

Module G. Children and Families in the Aftermath of Disasters – Social Work Responses (15 ECTS)

Period

1. February – 15. April

Contents

With a focus on disasters and other emergencies affecting children and families, the course gives students the opportunity to expand their repertoire and competencies by learning about approaches and methods after a local emergency situation.

The course contains the following subjects taught over 10 weeks:

- ❖ Drivers of disasters - short, medium and long term.
- ❖ Effects of disasters for people and their environments.
- ❖ Approaches to disaster intervention – contextual and legal.
- ❖ Types of responses to disasters, such as for example
 - Psycho-social support to families.
 - Case management.
 - Multi-dimensional and inter-disciplinary and co-ordinated responses.
 - Mapping needs and mapping tools.
 - Engaging local support facilities and resources.
 - Vulnerability capacity assessment.
 - Capacity building. (Institutions and training of paraprofessionals etc.).
 - Medium term and long term disaster reduction.

Student profile

The course is offered to practitioners and to incoming bachelor students with a particular interest in cross-national and cross-disciplinary approaches to disaster responses.

Although the course content is anchored in social work, the course is targeted at Social Work as well as related professions, e.g. Nursing, Social Pedagogy, Social Education, Teaching, Law, Human Resource Management, Public Management, Economics, etc.

Incoming students who wish to spend a full semester in Aarhus may add the following 10 weeks module to their course: Module E. Conflicts and Social Work (15 ECTS).

Learning outcomes

Knowledge of	Skills in	Competencies in/ability to apply
The drivers of disasters using several theoretical approaches.	Ability to place these definitions and theoretical understandings within both a theoretical and contextual understanding, such as current political, environmental, developmental understandings.	
The effect of disasters on human beings and their environments. The social and psychological and the political, social, cultural, spiritual, environmental contexts and legal framework in which responses are located.	Relating theoretical knowledge to practice.	
	Working with responses to disasters, including skills and competences in working with the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psycho-social support to families, groups and communities. • Case management. • Multi-dimensional and inter-disciplinary and co-ordinated responses. • Mapping needs and mapping tools. • Engaging local support facilities and resources. • Vulnerability capacity assessment. • Capacity building. (Institutions and training of paraprofessionals etc.). • Medium term and long term disaster reduction. • 	
Assessment format	Assessment	
A written assignment of max. 5 pages. Students identify a disaster example of their own choice for the assignment.	The examination and assessment is conducted by a teacher from the module. The basis of the assessment is the module learning outcomes and the fulfilment of these.	

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Themes	Content	Learning outcomes	Learning format
Introduction Week 1	Learning aims Teaching formats Expectations and roles Assessments Introduction to Library and library resources. Tutoring / teaching and expectations. Module website	Tuning in with teachers and fellow students. Knowledge of study culture and ways of working at the Department. Understanding of the framework and format of the module.	
Unpacking disasters Week 1 and 2	Knowledge of the drivers of disasters - short, medium and long term.	An understanding of the drivers of disasters using several theoretical approaches. Ability to place these definitions and theoretical understandings within both a theoretical and contextual understanding, such as current political, environmental, developmental understandings.	Lecture and study group work. Concluding workshop with presentation and discussion of papers. Identification of group focus field for rest of module.
Theoretical knowledge of social and psychological effects (short and medium term). The political, social, cultural, spiritual, environmental contexts and legal framework in which responses are located. Week 3 and 4	Social understandings of disasters. Psychological understandings of disasters. Human rights and the right to respond (UN rights and local and legal commitments). For example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political and economic location of understandings of disasters. • Environmental understandings of disasters. • Cultural and spiritual understandings of disasters. 	Theoretical knowledge of the effect of disasters on human beings and their environments. Theoretical knowledge of and understanding of the social and psychological and the political, social, cultural, spiritual, environmental contexts and legal framework in which responses are located.	Short introductory lectures and / or podcasts and study group work with tutoring. Concluding workshop with presentation and discussion of papers, peer and lecturer feedback.
Relating theoretical issues to practice. Week 5	Field visits / meeting with practice	Relating theoretical knowledge to current practice.	Guest teachers from practice and theory.
Responses to disasters. Week 6, 7 and 8	For example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psycho-social support to families. • Case management. • Multi-dimensional and interdisciplinary and co-ordinated responses. 	Skills and competencies in working with responses to disasters, including skills and competences in working with the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psycho-social support to families, groups and communities. • Case management. 	Learning format: Short lectures, e-resources /podcasts etc. Study group work with a workshop and the presentation of papers and peer and lecturer feedback

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping needs and mapping tools. • Engaging local support facilities and resources. • Vulnerability capacity assessment. • Capacity building. (Institutions and training of paraprofessionals etc.). • Medium term and long term disaster reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-dimensional and inter-disciplinary and co-ordinated responses. • Mapping needs and mapping tools. • Engaging local support facilities and resources. • Vulnerability capacity assessment. • Capacity building. (Institutions and training of paraprofessionals etc.). • Medium term and long term disaster reduction. 	
Assignment Week 9 and 10	Assignment	Demonstrate how the student has acquired and can disseminate knowledge, skills and competences in responding to disasters.	Plan, prepare and write assignment.

Learning formats

Full time study throughout the 10 weeks.

A mix of learning formats are applied, e.g.

- Introductory lectures supported by reading of text materials and articles.
- Individual studies and group work
- Guest lecturers and field visits
- Written assignments

Place

Socialrådgiveruddannelsen i Aarhus
 Department of Social Work, Aarhus
 VIA University College
 Ceresbyen 24
 DK - 8000 Aarhus C
 Denmark

Entrance criteria

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Bachelor and master students. Practitioners with a similar degree.
Applicants must have sufficient oral and written English language skills.

Application

Students from partner universities:

A student application for an exchange must be forwarded by the International Coordinator or The International Office of the student's home university. Prior to the student's arrival in Aarhus, the home institution must have approved the exchange visit, as well as reached a decision on merit and credit transfer.

Free movers:

Students from other universities are strongly advised to seek approval within their home university before applying for entry to the course.

Practitioners:

Social Work practitioners as well as related professions, e.g. Nursing, Social Pedagogy, Social Education, Teaching, Law, Human Resource Management, Public Management, Economics, etc. are most welcome to apply.

Application deadline: 1. November.

Application form at en.via.dk. (<http://en.via.dk/programmes/education-and-social-studies/working-in-the-context-of-disaster-or-conflict-exchange>)

Contact person:

Anne-Mette N. Søndergaard International Administrative Coordinator: amsj@via.dk

Tuition fees

There are no tuition fees for students from partner universities of VIA University College within the framework of Erasmus+, Nordplus or similar student mobility programmes.

For practitioners and students from institutions without a bilateral partner agreement with VIA University College the tuition fee for a 15 ECTS module is € 1918.