

Degree Programme in Social Services
-focus on Diaconia & Christian Social Practice
210 ECTS

**Protestant Theological Faculty,
Charles University**

Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

interdiac

Degree Programme Curriculum

April 2012

Introduction

This Handbook contains an overview of the degree programme which has been developed by the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University and the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences along with interdiac. It is designed to meet clearly identified needs in social work in the respective countries and in the region of central and Eastern Europe and the 'newly independent states'. The focus on Diaconia and Christian social practice is relevant at a time when faith communities and churches are increasingly involved in social action and the relevance of church communities as a source of social involvement is recognised by secular actors such as the UNDP. The programme aims to meet the criteria operating in the Czech Republic and Finland and has been designed with an awareness of the needs of other countries which were researched as part of the development project. A four month (30cr) pilot module which was accredited by the Czech Ministry of Social Affairs was successfully run using the proposed model of learning.

Methodology

The teaching will be organised using a blended learning methodology. Students will be involved in a concrete work situation (placement) the whole time but will of course carry out their involvement according to the aims of the Semester and the various study modules. The educational process is designed in such a way that the learning tasks are carried out in practice contexts and can draw directly on that experience. The local context is not only a place for practice, research and analysis; it is itself a source for learning. The various assignments will benefit from local depth and international comparison and the theoretical studies will also have to relate to the diversity of the student group and their contexts.

The programme is delivered in a standard semester format with four contact teaching sessions totalling 19 days. The contact teaching will include theoretical and practice related inputs which will prepare the students for the subsequent period of their work tasks and assignments 'back home'. The in between periods are of varying length according to the needs of the topic, but in general there are shorter gaps between contact teaching sessions at the start of the semester and there is a semester examination usually at the end.

The assignments for the period between the contact teaching are designed to relate the theoretical studies to the realities of the context where the student is practising. The placement tasks will be closely related to the main theme of the Semester. Throughout the period the student will have access to all materials needed (in addition to books) via the Fronter on-line learning platform.

For each semester, a workplace supervisor who meets the necessary criteria for supervisor will be appointed to support and guide each student. The Semester Handbook will detail the phases of the work and guide the supervision process for both the student and the supervisor. The supervisor will be in regular scheduled contact with the responsible teacher/head of education and there will be a weekly on line meeting between the student and the responsible teacher/head of education.

Placements will be in the Czech Republic for those coming from nearby and for those remaining in their own country for the in between period, placements will be found in relevant contexts by the partner organizations of interdiac.

Staffing the Programme

Interdiac has a head of education who is the designated leader of the programme. The post holder for the implementation of the programme has not been appointed due to the imminent retirement of the present post holder (at the time of writing). The appointment will be made in collaboration with the three partners. In relation to this programme the responsible teacher will be the pedagogical leader and coordinator, working with a team from the partner Universities and the interdiac Honorary Council. The Head of Education as responsible teacher for the programme is responsible for:

- developing the process of the learning programme
- working with and coordinating the staff team
- communicating with the placement supervisors & organising support or training for them as required.
- Being responsible for the conduct of placements and support of the students
- ensuring the programme is delivered according to the curriculum guide
- advising about content and securing the process of the learning
- building up the learning resources and updating the elearning platform (Fronter)
- teaching
- developing and updating the programme with the partners

Specific study modules are delivered by small teams of teachers appointed because of their competences and the responsible teacher for the semester coordinates the teacher teams and supports them.

Supervision

A key element in the programme is the placement supervisor. Supervisors have the normal function of a placement supervisor in a social work programme but in addition must be familiar with the overall programme so that they can support the whole learning process. They will be equipped with a handbook for each semester which outlines the framework of the placement and the process of the learning so that the aims of each supervision session are given in advance (in addition to any local or contingent issues). Supervisors will be appointed who are able to follow the guidelines given in the ASVSP standard. The aims of supervision are to enable social work practice learning to:

- promote the qualification of the students and to develop their ability to work in social work organisations or local community organisations
- promote the students ability for self reflection and to enable them to reflect on their experience in professional practice contexts
- enable students to see themselves as instruments of social action
- enable students to actively and methodically use the theoretical knowledge, methods and ethical standards of social work
- support students research into the practice of social work and/or the application of social policy in the placement context
- motivate students to develop their occupational identity
- promote the competences of the degree programme

Supervision provides systematic support and guidance focused on the students' professional and personal growth. The main aim is to create enough space for reflection and for learning based on self-reflection and acquired experience. The supervisor is a qualified worker providing supervision to the student in the framework of the degree programme and placement aims (which are set in the curriculum handbook) are translated into an action plan by negotiation between the student, the supervisor and the responsible teacher for the study module. The overall recruitment and support of supervisors is the responsibility of the Head of Education. Regular on line and in some cases face to face meetings with supervisors are organised as is occasional training.

Specific study modules are delivered by small teams of teachers appointed because of their competences and the responsible teacher for the semester coordinates the teacher teams and supports them.

Studies in Finland

Because this is a Double Degree Programme, students are obliged to take one semester (30ECTS) studies in the programme which is provided by the partner in Finland, the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (Diak). The curriculum for this programme is similar to the programme presented in this curriculum guide and therefore students will gain the same competences.

**Framework for the Degree Programme:
Social Services - focus on Diaconia & Christian Social Practice**

Year 1: Basic Studies

Person and Context: Theory, Practice and the Development of Knowledge (Basic Studies 1)	30
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Person, Community and Society (Basic Studies 2)	30
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YEAR 2: Professional Studies: Focus on Social Issues, Structures and Processes

Participation and Social Inclusion	30
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Building Society in Diversity	30
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YEAR 3: Professional Studies: Development and Innovation

Community Empowerment and Participation	30
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Management for Change and Innovation	30
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YEAR 4: SPECIALISED STUDIES: Thesis Project and Related Studies

New Outputs – Wider Impacts Thesis Studies	20
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Specialisation Studies Just Counselling	5
Developing Diaconal Work	5

ELECTIVES

Multicultural Counselling (normally year 3)	10
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International Issues in Child Welfare (normally year 4)	10
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Year One Semester One

Person & Context: Theory, Practice and the Development of Knowledge 30cr

Study Unit 1.	Learning and Study Skills	5cr
Study Unit 2	Personal and Professional Identity in Social Work & Diaconia	5cr
Study Unit 3	Basics of Professional Social Work	5cr
Study Unit 4	Introduction to Social Policy and Social Welfare Systems	5cr
Study Unit 5	Philosophical Ethics and Diaconal Understanding of Social Work I	5cr
Study Unit 6	Basic Social Analysis	5cr

Year One Semester Two

Person, Community & Society 30cr

Study Unit 7	Basic Methods for Research and Social Analysis	5cr
Study Unit 8	Practice Placement: Field - Research Project	5cr
Study Unit 9	Philosophical Ethics and the Diaconal Understanding of Social Work II	5cr
Study Unit 10	Participatory Working Methods & Skills for Social Work & Community Development (Basic Skills and Methods)	5cr
Study Unit 11	International Social Policy, Social Welfare & Social Work	5cr
Study Unit 12	Practice Placement	5cr

Year Two Semester One

Participation & Social Inclusion 30cr

Study Unit 13	Globalisation, Unemployment and Exclusion	5cr
Study Unit 14	Social Work & Community Development Theories and Perspectives	5cr
Study Unit 15	Participatory Working Methods for Social Work & Community Development (related to social Inclusion & participation)	5cr
Study Unit 16	Participatory Skills in Social Work & Approaches to Diaconal Social Work	5cr
Study Unit 17	Practice Placement: Methods and Skills for Inclusion	10cr

Year Two Semester Two

Building Society in Diversity

30cr

Study Unit 18	Social Structures & Everyday Life	5cr
Study Unit 19	Identities, Differences & Rights	5cr
Study Unit 20	Participatory Working Methods for Social Work & Community Development (related to diversity and difference)	5cr
Study Unit 21	Anti-Opressive Practice in Social Work & Community Development	5cr
Study Unit 22	Practice Placement: Methods and Skills for Working with Diversity Issues	10cr

Year Three Semester One

Community Empowerment & Participation

30cr

Study Unit 23	Participatory & User Research Methods	5cr
Study Unit 24	Methods in Youth and Community Development Work	5cr
Study Unit 25	Professional Practice in Community Development and User Participation	5cr
Study Unit 26	Practice Placement	15cr

Year Three Semester Two

Management for Change and Innovation

30cr

Study Unit 27	Context and Management of Professional Work	5cr
Study Unit 28	Models of Management – ethical and diaconal considerations	5cr
Study Unit 29	Project Development and Management	5cr
Study Unit 30	Professional Practice and Organisational Development	5cr
Study Unit 31	Practice Placement	10cr

Year Four Semester One

New Outputs – Wider Impacts

30cr

Thesis Studies

Study Unit 32	Thesis Development	5cr
Study Unit 33	Thesis Elaboration Production and Dissemination	15cr

Specialisation Studies

Study Unit 34	Just Counselling	5cr
Study Unit 35	Developing Diaconal Work	5cr

Year One Semester One

Person & Context: Theory, Practice and the Development of Knowledge

Study Unit 1 Learning and Study Skills 5cr

Description

The aim of this study unit is to introduce the student to the basic skills and practices they need to complete the degree programme successfully.

The study unit includes the understanding of:

- the concept of process based learning
- the management of personal learning and the use of time
- the use of team and group work in learning processes
- the use of available e-learning resources and other tools
- biographical writing as a source for reflection
- academic English, academic writing
- ethics of report writing

The study unit content includes:

- learning styles and process based learning
- time management
- team and group work
- e-learning tools
- academic writing and ethics of report writing
- structured narrative approach to biographical writing

Study Unit 2 Personal and Professional Identity in Social Work & Diaconia 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Understands the important basic philosophical concepts of the person
- Understands the importance of biography and socialisation in forming personal and professional identity
- Clarifies own self image and identity
- Develops observational and analytic skills in new social environments
- Is able to reflect on the impact of biography on observation, reflection, analysis of phenomena and acting
- Appreciates and is able to work with personal uniqueness and identity as valuable starting points for professional social and community development work
- Is sensitive to the diversities of background of other students, service users and colleagues in a work setting
- Is able to analyse the specific nature of professional identity as a social service worker
- Is able to identify the basic specific nature and professional identity in diaconal work

This study unit content includes:

- Basic understandings of the person in European philosophical thinking
- Basics of ethnography and other approaches to fieldwork as research and practice
- Practice of the exposure method as an orientation to professional social and community work and diaconal practice
- Practice of reflection and feedback
- The specific nature of professional identity as a social service worker
- Relationship of social work and community development work
- Professional identity and multi-professional work
- Diaconal social work as a professional vocation and identity
- Social and community development work as diaconal practice
- Definitions of diaconia as church social service work

Study Unit 3 Basic Theoretical Concepts of Professional Social Work 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with the definitions of social work and community development work
- is able to relate the history of community development work to that of social work and apply that understanding to the present diverse contexts
- is familiar with the basic professional approaches to social work and community development work
- knows the basics of professional expertise in social work and community development
- is able to understand the different organisations and their roles in social work

The content of the study unit includes:

- Definitions of social work in different national and international contexts, with special reference to the internationally accepted definition (IFSW), the Czech context and another national context or the student's national context
- Definitions of community development work in different national and international contexts.
- History of social and community development work
- Professional approaches and expertise in social and community development work including introduction to the range of understanding of social work according to different theoretical models for example psycho-social work, task centred approaches and participatory approaches linked to user participation and anti-oppressive practice
- Changing and contested understandings of expertise in the field

Study Unit 4 Introduction to Social Policy and Social Welfare Systems 5cr

Description

The aims of the student unit are that the student:

- understands the diversity of phenomena which social policy and social work address
- is able to analyse the basis of social policy and social welfare in promoting health and well being, participation and social justice and overcoming social pathology
- is familiar with the different definitions of welfare, related to history and diverse contexts
- is able to differentiate the range of 'welfare regimes' and how these affect the context and practice social service and diaconal work
- Is familiar with the legal basis and framework for social work and welfare in the Czech Republic and the European Union
- is familiar with the basics of the welfare state in the Czech Republic and their own/another national context

The content of the study unit includes:

- Basic social policy (scope and aims)
- Definitions of health and welfare
- Legal basis of welfare and social work in the Czech Republic and the European Union
- Welfare regimes in a global context
- Structure of the welfare state in the Czech Republic and their own or another national context

Study Unit 5 Philosophical Ethics and the Diaconal Understanding of Social Work I 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with philosophical background to the ethical codes adopted by social work
- is familiar with the ethical codes adopted by social work in different national and international contexts
- understands the use of professional codes in practice
- can relate professional social and community work practice to different practices of religion and spirituality
- knows the origins of Diaconia in the New Testament early church history
- is familiar with the basic biblical and theological underpinning of diaconia
- knows the ethical basis of Diaconia and is able to link this to ethical codes in social work
- can relate Diaconia to personal spirituality as well as to Christian worship & congregational life in an ecumenical context

Contents

- Philosophical background to social work ethics
- Ethical codes adopted by national and international social work organisations
- Using ethical codes in practice
- Social work, religion and spirituality
- Early church history of Diaconia
- Theology of Diaconia
- Ethics and Diaconia
- Spirituality, worship and Diaconia, including use of the Bible
- Diaconia in an ecumenical and interfaith context

Study Unit 6 Basic Social Analysis 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is familiar with the main schools of sociology
- is able to understand the impact of social and economic structures on everyday life
- is familiar with the basic concepts used in the definition and analysis of poverty
- knows how the changing division of labour and structure of employment affects welfare and marginalisation
- is able identify the risk factors involved in marginalisation and social exclusion and relate different phenomena to social pathology and exclusion
- is familiar with the role of social policy in relation to exclusion
- Can relate the views of poverty in the Bible to the historical contexts in which the texts were produced
- Can apply the views of the Bible on poverty to the present context

The contents of the study unit include:

- Basic sociological approaches (main schools of thought)
- Relation of social and economic structures to everyday life
- Concepts of poverty and social exclusion
- Work, activity and employment and marginalisation as a factor in producing social exclusion
- Social policy and social exclusion
- Views of poverty in the Bible

Year One Semester Two

Person, Community & Society

Study Unit 7 Basic Methods for Research and Social Analysis 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with the basic concepts used in sociological research
- Is familiar with the basic approaches to social research for professional workers
- Is familiar with qualitative approaches to social phenomena
- Is able to undertake basic social analysis
- Is able to develop critical knowledge of a local situation
- Is familiar with different sociological and community social work approaches to community and can relate them to specific contexts
- Is able to discern the relationship between spirituality, religion and community
- Is able to analyse the role of religion in personal and professional life
- Is able to evaluate the role of religion in community and in public life in different contexts
- Is competent in the use of English in academic work

The contents of the study unit include:

- Research and development related to professional work
- Overview of social research methods
- Ethnography and qualitative research
- Methodology of social analysis
- Practice of social research
- Local community profiling theory and practice
- Sociological and community social work approaches to community
- Sociological approaches to religion and spirituality
- Role of religion in personal, professional and public life

Study Unit 8 Practice Placement: Field - Research Project 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Can apply the ethics of research to a specific project
- Is able to write a research proposal and defend it
- Is able to carry out a small field research project
- Knows how to use qualitative approaches to social phenomena
- Is able to undertake basic social analysis
- Knows how to develop critical knowledge of a local situation
- Is able to write a research report using the correct technical language and format
- Is able to demonstrate the ability to use on-line resources
- Can present the results of research and use feedback constructively

The contents of the study unit include:

- Research ethics
- Research proposal development
- Practical research planning
- Use of data bases and on-line resources
- Implementing a research plan and analysing the results
- Writing and presentation of the results of research

Study Unit 9 Philosophical Ethics and Diaconal Understanding of Social Work II 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- has a complex understanding of the philosophical concepts which guide ethical approaches to social work
- understands the practice implications of social work ethics in professional face to face work and in social work systems
- has a comprehensive ecumenical understanding of Diaconia as an ecumenical concept
- is able to evaluate the role of Christianity and Christian spirituality in personal, community and public life
- has a deeper knowledge of the Bible in its context (special reference to Creation, Prophetic literature in the Old testament and New Testament texts related to their context),
- can use the Biblical texts as a tool for developing contextual theology
- is familiar with global developments in Diaconal thinking globally

The contents of the study unit include:

- More complex understanding of the philosophical background and structure of ethical approaches to social work and social service
- Practice implications of ethical approaches to social work and social service organisations
- Diaconia in reformation and ecumenical theology
- Theology of person, community and society in different churches
- Role of Christianity and Christian participation in community and public life
- Study of Biblical texts (Creation, Prophetic texts - Old Testament, New Testament) in context
- Use of the Bible in contextual theology
- Global understanding of diaconia

Study Unit 10 Participatory Approaches to Social Work & Community Development (Basic Skills and Methods) 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is able to relate social and community development work to other practices aiming to address social exclusion
- is able to relate participatory approaches to adult social work to practices aiming to address social exclusion
- is able to articulate the relation between participatory social work and community development work and to formulate a concept of professional identity in social and community development work and diaconia
- is familiar with the basic concept of empowerment and is able to practice empowering methods
- knows how to use groups in professional work and is able to reflect on the experience of a group

The contents of the study unit include:

- Participatory methods of social and community development work
- Comparative critique of methods of social and community development work
- Professional identity
- Social security and income maintenance, as a factor in welfare, in relation to social and community development and diaconia (focus on Czech and their own/one other context)
- Empowerment
- Communication skills
- The role of the worker in a group – personal and professional aspects

Study Unit 11 International Social Policy, Social Welfare & Social Work 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is able to analyse the links between different approaches to social theory and social policy
- has a complex and critical familiarity with the main schools of thought in social welfare and their impact on policy and practice
- is able to examine the concept of social welfare in a European and global context and especially in relation to the Czech context and their own/one other context
- is able to articulate the link between work and welfare in different contexts (especially the Czech Republic and their own/one other context) in a globalising economy
- is able to evaluate the impact of globalisation on participatory social work and community development
- is able to relate and differentiate the approaches to participatory social work and community development work appropriate to various contexts and problems
- is able to articulate and understanding of global social work in relation to their own context

The contents of the study module include:

- Theoretical approaches to social policy
- Different approaches to social welfare in context
- Globalisation and welfare
- Globalisation as a factor influencing social and community development work
- Comparative evaluation of different methods of social work
- Participatory social work and community development – relevance, concepts and organisation
- Contextual analysis of participatory social work and community development
- Community development and participatory social work as responses to the local impacts of globalisation

Study Unit 12 Practice Placement 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- knows how to plan and carry out a placement social work, community development or diaconal work
- is able to develop a personal understanding of professional identity in practice
- is able to use the concepts of participatory social work and community development work
- knows how to work in a responsible manner and follow a supervised, planned approach to the placement
- is able to write a reflective report based on experience in context, to present the report and act on feedback

The contents of the study unit include:

- Experience of professional work
- Professional identity and practice
- Use of professional concepts
- Supervision in social work and diaconia
- Reflection and report writing in social work and diaconia

Year Two Semester One

Participation & Social Inclusion

Study Unit 13 Globalisation, Unemployment and Exclusion 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- can relate marginalisation and social exclusion to globalisation and its impact on everyday life
- is able to understand the structures, mechanisms and processes which cause and maintain social exclusion, including religious structures
- understands the links between social exclusion and health, both the exclusionary effects of ill-health and the health effects of exclusion and poor working conditions
- is able to link social exclusion to policies for employment and income maintenance
- is able to make a link between social exclusion in different contexts and implement appropriate working methods
- can differentiate policies to combat social exclusion, in relation to different contextual challenges (including the Czech context and the context from which the student comes, or one other context)
- is familiar with the concept of community well being as a goal of policy and practice and its implications in different contexts
- can analyse strategies for participatory social work, community development work and diaconia in different contexts

The contents of the study module include:

- The impact of globalisation on work and welfare in different contexts
- Patterns of unemployment, segregation and exclusion
- Analysis of social exclusion as it affects specific groups and communities
- Social exclusion as a cause and consequence of ill-health
- Employment policy and statutory approaches to income maintenance for unemployed people (especially in the Czech Republic and the student's original country or one other country and in relation to the EU)
- Policies for social inclusion in different contexts/at different levels (especially within the Czech Republic and the student's original country or one other country and in relation to the EU)
- Czech and European legislation and programmes to combat poverty
- Community well being as a contextual goal
- The use of participatory approaches to create a framework for well being (for example local social indicators)

Study Unit 14 Social Work and Community Development Theories and Perspectives 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- knows how to apply participatory social work theories and perspectives to work with marginalised and excluded people
- knows how to apply the theory and practice of community development work in relation to marginalisation and social exclusion
- understands the different approaches needed for working with different groups of excluded or marginalised people (elderly, unemployed, low paid, families in poverty etc.)
- is able to use social work and community work methods to address social problems such as substance abuse or anti-social behaviour of young people
- is able to use quantitative research methods and relate them to other research methods, especially in understanding social exclusion

The contents of the study module include:

- Deeper knowledge of the theories and perspectives of participatory social work and community development work
- Comparing different approaches to tackling social exclusion based on participation
- Theoretical and methodological approaches to social problems such as substance abuse and anti- social behaviour
- Deepening the overview of research methods and application of quantitative research especially in relation to marginalisation and social exclusion

Study Unit 15 Participatory Working Methods for Social Work & Community Development (related to social Inclusion & participation) 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with the basic methods of participatory social and community development work with elderly people
- is familiar with the use of participatory methods for child welfare and family work
- is familiar with the approaches to mental health and substance abuse in participatory social work and community development work

The contents of the study module include:

- Deeper knowledge of the holistic/ecological approach to working on social exclusion
- Work with elderly people as a specific field for participatory social work and community development work – specific working methods
- Participatory methods for work in the field of child and family welfare and work with young people at risk & related legal frameworks
- Mental health and substance abuse as a specific field for participatory social work and community development work & related legal frameworks

Study Unit 16 Participatory Skills in Social Work & Approaches to Diaconal Social Work 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is able to practice participatory methods in working with people
- is familiar with basic relational skills for working with processes of social and community development work
- is able to understand and practice of team work and enable the participation of volunteers and activists
- has an overview of the work of churches and diaconal organisations in combating social exclusion
- knows how to formulate the goals, tasks and methods of diaconal work especially in relation to work on social exclusion and work with young people at risk
- is able to analyse the role and function of the diaconal worker in congregational and worship life in diverse contexts

The contents of the study unit include:

- Participatory working methods
- Skills and processes of social and community development work
- Theory and practice of team work
- The field of diaconal social work in relation to social exclusion in different contexts
- Framework for understanding diaconia (goals, tasks and working methods)
- The role of the diaconal social work in the different confessional traditions
- Theological approaches to participation and empowerment

Study Unit 17 Practice Placement: Methods and Skills for Inclusion 10cr

Description

This placement must offer challenging work with users and groups/communities in which the student gains professional expertise in guiding work processes towards social inclusion. The key contents may include work with adults, families, elderly people or youth at risk. Issues may include (for example) unemployment, marginalisation, or substance abuse.

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- knows how to apply the processes of working with people
- know how to use the methods of participatory social work or community development especially in working with adults
- is able to adopt different roles and use different methods in professional practice with users
- is able to reflect on the work processes and critically evaluate own working methods and those of the placement organisation
- is able to reflect on personal and professional learning and the development of own professional identity
- Is able to link the processes and methods to the practice of diaconal social work and to the life of the church(es)

The contents of the study unit include:

- Work processes and methods
- Supervision in social work practice
- Personal and professional evaluation & reflection
- Personal and professional growth
- Reflection and report writing in professional work

Year Two Semester Two Building Society in Diversity

Study Unit 18 Social Structures & Everyday Life – Thesis Development

5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is able to understand the use and relevance of qualitative research methods
- Is familiar with the process of creating a thesis
- Is able to search data bases and find source material from diverse on-line sources
- Is able to implement a deeper understanding of the process of data gathering
- Is able to plan a thesis project by defining a research objective and elaborating the appropriate methodological approach
- Is able to create a professional framework for a research project and define how the knowledge gained will be utilised
- Is able to defend a thesis proposal and develop it
- Can apply the ethics of research to the thesis project and implement ethical research procedures
- Is able to use scientific writing techniques and produce professional documents in the English language

Contents

- Research methodology – focus on qualitative research
- Data gathering methods
- use of data bases and on-line resources
- Use of qualitative research in research in the field of diversity
- Thesis proposal development
- Academic & professional English
- Ethics of research
- Knowledge production and ownership

Study Unit 19 Identities, Differences & Rights 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with the structures, policies and practices which maintain racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination based on identity or disability
- is familiar with and can implement the use of the human rights approach as a basic tool for tackling racism and other forms of discrimination
- has a critical appreciation of the legislative approach and the use of public policy to tackle racism and other forms of discrimination in different national and international contexts
- is familiar with the anti discrimination law in the Czech Republic and one other/the student's own country
- knows the factors and issues surrounding migration and the specific issues faced by so called sending and receiving countries
- is familiar the issues surrounding refugee movements and policies

The contents of the study unit include:

- Structures, policies and practice which maintain racism and discrimination
- Human rights approaches to dealing with racism and discrimination
- Migration and related policies
- Refugee issues and related policies
- Legislation in the field of racism and discrimination (national, EU)
- Overview of UN, Council of Europe, IOM and other organisations in the field

Study Unit 20 Participatory Working Methods for Social Work & Community Development (related to diversity and difference) 5cr

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to understand the impact of cultural identity on attitudes and values
- Is familiar with the central concepts and theoretical approaches to integration, pluralism, multiculturalism and transculturalism
- Is familiar with the impact of minority status on health and wellbeing
- Can evaluate the position of the worker in relation to the diverse 'other', personally and professionally (link with exposure process)
- Is able to reflect on the impact of diversity issues on their practice in youth and community development work and participatory social work
- Is able to practice group work in relation to diversity issues

The contents of the study unit include:

- Sociological and economic understanding of racism and discrimination
- Critical approach to multiculturalism and other concepts related to diversity issues
- Impact of minority status on health and wellbeing
- Practice issues in relation to diversity and difference
- Group work skills and practice

Study Unit 21 Anti-Oppressive Practice in Social Work & Community Development 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to work with individuals and groups from different cultures and backgrounds
- Is able to understand and develop skills in anti-oppressive practice in relation to discriminated individuals and groups
- Is able to deal with differences of religion and culture and to relate this to the policies of their employing organisation
- understands the specific needs of refugees and migrants from different backgrounds and in different contexts
- is familiar with the basis of social and community development work in relation to the specific issues of discrimination faced by women
- knows how to develop and implement strategies for working with different groups
- is familiar with ecumenical and interfaith dialogue as an important background to diaconal work
- is able to work with people of diverse faiths and spiritualities or no religious faith, without discrimination
- is able to recognise and apply the insights of contextual theologies in their diaconal work (feminist theology, liberation theology, urban theology, Dalit theology etc)

The contents of the study unit include

- Methods and tools for working on racism and discrimination
- Anti-oppressive practice in youth and community development and participatory social work, including legal frameworks
- Relationship of professional practice to the policy and practice of the employing organisation
- Deeper understanding of the issues faced by refugees and migrants
- Social and community development work strategies in relation to refugees and migrants
- Discrimination faced by women (including young women) and strategies to address it in social and community development work
- Modern ecumenism, interfaith work and diaconia
- Contextual approaches to theology

Study Unit 22 Practice Placement: Methods and Skills for Working with Diversity Issues

10cr

Description

Note: This placement involves work with persons and communities with different identities, cultures and religions.

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is able to analyse the position of different groups who face discrimination and/or racism
- is able to address the needs and issues faced by diverse groups in the working environment
- is able to use anti-oppressive practice in their professional work
- is able to develop approaches to the work which, on the basis of human rights, advance non-discrimination
- is familiar with and can use strategies for refugee and migrant community development or the self organisation of other groups or use participatory social work approaches to work towards the empowerment of persons and/or groups
- is able to evaluate the organisation in which they are placed from the perspective of policies and practice towards diverse groups
- is able to reflect on personal and professional development and evaluate their own practice
- is able to reflect on their practice in relation to specific ecumenical and interfaith issues and to develop a contextual theological approach
- is able to situate their work in relation to international understandings of diaconia

The contents of the study unit include:

- Diversity and difference as factors affecting social and community development work
- Issues facing minorities in context
- Professional work process in multicultural context and supervision
- Human rights based approaches
- Practice and policies for addressing diverse group needs and interests (race, age, gender, disability etc.)
- Anti-oppressive practice and empowerment
- International diaconia and mission
- Main lines of modern ecumenical church history
- Contextual theological reflection
- Interfaith dialogue

Year Three Semester One

Community Empowerment & Participation

Study Unit 23 Participatory and User Research Methods 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with the methods and use of participatory and user research in youth and community development and participatory social work
- is familiar with and can apply the methods and action research in youth and community development, participatory social work and diaconia
- knows the use of research as a part of a strategy for change
- is able to finalise the thesis plan and make a plan for the use of the thesis in development work

This study unit content includes

- Participatory and user research
- Action research
- Use of research in change strategies
- Thesis development

Study Unit 24 Methods in Community Development Work & Diaconia 5cr

Description:

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with the role of civil society in different contexts as a creative space for change
- is able to differentiate between different approaches, methods and goals in working for change with marginalised groups and communities
- is able to understand and apply the role of the professional as an active agent in empowering people and communities
- is able to develop complex strategies for community development work, participatory social work & diaconia
- is able to develop participatory development, planning and evaluation strategies
- is able to demonstrate a developed approach to communicating learning from practice
- is able to demonstrate an understanding of the need for accountability to users in professional work as a tool for increasing participation

This study unit content includes:

- Participatory professional practice in relation to strategies for change
- Civil society and voluntary action in community development work
- Critical appreciation of different models and strategies for working for change
- Creation, implementation and evaluation of change strategies
- Network building
- Accountability and support in professional work
- Community development and participatory strategies and diaconia

Study Unit 25 Professional Practice in Community Development and User Participation 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is able to practice group work skills in relation to complex strategies
- is able to develop community development work or participatory social work as a learning process for the users/participants
- is able to supervise the work of colleagues and volunteers
- can practice methods of conflict resolution
- is able to write a report which analyses on a deeper level a placement context and develop a strategic plan for change with users/participants
- is able to reflect on their professional role and development and include feedback from users and propose ways to develop their professional competence further
- can reflect on their personal development and indicate strategies for further personal development

This study unit content includes

- Complex group work
- Informal and non-formal learning in social and diaconal work
- Supervision in social and diaconal work
- Methods of conflict resolution
- Analytic and reflective report writing

Study Unit 26 Practice Placement 15cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is able to analyse the context of the placement organisation and its relationship to that context and its users
- is able to evaluate the organisation in relation to its empowering approach to persons, groups and/or communities
- is able to relate strategies of youth and community development and/or user participation to the placement context
- is able to analyse and evaluate the role of faith and spirituality in local groups and in strategies for change
- is able to develop, plan and implement a small scale project using community development or other participatory social work approaches
- is able to develop understanding of the role of a professional worker in strategies for change
- can supervise others involved in the work situations (paid or unpaid workers)
- is able to understand the use of the Bible and theological resources in professional diaconal work and community building
- is able to evaluate the role of the church (locally or nationally) in the dialogue between church and society and critically relate it to the specific context
- is able to evaluate their role in implementing the chosen strategy

This study unit content includes:

- Models, methods and strategies of community development work
- Participatory work and user empowerment
- Use of analysis and research in local practice
- Supervision in social and community development work
- Use of the Bible in professional diaconal work and community building
- Dialogue between church and society
- Belief and spirituality in local communities
- Use of the Bible and theological resources in professional diaconal work and community building
- Accountability in professional work
- Leadership of local change processes as a professional task
- Complex analytic and reflective report writing

Year Three Semester Two Management for Change and Innovation

Study Unit 27 Context and Management of Professional Work 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is able to evaluate the impact of supra-national bodies on specific policies for welfare and work
- is able to understand the impact of social, economic, political and religious structures on community development, social work and diaconal organisations in specific contexts
- can evaluate the role of the community development worker, social and diaconal worker in different systems, in relation to management and organisational change strategies
- international networking and project building as an aspect of social and community development work and diaconia

This study unit content includes

- International organisations and the social field
- Impact of external organisations on professional work organisations
- Basic organisational change strategies
- Organisation of Diaconia in relation to community development work and social work
- Professional work in organisational systems

Study Unit 28 Models of Management - ethical and diaconal considerations 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with basic theories of the management of professional work and the use of resources and can choose models and methods which accord with ethical and diaconal ethical positions and use them in practice
- is familiar with and can evaluate different approaches to project work using ethical and theological criteria (for example project cycle management and other approaches)
- is able to understand and use and promote a model of leadership which is participatory and achieves transparency
- is familiar with special management strategies to address discrimination and racism

This study unit content includes

- Management theory and practice
- Concepts of project work
- Leadership in youth and community, social and diaconal work
- Management strategies to address racism and discrimination

Study Unit 29 Project Development and Management 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- is familiar with the process of developing and managing projects
- is able to construct projects as a tool in changing environments, using participatory methods
- is able to create a strategy and action plan for diaconia
- is able to analyse different organisational structures and cultures and is able to work for their development or change
- is able to write a project proposal using recognised tools such as logical framework analysis and project cycle management
- is able to create budgets and other plans for project resources
- understands the law dealing with NGO and other organisations in the social field in the Czech Republic and one other country or the student's home environment
- is able to use networks and partnerships in professional practice
- is able to use social media in project work

The content of the study unit includes:

- Strategy development and project planning
- Project management and evaluation
- Organisational structures and culture
- Financial management of projects
- Networking and partnership working
- Public relations as a part of professional practice
- Use of social media

Study Unit 30 Professional Practice and Organisational Development 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to motivate and manage and supervise co-workers, volunteers and activists
- Is able to develop a transparent and secure system of financial management according to Czech law and the system of the country where they are working/will work
- Understands and can apply relevant quality management system to project work
- Can implement a media, public relations and/or advocacy strategy for a given project
- Is able to use media and public relations as a part of professional work

The content of the study unit includes:

- Motivation and management of people in projects and organisations
- Supervision in social and community development work
- Management and accountability for financial aspects of social and diaconal work
- Quality Management Systems and their use in social and diaconal work
- Public relations and advocacy in social and diaconal work

Study Unit 31 Professional Practice and Organisational Development II (Placement) 10cr

Description

The aims of the student unit are that the student:

- is able to gather data and critically analyse the organisation where they are placed
- is able to evaluate how changes in the wider society impact on and are impacted by the organisation
- is able to manage and supervise professional work and apply strategies for organisational development and change
- is able to develop networks and partnerships
- is able to use the basics of project management in a working life context
- is able to develop the thesis as a part of a strategy for change

The content of the study unit includes:

- Analysis of organisation in context
- Management and supervision of professional work
- Networks and partnerships in professional work
- Project management
- Thesis development

Year Four Semester One New Outputs – Wide Impacts 20cr

Study Unit 32 Thesis Development 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able evaluate, organise and to use information effectively and ethically using various databases
- Understand the processes of research dissemination and utilisation
- Is able to produce and present the chapter outlines for the thesis
- Is able to demonstrate how the research work can be used as a tool for change

Contents:

- Theoretical framework of the thesis
- Advanced use of data bases and on-line material
- Research practice and methodology
- Implementation of chosen research methods
- Policy impact of the thesis

Study Unit 33 Thesis Finalisation 15cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to finalise and present their thesis
- Is able to involve the user organisation or group in the feedback discussion of the results
- Is able to organise the dissemination and implementation of the results
- Is able to complete the maturity tests
- Is able to defend the thesis and publish it

Contents

- Use of thesis in development
- Organisation of dissemination
- Reflection on feedback
- Publication of thesis

Year Four Semester One Specialisation Studies

Study Unit 34 Just Counselling 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to support individuals, family units and groups who face injustice to enable empowerment
- Is able to work with groups across the life span, linking personal and social problems
- Is able to be sensitive to the diverse spiritualities and faiths and can manage their pastoral care and counselling in an interfaith context
- Is able to be sensitive to differences of gender, sexual identity, dis-ability etc in offering pastoral care and is able to link pastoral care to questions of (in)justice.
- Is able to use resources from the Bible and Christian tradition in pastoral care and counselling and have awareness of resources from other spiritual and religious traditions

Contents:

- Definitions and understanding of pastoral care and counselling
- Pastoral care in relation to life crises including sickness and ill-health
- Pastoral care in relation to death and bereavement
- Pastoral care and social work in a hospital and health care context
- Group work methods in pastoral care
- Christian resources for pastoral care
- Different faith traditions and cultures and pastoral care

Study Unit 35 Developing Diaconal Work 5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to manage their personal and professional development as a diaconal worker
- Understand strategies for dealing with work related stress
- Is able to take leadership in diaconal responses to crisis such as natural disaster, civil conflict, violence etc
- Is able to leading debriefing process for professional in a crisis or disaster situation
- Is competent in first aid
- Is able to handle food hygiene in an open kitchen

Contents:

- Professional management
- Spirituality
- Professional development
- First Aid
- Food hygiene
- Crisis readiness
- Debriefing after a crisis

Elective One
Multicultural Counselling **10cr**

Concepts, Skills and Processes **5cr**

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to define the purposes of multicultural counselling
- Is familiar with different definitions of multicultural counselling
- Understand the theoretical background of the different definitions and can justify the use of specific approaches
- Is able to identify the professional competences associated with multicultural counselling
- Is familiar with the processes of multicultural counselling

Contents:

- Purpose and definitions of multicultural counselling
- Critical evaluation of the theoretical approaches to multicultural counselling
- Process of multicultural counselling

Context and Practice **5cr**

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to apply the knowledge and skills for multicultural counselling in a working life context
- Is able to demonstrate the core competences of multicultural counselling in practice
- Can produce a reflective report which integrates personal and professional learning as well giving feedback to the placement agency

Contents:

- Theoretical approaches and practical models of multicultural counselling
- Competences for multicultural counselling
- Reflective analysis of personal work
- Diversity, difference and counselling
- Professional structures and contexts for multicultural counselling

Elective Two

International Issues in Child Welfare

10cr

Analysis, Theory and Practice in International Child Welfare

5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is able to relate personal and professional interests to the basic concepts of child welfare
- Is familiar with the international dimensions of child welfare work related to different contexts and issues
- Gains an overview of the main problems and challenges in the field of child welfare internationally
- Is familiar with the challenges of multicultural issues in child welfare work and can apply culturally sensitive methods
- Is familiar with the work of different actors in child welfare locally and internationally
- Is able to apply this knowledge in a country-specific context

Contents:

- Concepts of child welfare viewed in an international context
- International and multicultural issues in child welfare
- Culturally sensitive approaches to child welfare
- Role of different local and international actors in child welfare

Practice in International Child Welfare

5cr

Description

The aims of the study unit are that the student:

- Is familiar with the work of one agency involved in international child welfare
- Is able to apply the concepts of child welfare in a context which presents international challenges (through migration, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, war etc)
- Is able to analyse the practice and evaluate it in relation to personal and professional learning

Contents

- Theory and practice of international child welfare
- Specific challenges facing international child welfare practice
- Practical skill development and application in international child welfare work
- Reflective and analytic perspective in international child welfare work in one context.