

## Degree profile of Social Work and Social Services (MWD)

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Bachelor of Social Work	
Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences	
Type of Degree & Length	Single degree 240 ECTS-Credits
Accreditation Organisation	Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO)
Period of Reference	Degree programme accredited in 2006 for 6 years
Level	European Qualification Framework (EQF) level 6
<b>A Purpose</b>	
	To provide students with the foundations of the social work and social services profession, which promotes individual and social change through problem solving in human relationships in relation with their environment, the empowerment of individuals and families through professional psychosocial support to enhance well-being. Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental (in line with the International Federation of Social Workers).
<b>B Characteristics</b>	
1. Discipline(s)/ Subject Area(s)	Theories of human behaviour and social change besides theories of sociology, psychology, political science, law, economics, philosophy and human rights. Methodologies for psychosocial support and intervention at the point where people interact with each other and their environment.
2. General/Specialist Focus	Supporting people with physical, psychological, psychiatric or other problems on a voluntary or forced basis in order to improve participation in a social context as well as helping people obtain tangible services. Theoretical and practical orientation in the field of professional social work, with a strong component of communication and methodological, interpersonal and intercultural skills.
3. Orientation	The degree is practically based and utilizes applied research methodologies.
4. Distinctive Features	Students may emphasize either social work in distinctive settings or specialise in a way by choosing a certain setting in the practical period of the study programme or by choosing a certain minor. Instead of starting straightaway with this degree programme, students can also choose to attend a general foundation year in social work as a replacement of year 1. For talented students there is an Honours programme.
<b>C Employability &amp; further education</b>	
1. Employability	Positions at a Bachelor and applied science level inside organisations for physical or mental health care, education, offender rehabilitation, youth welfare, social services, social care, neighbourhood services and care centres for physical rehabilitation. Professionals use the code of the social worker.
2. Further studies	Access to related second cycle (EQF level 7) degree programmes.
<b>D Education style</b>	
1. Learning & Teaching Approaches	The general learning mode is based on the Rotterdam education model, which entails a knowledge based learning track involving social and cultural theories as well as methodologies (50%), a practice oriented learning track involving work placements and project work (35%), and a student based track involving an optional minor and other courses plus study and career counselling (15%). There are lectures as well as practically oriented workshops and interactive seminars. Most learning is done in groups of up to 25 students, in small project groups (8 - 12 students) and independently (placement and graduation paper). The third year is, for the main part, dedicated to gaining practical experience in an organisation. In the first semester of the final (4th) year the minor takes central stage and in the final semester the focus is on the independent writing of a graduation paper.
2. Assessment methods	A variety of examinations: In the knowledge based track mainly written tests, multiple choice tests, essay writing and oral presentations. In the practice based track: performance exams as well as practice or project oriented assignments. In the student based track: reflection & self assessment plus portfolio assessment.

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**E Programme competences**

Generic

1. Social agogic competences within the professional domain of human behaviour
2. Organisational and business-related competences
3. Professionalisation competences, contributing to the development of the profession and the professional identity

Subject specific

- 1.1. Explore, analyse and define
  - 1.2. Intervene and act with and on behalf of clients
  - 1.3. Intervene and act for the benefit of clients in general and potential clients
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- 2.1. Operate in and from an organisation or agency
  - 2.2. Operate in (external) collaborative partnerships
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- 3.1. Able to develop a professional identity
  - 3.2. Able to develop professional practice

**F Programme learning outcomes**

The graduate can demonstrate:

**1. Social agogic learning outcomes**

- Ability to provide supportive and stabilising guidance.
- Ability to support clients in an outreaching way.
- Ability to provide concrete and informative assistance.
- Ability to intervene and implement a range of empowering methods aimed at change.
- Ability to facilitate more effective interaction with the larger social environment.
- Ability to deal with conflicts of interest and mediate.
- Ability to assess and report.
- Ability to apply a service delivery approach based on the needs of the client.
- Ability to intervene in crises.
- Ability to carry out all case management functions and activities, arrange and coordinate care.
- Ability to identify goals and needs and take preventive measures.
- Ability to provide collective advocacy.
- Ability to coach and guide volunteers and network groups.

**2. Organisational and business-related learning outcomes**

- Ability to contribute to policy development, implementation and administration.
- Ability to work in a team of colleagues and enhance interprofessional, intraprofessional, and interagency cooperation.
- Ability to set up and participate in a collaborative network of organisations.
- Ability to consult, advise and coach other professionals.
- Ability to characterise the social work profession and show professional accountability.

**3. Professionalisation learning outcomes**

- Ability to reflect critically on personal actions and identify personal competence development as a starting professional.
- Ability to contribute to the (practical) education of future fellow social workers.
- Ability to cooperate in the development of knowledge and disseminate new knowledge.
- Ability to translate social developments into new professional questions.