



MSc Ethics of Education: philosophy, history and law

The programme consists of three lines: a thematical line, a professionalisation line and a research line. The official language is English.

In the **thematical line** you will explore four different domains:

- **Ethics**

In the introduction to ethics, you are introduced to theories on ethics and moral issues. You learn to conduct ethical analyses, moral assessments and to make and justify moral decisions. You do this based on concrete case studies, such as discussions on the right to have children, parental rights versus professional ethics and the right to privacy. You will be equipped, as a future professional, to give substantiated advice on complex situations in education, child raising or in youth care. You learn the basics, preparing you for the other subjects, the internship and the master thesis.

- **Children's rights**

The guiding principle in decision making regarding children, and in discussions on child raising, child and youth care and education, is that the best interests of the child must be paramount. But how do we determine what is in the best interest of the child when considering dilemmas such as conflictual divorce, medical care, radicalisation, youth criminality ... How do we weigh advantages and disadvantages, how do we overcome impasses, how do we reach the ultimate conclusions, and do we legitimise policy and decisions?

- **Development of citizenship**

A core function of child raising and education, is to bring up children to be citizens. Citizenship education has become explicitly mandatory in education and it seems that legislation will become even tighter. There is much controversy as to the nature of good citizenship and how child raising, and education may contribute to its development. What is the nature of this discussion, what is the current state of knowledge and how does this influence both policy and practice? And to what extent is it desirable for the government to interfere with the kind of citizenship schools should stimulate.

- **Professionalisation**

Scientification and professionalisation influence working methods in education, in child and youth care, and impact how children and youth are perceived and treated. What are the advantages and what are the risks? What can professionals do to reduce such risks? How can policy contribute to this? In this subject you mainly learn to reason about the influence of professionalisation and scientification on education, child raising and youth care. The emphasis lies on (bio)medicine, child psychology and neuroscience.

In the **professionalisation line** you practice your professional skills and are introduced to the practice in which you will work later on as a professional.

- **Domain Specific Skills**

This subject prepares you to work successfully as an academic professional in a wide range of educational institutions, in youth care and organisations.

Two aspects receive particular attention: (1) you practice your didactical skills, enabling you to work as a teacher in higher education and as a trainer in supporting organisations; (2) you practice skills that prepare you to function as a (policy) advisor, by learning to analyse policy and practices, practicing how to draw up an advisory report in an education/youth care/child raising setting and how to professionally communicate about this.

- **Internship**

The internship familiarises you with the demands placed on professionals, and you are introduced to the professional field to which they apply their knowledge and understanding. The internship takes place at an institution or an organisation working in the fields of education, youth care or child raising. During the internship you perform activities that introduce you to the work activities of professionals, to working relationships between professionals, the day-to-day practice within professional organisations, such as the SLO (the national centre for curriculum development), local and provincial government, ROCs, Primary and Secondary schools, MBO Council (Dutch Vocational Education and Training Council), Defence for Children International, etcetera.

The **research line** consists of the master' thesis.

- **Master thesis**

During your master thesis you learn to do research. You can choose among different kinds of research, relevant to future work, such as educational consultant, policy advisor, roles in youth care or education, positions in institutions such as provincial government, or academic researcher. Types of research besides empirical research are for instance: analysis of documents, case studies or video material, literature reviewing, theoretical research (ethical, legal, philosophical), discourse analysis, historical research.