

SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

AUAS SUMMER SCHOOL COURSE

1 - 12 JULY 2019

Over the last few years, many (European) countries have created special committees or conducted special investigations into the occurrence of sexual abuse in residential and/ or foster care. The studies showed that children and young people in care are at a greater risk of being sexually abused, compared to youth growing up at home.

Although a broad range of factors are involved, one issue turns out to be of crucial importance in the prevention of sexual abuse, and that is paying attention to the sexual development of children and young people in care. This sounds easy, but it isn't easy at all. Ideas about relationships, intimacy and healthy sexual development differ between people and countries. It's a sensitive subject that many professionals working in care find difficult to talk about. Our course aims to help (future) professionals build competences for lending support to healthy sexual development of children and young people growing up in residential or foster care.

The summer course examines international and Dutch legislation relating to relationship and sexuality education for young people, the sexual development of children and young people, relationship and sexuality education for young people in care and how to deal with suspicions of sexually inappropriate behaviour and sexual abuse. The summer school also explores the development of sexual identity within the context of diversity and religion.

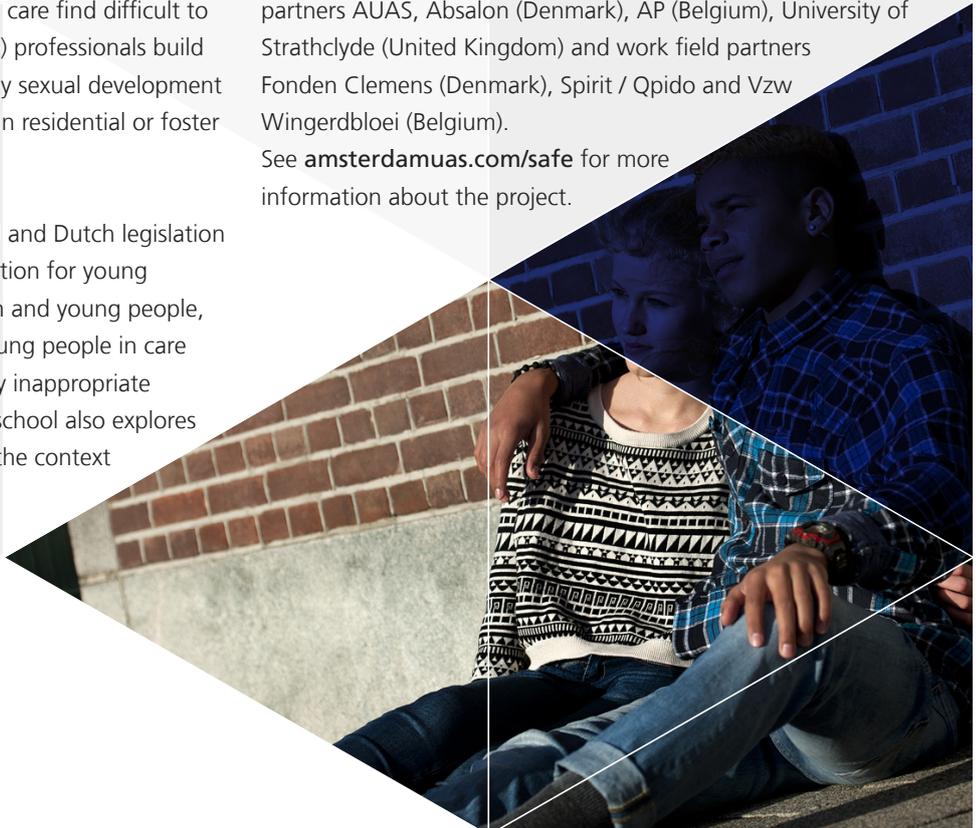
In addition the course will focus on how those working in residential and foster care should approach traumatized (sometimes sexually traumatized) young people with regard to relationship and sexuality education.

The course is built up around five themes crucial to healthy sexual development of young children. These 5 themes are:

1. Values and legislation
2. Knowledge on sexual development
3. Sexual identity
4. Sexual risk behavior
5. Talking about relationships, intimacy and sexuality with clients (foster) parents and colleagues

The summer course is one of the outcomes of the Erasmus+ project 'Safeguarding Young People in Care'. The summer course has been developed in a collaboration of university partners AUAS, Absalon (Denmark), AP (Belgium), University of Strathclyde (United Kingdom) and work field partners Fonden Clemens (Denmark), Spirit / Qpido and Vzw Wingerdbloei (Belgium).

See amsterdamuas.com/safe for more information about the project.



SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

WHO SHOULD JOIN?

The course is only open to students studying social work and pedagogical sciences.

An exception can be made for student nurses and student teachers. The program is perfectly suited for students who have already completed a work placement in a youth care institution (residential youth care, foster care supervisor), but this is not a requirement.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Values and legislation

The way we deal with relations, intimacy and sexuality in care is largely determined by our own set of values and personal experiences. It is also shaped by the context within which we work: our team, the organization and the community in which we live and work.

2. Knowledge about sexual development

Research shows that many people have misconceptions concerning the development of healthy sexuality. To be able to react in an adequate way, it is necessary that we know which behavior may be expected at which level of development.

3. Sexual identity

Sexuality has many different aspects. As professionals we need to be alert to different sexual identities of our clients. We should have special concern for the lgtb-group within care. Another element of concern is the cultural and religious background of all those involved.

4. Sexual risk behavior

How to deal with risk behavior: young people in care are at risk of sexual abuse, simply because of the reasons why they are in care. Many children and young people in care are not only at risk but also show risk behaviour.

5. Talking about sexuality with clients

Talking about relations, intimacy and sexuality (in a broad definition) turns out to be very difficult because of many things: certainly the taboo on the issue is important, but also the very personal aspect of it, the many prejudices and the context within which we have to work.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- ▶ lectures
- ▶ field visits
- ▶ group assignments
- ▶ student presentations
- ▶ role play
- ▶ self-study

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

▶ Language of instruction	English
▶ Type of assessment	Written assignment, presentation
▶ Credits	3 ECTS (Extended version 6 ECTS)
▶ Application deadline	Early Bird: 1 April 2019

COURSE LECTURERS

- ▶ Iddegien Kok (AUAS, Social Work and Community Services)
- ▶ Niels Grandal (Absalon, Social and Special Education)
- ▶ Wim van Tongel (AP, Social Educational Care Work)

CONTACT

For more information on this course, please contact Henk Pennings, h.j.pennings@hva.nl.

OHTER SOCIAL WORK COURSE

Interested in enrolling in the AUAS summer school for a (social work related) course, but not triggered by 'Safeguarding Young People'? Why not try 'Practising Human Rights in Urban Areas', where you will work on human rights challenges faced by the city of Amsterdam, especially concerning groups in challenging human rights situations. Examples of such challenged groups are refugees, people living in poverty, the LGBT-community, migrants and sex workers. Theoretical introduction to the central themes of the course will be combined with 'field lab' experiences.

INTERESTED IN OHTER SUBJECTS?

The AUAS Summer School offers a wide variety of courses:

COURSES

▶ Digital Brand Engagement	▶ Software for Sciences
▶ European Business Skills	▶ Start-Up Scale-Up Business
▶ Fashion Challenge Amsterdam	▶ Supply Chain Management
▶ Leadership in the EU	▶ Urban Entrepreneurship
▶ The Future is Now: Fashion design from concept to virtual reality	▶ Professional English & Personal Branding
▶ Urban Scan Amsterdam	

For more information about all Summer School courses, visit the website amsterdamauas.com/summerschool. Here you will also find practical information such as housing and registration deadlines.