Social Work and Exclusion

Study Course in English at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences of North Rhine-Westphalia Department Münster
Welcome to Münster
W eid offer you the opportunity to take part in a study course in English for one semester in Germany – from March 14 till June 10, 2016 – where you are gaining practical experiences in different fields of Social Work. Furthermore, you are attending academic courses relevant to the Social Work profession and pedagogy. These opportunities are offered by the Department of Social Work in Münster, a department of the Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia. For more information about our four departments please have a look at our homepage: www.study-social-work.de/

Our favoured town accommodates more than 50.000 students of different universities. This can be recognised easily by the huge number of bicycles rushing through the historical and pleasant streets. In Münster, students appreciate that everything is close-by and the cultural life is rich. If you want to get to know more about our city, please have a look at the following homepage http://www.muenster.de/en/.

The campus of the Catholic University of Applied Sciences (KatHO) is located in the city centre and the main majors in the bachelor and master degrees are social work and special education/ inclusive education. Today about 1.100 students are taking part in different study programs.

All lectures and seminars at KatHO take place on the campus site where everything is in walking distance and easy to find. Somehow lectures, students’ life and leisure time mingles on the campus where a convenient atmosphere between teachers and students prevails. A variety of cultural events such as expositions, students’ parties or conferences can be found here as well.

During your study course you will be living in the lovely town Münster. Moreover, as you are enrolled as a guest student at our university, you have the possibility to travel for free all around North Rhine-Westphalia. This is an attractive German federal country with many lively and historical cities such as Cologne, Düsseldorf, Aachen, Essen, Bonn or Paderborn. They are all located in the area of the Ruhr region, having an
interesting industrial heritage and a high density of different cultures. The wide range of different landscapes offers several possibilities for sport activities and recreation.

For more information about North Rhine-Westphalia you can find here:

www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Germany/nordrhein-westfalen.htm
www.nrw-tourism.com/unesco-panoramas
www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/germany.htm

You as incoming students will...

- study with fellow students from Germany as well as from all over Europe,
- meet lecturers with various professional backgrounds such as Social Work, Sociology, Psychology, Social Medicine, Education, Pedagogy and Social Policy,
- get in contact with social workers in various institutions and
- be supported in finding accommodation and services.

Social Work and Exclusion

The international programme Social Work and Exclusion is designed for international as well as for local students. The seminars are given in English language and are integrated into the regular study programme. The group of international students stays together over the whole semester and gets specific support. However, to most of the seminars local students have access as well.
This open structure aims for a vital international exchange. Most of the courses start at the beginning of the semester and continue with one seminar each week, the same day and time. Different perspective will be taken; social work viewpoints and aspects from reference disciplines such as sociology, psychology, medical science and political science are considered. Within this course the students can reach 30 ECTS.

Course Descriptions

1.1 Welfare Mix and Social Work Structures
Prof. Dr. Georg Albers
Who delivers social services? In this seminar we will focus on the structure of social service delivery systems in different parts of the world and we will ask which implications and consequences societies are facing. The welfare mix, that is the mixture of market providers, state actors and nonprofit organisations will be of particular interest. The aim is to gain a deeper understanding about the challenges of social work actors in different countries.

1.2 Mediation
Prof. Dr. Georg Albers
Mediation is a method for intervening in conflict affected systems. It is embedded in the concept of conflict management. In this seminar we will work on the theoretical knowledge base as well as on the practical implications for social works. The seminar requires the willingness for role plays as well as for intensive case work.

1.3 Home environment and supported living
Prof. Dr. Friedrich Dieckmann
„Dwelling is the most intimate of all relationships with the environment.‘‘ (Susan Saegert, 1987, p. 288)
What is the difference between a house and a home? What does „being at home“ mean? How do psychologists and sociologists define and investigate „living“ and
“living environments”? What role does utopian thought about living environments play in social work and social sciences? Based on the exploration of their own living experiences and on the international literature, the participants of this course will get to know a variety of approaches, concepts, and methods that make up the research on residential environments.

In the second half of the seminar, we will focus on the living situations that people with disabilities and elderly people are in. What do they need and expect from a living arrangement? What innovative types of residential environments have been developed and tested for those groups of people? How can elderly persons or persons with disabilities get the support they need in their daily lives, and nevertheless still live independently? How is „ageing in place” made possible in communities and neighbourhoods? The seminar will predominantly be held in English. All of us will have the opportunity to improve our conversational skills, to learn a lot about the inter-individual and cultural diversity of „housing” and „living”. And we will take part in the policy and practice discussions of the scientific community.

1.4 Networking: An outstanding topic in current Society

Prof. Dr. Martin Heidrich

To act with networks is a traditional assignment of Social Work. Social Work is part of social networks and has to construct ones. By that we have to work with client-networks as well as with intra- and interorganizational networks. This seminar shows up linkages to well-known methods of Social Work but emphasis the functions of networks and shows that networks are necessary modules of a functional differentiated society.
1.5 Emergency Cases and Crisis Intervention in Social Work, Pedagogy and Psychology

Prof. Dr. Thomas Hülshoff

The course is designed for domestic and foreign students who want to deal with emergency cases and crisis interventions in practical social work. Particularly the course is dedicated to students planning an Erasmus semester abroad, an internship or a humanitarian mission abroad. Furthermore, it is open for all students with interest in international aspects of social work. Crises and emergency cases as well as assistance and crisis intervention are presented and discussed. Practical and concrete perspectives will be taken.

Possible topics: Crisis support in acute trauma and post-traumatic stress disorders, recognition of and crisis intervention in neglect, child abuse and sexual abuse, suicide prevention, crisis help with impulsive and aggressive agitation in psychiatric disorders, self-injuring behavior, recognition of acute adolescence crises, drug crises (withdrawal symptoms, intoxication, acute relapse risk), crisis situations of people facing expulsion, emergency in street work situations, crises in school (bullying, violence etc.), emergency cases in elderly care (e.g. confusion in Alzheimer’s disease), acute crises in the coping (e.g. cancer), special methodology (crisis intervention, psychoeducation, emotional interviewing, de-escalation, etc.), first aid and life support, help for helper (peer counselling, supervision etc.)
1.6 An introduction to Systemic Family Therapy
Prof. Dr. Thomas Hülshoff

1.7 Practical Social Work in Germany
Andjela Rakowski, Social Worker (M.A.)
The students will explore some social institutions in Münster and in the immediate vicinity. They will have the possibility to interview the professionals and compare and discuss the social work in Germany with the social work in their own country.

1.8 Domestic violence
Prof. Dr. Christiane Rohleder
The issue of domestic violence - in our context defined as violence in hetero- or homosexual partnerships – has gotten more and more public attention in Germany. In this course we will discuss sociological approaches to explain domestic violence and its dynamics on the basis of English texts and studies, as there is much more research in anglo-american countries about this social problem. But the latest research data about the extent of domestic violence in Germany as well as the consequences of new legal regulations, such as the so called “Gewaltschutzgesetz” in Germany will be topics
too. The participation in this course requires the willingness to read and prepare English texts, but you don’t have to be a perfect English speaker, because: in this course, we all will be learners, me as well as you.

1.9. Intercultural training
Michael Rölver, Social Worker (M.A.)
Social work and inclusive education are two professions which work in a variety of sociocultural contexts, encountering a variety of norms and values. In a pluralistic multicultural society, intercultural skills are key competences of social work and inclusive education. Basic preconditions thus are awareness of one’s own cultural background and a sensibility for cultural plurality. Based on practical experiences students will reflect their own cultural identity and its relevance for professional capabilities. Intercultural learning is understood as a process which allows for the acquisition of practical skills.

1.10. Supervision
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In this seminar the students will have the possibility to reflect the ERASMUS exchange, the study course and the practical visits. The supervision will be held in a group with all ERASMUS students.

Lectures

Prof. Dr. Georg Albers
Prof. Dr. Friedrich Dieckmann
Prof. Dr. Martin Heidrich
Prof. Dr. Thomas Hülshoff
Andjela Rakowski, Social Worker, M.A.
Prof. Dr. Christiane Rohleder
Michael Rölver, Social Worker, M.A.
To be admitted to the programm:

- your home university should be an Erasmus+ partner university of the Catholic University of North Rhine-Westphalia (the program is also open for Non-Erasmus+ partners).
- you should have completed at least two semesters (terms) of Pedagogy or Social Work studies at your home university.
- you should be nominated by their home university.

For further information you can contact:

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www.katho-nrw.de/muenster/internationales/

Application until December 11, 2015

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