses (7.5 credits), which provide a general introduction to theory and methodology, as well as giving students the opportunity to specialize in particular topics. In addition, the programme includes a master’s thesis (60 credits).

Programme structure - MPhil in Childhood studies

Semester	Course (7,5 cr)	Course (7,5 cr)	Course (7,5 cr)	Course (7,5 cr)
4th sem (spring)	BARN3900			
3rd sem (autumn)				
2nd sem (spring)	BARN3102	BARN3201	Experts in Teamwork	BARN3400
1st sem (autumn)	BARN3101	BARN3202	BARN3300	Elective course

Experts in Teamwork (EiT)

Experts in Teamwork will be taught as an intensive village in this master’s programme.

Master’s thesis agreement

All students must sign a master’s thesis agreement that regulates the relationship between student and supervisor, among other things.

Course overview

Core courses

Code	Title	Cr.	Term	Admission	Comp.	Pre.
BARN3101	Social Studies of Children and Childhood	7,5	Autumn	Open	X	X
BARN3102	Children's Rights	7,5	Spring	Open	X	X
BARN3201	Methods and Ethics in Childhood Studies	7,5	Spring	Open	X	X
BARN3202	Methodological Perspectives on Child and Childhood Research	7,5	Autumn	Open	X	X
BARN3300	Children and Development in the Global South	7,5	Autumn	Open	X	X
BARN3400 ¹⁾	Preparatory Course, Master's Thesis	7,5	Spring	Admission to programme ³⁾	X	X
EiT	Experts in Teamwork	7,5	Spring	Restricted admission	X	X
BARN3900 ¹⁾	Master's Thesis	60	Autumn /Spring	Admission to programme ³⁾	X	X

Elective courses

Code	Title	Cr.	Term	Admission	Comp.	Pre.
GEOG3006 ²⁾	Quantitative Methods	7,5	Autumn	Open	X	X
GEOG3515 ²⁾	Environment, Development and Changing Rural Livelihoods	7,5	Spring	Open	X	X
GEOG3516 ²⁾	Humanitarianism: Theory and Practice	7,5	Autumn	Open	X	
GEOG3522 ²⁾	Migration and Development	7,5	Spring	Open	X	X
SANT3508 ²⁾	Globalization Theory and Culture	7,5	Spring	Open	X	X

Bachelor courses

Code	Title	Cr.	Term	Admission	Comp.	Pre.
BARN2001	Children's rights in a Global Perspective	7,5	Autumn	Open		
BARN2002	Childhood, Education and Well-being with a particular focus on Africa.		Autumn	Open		

Comp.: The subject's compulsory activity must be passed to sit the exam.

Pre.: Prerequisites must be satisfied to be able to enroll in this subject.

You are advised to read the course description for more information: www.ntnu.edu/studies/courses

¹⁾ Requires admission to MPhil in Childhood Studies. Exception: BARN3400 is open for exchange students from the MA Children, Youth and International Development, Brunel University.

²⁾ For up-to-date information about which courses are running, please contact the Department of Geography (GEOG courses) and the Department of Social Anthropology (SANT3508).

³⁾ Requires admission to the program of study (MPhil in Childhood studies).

Credit adjustments due to overlap in content

Course	Course	Credits
BARN3100	BARN3101	7,5 credits
BARN3100	BARN3102	7,5 credits
BARN3101	BARN3001	7,5 credits
BARN3200	BARN3201	7,5 credits
BARN3200	BARN3202	7,5 credits
BARN3201	BARN3002	4 credits
BARN3202	BARN3002	4 credits
GEOG3006	GEOG3002	7,5 credits
GEOG3006	GEOG3052	7,5 credits
GEOG3006	GEOG3004	7,5 credits
GEOG3006	AFR3002	7,5 credits
GEOG3006	AFR3005	7,5 credits
SANT3508	SANT3507	5 credits