



Handbook for incoming exchange students

Minor Program

Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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1. General Information

1.1 Curacao

Curaçao is an island in the southern part of the Caribbean Sea off the north coast of Venezuela. Curaçao prides itself in being a multicultural and multilingual society with Papiamentu (the local Creole language) being the most widely spoken language in addition to the commonly spoken languages of Dutch, English and Spanish. Curaçao has a tropical savannah climate with a dry season from January through September and a rainy season from October through December. The temperatures are relatively constant with September being the hottest month of the year in which the temperatures averages to about 28.9 Degrees Celsius.

Curaçao has a wide tradition of celebrating holidays. The official holidays are:

- Carnival
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday and Monday
- King's day
- Labor Day
- Ascension Day
- Flag Day
- Curaçao day
- Christmas and Boxing Day

1.2 The University of Curacao Dr. Moises Da Costa Gomez

The University of Curacao Dr. Moises Da Costa Gomez (UoC) is the National University of Curaçao and was founded in 1979. It is an institute for higher education offering both academic and professional educational programs at the bachelor and master levels.

The University of Curacao is well aware of the need to have strong strategic alliances with institutes of higher education both on national and International levels including the University of St. Martin (USM), the University of Aruba (UA) and the University of the West Indies (UWI). In addition to this, the University of Curaçao has a collaborative relationship with universities and colleges of higher education in the Netherlands. Some of the partner universities of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences include The University of Amsterdam, The Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen, en The Hanze Hogeschool (Hanze University of Applied Sciences).

These structural partnerships encourage the exchange of students and teachers and ultimately contribute to the quality of education and research.

1.3 The Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences is the youngest faculty of the University of Curacao and was founded in 2008. The Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences offers two programs: the Bachelor of Social Work and the Master of Social Work. Both programs are based on the definition of Social Work developed by the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW): “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 knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing” (IASSW, 2014). Through its programs the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences has fulfilled the mission of The University of Curacao in that it contributes to “the development of human capital in accordance with internationally acknowledged standards”.

The faculty offers a minor program for exchange students. **The language of instruction of the courses offered in the minors program is Dutch.**

2. MINORS

2.1 General information on the minors program in the Bachelor of Social Work

Both the Bachelor and the Master programs are competency based. A competency is a combination of the necessary knowledge, attitude and skills, which allows the student of Social Work to be adequately equipped to set out on a professional career. The minor program embedded within the Bachelor of Social Work is also competency based in which the integration of knowledge, skills and attitude surrounding one particular theme extends the social worker’s aptitude in dealing with tremendous complex problems the modern social worker faces.

The curriculum is structured by the use of learning lines: the conceptual learning line, methods and skills, and the personal professional development. The conceptual learning line is about acquiring knowledge through up-to-date literature. The methods and skills learning lines aims at the development of skills that are helpful for the development of the competencies. And finally the personal professional development line is geared towards the development of the professional attitude.

The teaching methods are chosen depending on the goals to be reached at the end of each course and guarantee the development of the required competencies. Having completed the course, the student has the ability to combine knowledge, skills and attitude to solve complex problems in the professional field of Social Work.

The minor program of the Bachelor of Social Work program is offered in the fall semester of each academic year. It consists of a total of 30 ECTS over a period of 6 months. The three minors offered are each in its own area of specialization; social and legal services, social educational care and human resource management. Each minor consists of three component; a mandatory set of courses (20 ECTS), electives (6 ECTS) and an assignment (4 ECTS). The minors offered are: working with families, children and adolescents and human behavior within an organization.

2.2 Course offering

2.2.1 Working with families Minor

Within the area of social and legal services the social worker deals with complex family issues and problems. This minor allows the social worker to acquire more knowledge and skills to help family systems deal with the challenges they face. It is especially geared towards the families in Curaçao. Modern methods of social work practice with families are highlighted in which the student will be prepared to adequately assess the family and develop a corresponding intervention plan in order to either stimulate change or stabilize its functioning. Finally, the development of self-care skills are considered very important for the starting professional that has to deal with complex problems.

Mandatory courses offered within this minor are:

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|--|--------|
| • Working with families in Curacao | 5 ECTS |
| • Modern Social Work practice with families | 4 ECTS |
| • Methods and intervention skills in working with families | 4 ECTS |
| • Self-care in Social Work | 3 ECTS |
| • Debating skills | 4 ECTS |
| • Assignment | 4 ECTS |

2.2.2 Child and Adolescent Minor

Within this minor the focus is on the behavior of children and adolescents. In depth knowledge allows the social worker to adequately assess the behavior and to develop a

corresponding intervention plan. The courses prepare the student to shift from focusing on “problematic” behavior of the child towards the “positive” behavior. This shift in focus and the acquisition of adequate communication skills helps the social worker engage the child and helps the child to feel less stigmatized which ultimately is conducive to behavioral change. Within this area of expertise it is especially important to acquire skills of self-care due to the emotionally taxing nature of the problems of this target population.

Courses offered within this minor are:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • Children with special needs | 5 ECTS |
| • Social Work practice with children and Adolescents | 4ECTS |
| • Methods and Intervention with children and adolescents | 4ECTS |
| • Self-care in Social Work | 3 ECTS |
| • Communication skills with children and adolescents | 4 ECTS |
| • Assignment | 4 ECTS |

2.2.3 Human behavior within the organization Minor

This minor focuses on the human behavior within the organization through which the social worker acquires an understanding of both the positive and negative behavior that contributes to the functioning of the organization as a whole. Methods and skills in creating a change atmosphere that is conducive to enhance performance is highlighted in which the use of appropriate communication skills within the organization are explicitly

Courses offered within this minor are:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • Productive and Destructive behavior within an organization | 5 ECTS |
| • Methods of Behavioral change within the organization | 4 ECTS |
| • Performance Management | 4 ECTS |
| • Self-care in Social Work | 3 ECTS |
| • Communication skills within the organization | 4 ECTS |
| • Assignment | 4 ECTS |

2.2.4 Electives

In addition to the mandatory courses the student has to choose 2 electives, each 3 ECTS, to complete the 30 ECTS for the minor program. The Bachelor of Social Work

program offers two electives from which the student can choose one course which fits his or her area of interest and deepens the development of competency within the related area of expertise

Elective 1 (choose one) 3 ECTS

- Mediation
- Non-violent communication
- Prevention
- Course of one of the other two minors

Elective 2 (choose one) 3 ECTS

- Resistance and change
- Addiction
- Intimidation, aggression and violence
- Course of one of the other two minors

3. Organization of the Academic Year

The academic year is divided in 2 semesters. Each semester is divided in 2 periods, and each end of period is followed by an examination period. The grid, which is posted on blackboard, changes each period.

Most of the educational activities (contact time) is programmed in the evening in blocks of 2 or 3 hours: 17.30-19.30; 19.30-21.30; 18.00-21.00

The minor classes are scheduled in the first semester from August till December.

3.1 Academic Calendar

Fall 2016

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|------------------------|--|
| • Classes | August 15 th 2016 – January 20 th 2017 |
| • Examination period 1 | October 17 th 2016- October 21 st 2016 |
| • Examination period 2 | January 9 th 2017 – January 13 th 2017 |

All dates are subject to change

3.2 Examination, testing and grading

In the end of each block there is an exam period whereas the re-exam period is at the end of the semester. Examinations can take part in several forms. The knowledge acquired separately may be examined through written exams (individual). The application of the knowledge and skills is tested in the projects (group). The latter method is a more integrated way of testing. Other testing methods that are used are

training exercises (individual), oral tests (individual), portfolio-assessment and professional products such as papers, theses and internship reports. The grading system used is the Dutch grading system. **The passing grade is 5.5.** Credit points are earned only after passing a course.

All students need to submit an official transcript of their semester to their home university. This transcript is automatically drawn up by the International Office at the end of the semester and can be picked up at Student Affairs.

4. Application

The application deadline is May 1 of each year and the procedure is to apply through the International Office ([email: internationaloffice@uoc.cw](mailto:internationaloffice@uoc.cw)). Students may expect to receive a notification of their application in the first week of June of the specific year.

Students are allowed to apply for a maximum of 30 ECTs in one semester. If any changes need to be made in the selection of the minor course while students are already at UoC, this needs to take place through the International Office, such after the approval from the home university.

4.1 Tuition fee

The tuition fee for free movers* is ANg. 100,- (VAT excluded) per ECTs plus an additional one-time registration fee of ANg 500,- and a one-time technology support fee of ANg45,-. Students from universities that have a bilateral collaboration agreement with the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences only have to pay the one-time technology support fee of ANg 45,-.

** Free movers are students from universities that do not have a bilateral collaboration agreement with the General Faculty of the University of Curaçao.*

4.2 International Office

The student exchange program is executed with the support of the International Office. This office deals with your application and can be contacted in case you have any questions concerning the procedures for residence permits for Curaçao. At this office you can also obtain your student card and your accounts to log-in on ProgRESS and Blackboard (electronic student communication tracking systems). The International Office can be contacted via telephone (+599 9) 7442149 or e-mail internationaloffice@uoc.cw.

5. Facilities

5.1 Communication with students

To communicate with the students we use the Blackboard, ProgRESS.

The Blackboard ([http://blackboard.una.cw/\(or\):blackboard.uoc.cw](http://blackboard.una.cw/(or):blackboard.uoc.cw)) is the electronic learning environment used by the whole university. It is used as a daily communication tool between the faculty members and the students. All information relevant for the students is posted on Blackboard especially information related to the courses. This info concerns teaching and exam schedules, as well as information about the classes and course documents.

ProgRESS (<https://progresswww.nl/uoc>) is the web-based information system used at the institutional level to keep track of the student's academic progress. Via ProgRESS students must enroll for courses and exams, and the official course grades can be viewed on this system.

5.2 Computer and Internet facilities

The university has five computer labs at the disposal of its programs and the whole campus is covered by wireless internet. There is a free workgroup area with 15 computers that are accessible daily for students. The IT facilities are managed by the ICTS. To obtain access to the wireless internet with your personal laptop or any other IT-related information, you can contact Ms. Netty Adams BSc (n.adams@uoc.cw) or Ing. Jeffrey Schmidt (j.schmidt@uoc.cw).

5.3 Student Affairs

The Student Affairs offers the 'one window' service for all students. You can obtain all kinds of information and instruction at this office. Student Affairs also has two student counselors to coach the students with personal problems. The yearly registration of all students is done by the Student Affairs.

5.4 Library & Research Services

The Library & Research Services (LRS) department at UoC not only provides all regular library functions, but also (pro) actively supports education and research at the university. The library offers a dynamic study and research environment. The library offers digital collections through EBSCO Academic Search premier database, containing journals on all relevant subjects within the social-economical sciences. In addition, LRS also offer a collection of relevant journals from Sage and Emerald.

Because of the cooperation with several regional and Dutch (academic) libraries, LRS usually is able to acquire specific materials on individual request when needed. The contact information of the LRS is the following: telephone (+599 9) 7442234 and e-mail library@uoc.cw