

DIVERSITY IN URBAN AREAS

INTERNATIONAL MINOR PROGRAMME - 30 EC

Living in a city is challenging and can be complicated. Today, cities are growing larger and more populated than ever before. Mutual tolerance between individuals and groups of people can weaken due to differences in cultural and religious backgrounds, behavior and interests.

Differences between people are not always easy to deal with or cope with and people have a tendency to limit their interactions with those who look or act differently than themselves or who have other beliefs. As a consequence they retreat into their 'own' group. This is primarily caused by exclusion mechanisms and/or a lack of skills and opportunities for civic participation. This often results in misunderstandings, conflict and tension in neighborhoods. Living, working and recreation can lead to polarisation and withdrawal between groups.

At the same time, due to global developments, people have more choices to make than ever before and are faced with uncertainty as to what road to take. Society has become more complex and it has become a challenge for individuals and groups to develop the social skills they need in order to hold their own.

Citizens have to find a balance between representing themselves and how they wish to be recognised in relation to others. This is difficult for some people because they lack the desired social competences and values.

The minor addresses the important assignment or mission of social workers in this postmodern globalised society to find ways of diminishing the polarisation and withdrawal process by taking on the problems and challenges that affect vulnerable groups. Topics discussed include: poverty, coping strategies, stimulating social cohesion and strengthening civil society.

COURSE THEMES

- social work and diversity
- social work and inclusion/social cohesion
- exclusion and discrimination
- emancipation and identity
- empowerment and social capital
- intercultural communication and power
- social policy and participation



SUMMARY OF COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student can:

- analyse situations and problems when dealing with diversity and the coexistence between individuals and groups in urban areas
- provide solutions/ideas to enhance social cohesion
- promote intercultural communication from an intersectionality perspective
- strive to develop the personal well-being of vulnerable individuals and communities in relation to his or her social environment, to encourage participation, independence and the ability to cope
- develop a view on the dynamics of diversity in urban areas, based on knowledge and reflection in the context of his or her profession

COURSE OUTLINE/TEACHING METHODS

Lectures addressing theoretical orientation. Workshops to train skills and reflection. Field trips, studies and visits to neighbourhoods and organisations. A study trip abroad (attendance not required).

PERIOD AND COURSE DAYS

The programme takes place in the first semester (academic year 2014-2015). The programme is divided into two 10-week terms. The course consists of two full days of classes (235 contact hours spread over 20 weeks). The rest of the week will be used to carry out research and various projects.

TYPE OF ASSESSMENT

Written assignments (multiple choice, essays and reflection reports), written and oral presentations and a research paper. Attendance and participation are obligatory. A passing grade must be earned in each component.

DUTCH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The Dutch teaching style can be described as interactive, participative and student-centred. The student-centred style provides students with the attention and freedom they need in order to develop their own opinions and creativity.

A student's workload is measured in European Credits (EC). One credit represents 28 hours of work and 60 credits represents one year of full-time study.

For more information on the educational system visit our website www.international.hva.nl, under About us > Educational system.

STUDENT FACILITIES

HvA/UASA invests in modern study facilities to safeguard the best possible conditions for successful studies. Foreign guests are guaranteed an inspiring educational environment in which studying and recreation go hand in hand. HvA/UASA has a wide range of facilities, including: extensive ICT facilities with wireless networks, media libraries with access to catalogues, databases, books and magazines, multimedia rooms, bookshops, copyshops and restaurants.

FEES AND HOUSING

There is no tuition fee for students of Erasmus bilateral partners. Students should contact their international office. The tuition fee for students from institutions without a bilateral partner agreement is €2,100.

Students who apply before the deadline are eligible for a room. Please note that rooms are offered for a maximum duration of one year.

APPLICATION

For information about our application procedure, please visit our website www.international.hva.nl, under Exchange Programmes > Social Work and Law.

CONTACT

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