UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC30022, Migration and Labour Market Integration, 7.5 credits

Migration och arbetsmarknadsintegration, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Sociology and Work Science on 2025-01-28, and is valid from Spring semester 2025.

Responsible Department

Department of Sociology and Work Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Persons admitted to doctoral/PhD studies in social sciences or other corresponding areas at the University of Gothenburg or another university are eligible to apply for the course.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Understand and account for a range of factors that impact on migrants' employment opportunities, working conditions and rights, and appreciate the diverse ways in which migrants are incorporated into labour markets.
- Understand key features of contemporary labour markets, and critically assess how they intersect with migration and integration processes.
- Define core concepts used in research on migration and labour market integration and apply them in different contexts.

Competence and skills

- Conduct comparative analyses of migration and labour market integration across different

countries.
- Analyse the complex interactions between migration patterns, labour markets, and migration governance.
- Verbally and in writing demonstrate an independent and analytical approach to different perspectives on migration and labor market integration.

Judgement and approach

- Critically evaluate the relevance and applicability of different theoretical approaches and concepts discussed in the course for the student's own ongoing or planned project.

Course content

This course is about migration, work and labour market integration. The search for higher wages and better employment opportunities form important motivations for migration, and migrant labour plays a key role in many economies and societies. While migrants tend to be disproportionately exposed to exploitation and poor working conditions, it is important to recognise the diverse ways in which migrants are incorporated into labour markets, ranging from low-paid jobs and precarious positions to well-paid and highly qualified employment.

The course will look at different patterns of migrants' employment incorporation and attend to the factors that shape them. This includes social divisions and inequalities linked to gender, class and processes of racialisation, as well as the role played by migration policies in shaping employment opportunities, conditions and rights for different groups and categories of migrants. Furthermore, migrants' employment integration needs to be understood in the context of how labour markets transform. Students will engage with concepts such as flexibilisation, precariarisation, upskilling, deskilling and polarisation, and gain an understanding of how migration processes and labour market processes intersect. The course will address these issues at different levels: at the labour market and broader societal level, the organizational level, and at the micro-level, by considering migrants' experiences and how they negotiate the barriers and opportunities they encounter.

Types of instruction

Lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

Grades

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

Types of assessment

The course is examined through a written assignment, seminar participation, a presentation, and peer-review.

In order to pass the course, all the following examination tasks have to be approved: individual research assignment (4 credits), seminar participation (1,5 credit), seminar presentation (1 credit), and peer-reviewing the work of a fellow student (1 credit).

Course evaluation

The course is subjected to a written evaluation.