CURRICULUM 2021

GLOBAL CHANGE IN COMMUNITIES

MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL SERVICES 90 ECTS
DIACONIA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

MASTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MASTER OF HEALTH CARE

2021

DIAKONIA-AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU
DIACONIA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

The Master's Degree programmes focus on developing the working life and deepening professional expertise, skills and qualifications. Global Change in Communities is a Master's Degree (90 ECTS) that prepares students for interdisciplinary work that reduces inequalities and promotes sustainable development, health and well-being in communities. The Master's degree programme is aimed at people who work in social services, public health care or the third sector and who are interested in developing communities through sustainable community development, the distinct perspectives of an eco-social approach and through innovative and collaborative leadership.

The degree programme focuses on global change in communities, sustainable development and community-based work and methods. In addition, students can choose from the elective study modules Eco-Social Change and Social Innovation as well as Innovative and Collaborative Leadership. After completing the programme, students will be able to analyse and critically evaluate global changes in communities and develop and promote community-based work and methods. Students will be able to analyse different perspectives of sustainable development as well as the eco-social approach and its relevance to current debates on global, regional and local challenges. Innovative and collaborative leadership studies promote intersectoral leadership and co-creation competences in the field of social and health care services in community development.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must have a suitable bachelor's degree in one of the following fields to apply: social services, social work, diocesan social work, youth work, nursing, public health nursing and community work. Applicants also need to have at least two years of relevant work experience gained after the completion of their university (bachelor's) degree.

PEDAGOGIC IMPLEMENTATION

The study programme is completed online with the help of student and work-based learning environments and collaborative and time-bound learning methods. The language of instruction is English. The programme students can also collaborate with associates from other European universities.

The Master's programme follows the Degree Regulations of Diaconia University of Applied Sciences:

- Evaluation Criteria
- Identification and Recognition of Prior-Learning (RPL)
- Principles of Blended Learning

The planned duration of the Master's degree programme (90 ECTS) is 2 years. The studies can be completed in 1.5 years. In the beginning of the studies, students will choose 20 ECTS of elective studies in accordance their personal study and career plan.

Students can choose elective studies in English from the degree programme's available elective modules (e.g. Eco-Social Change and Social Innovation, Innovative and Collaborative Leadership) or from other master's degree programmes. Students can also choose electives offered by Diak's partner universities.

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GLOBAL CHANGE IN COMMUNITIES

MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL SERVICES 90 ECTS

ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES	**20 ECTS**
Professional development and expertise	5 ECTS
Academic writing and research communication	5 ECTS
Research methods	5 ECTS
Research methods in practice	5 ECTS
ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN SOCIAL SERVICES	**20 ECTS**
Social justice from a global perspective	5 ECTS
Sustainable development in communities	5 ECTS
Communities in change	5 ECTS
Methods and practices in community-based work	5 ECTS
ELECTIVE STUDIES	**20 ECTS**
THESIS	**30 ECTS**

PRO0005Y21S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXPERTISE 5 ECTS

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student:

- is able to analyse national and international competence requirements in diverse, continuously changing interdisciplinary environments.
- is able to recognise their professional development needs, strengths and priorities and create a personal development plan.
- is committed to life-long learning and continuous professional development.
- promotes the philosophical and ethical foundations of decision-making in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- develops their self-management skills and acts actively as an expert at the regional, national and international levels.

ACA0005Y21S ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATION 5 ECTS

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student:

- develops their academic writing competence and critical reflection skills.
- develops their written and oral academic writing presentation competence in an accurate, appropriate and convincing manner.
- is able to analyse, evaluate and synthesize information critically, creatively and understandably.
- is able to communicate the key messages, findings and implications in different networks.
- is able to use appropriate self-assessment and peer-assessment methods in academic writing and presentations.

RME0005Y21S RESEARCH METHODS 5 ECTS

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student is able to:

- describe the nature of quantitative and qualitative research as well as the premises of the methodology and philosophy of science.
- search for and critically evaluate national and international quantitative and qualitative scientific information and apply it to research, development and innovation (RDI) activities in accordance with the defined problem or purpose.
- justify the most appropriate data acquisition and data analysis method for the defined problem or purpose.
- design a plan for work-based RDI activities and embed ethical aspects into the research project.
- analyse and evaluate the validity and reliability of RDI activities.

RMP0005Y21S RESEARCH METHODS IN PRACTICE 5 ECTS

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student is able to:

- apply quantitative and/ qualitative research methods appropriately to acquire and analyse information.
- apply participatory research methods in practice.
- analyse, interpret and report the RDI results and how they can be implemented in practice.
- follow the principles of responsible conduct in research, data protection and research ethics.
- apply the principles of open science and research in RDI activities.

SOC0005Y21S SOCIAL JUSTICE FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE 5 ECTS

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student is able to:

- critically analyse the impact of globalisation on communities.
- analyse the interconnectedness of global challenges.
- analyse the concepts and theories related to social justice and human rights from a global perspective.
- explain and analyse the impact of inequality, migration and humanitarian crisis on communities.
- apply the elements of social justice and wellbeing to community development.

SUS0005Y21S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITIES 5 ECTS

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student is able to:

- analyse the concepts and theories of multidimensional sustainable development.
- analyse the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental perspectives.
- analyse the opportunities and obstacles of sustainable development in urban and rural contexts.
- promote integrated action to combat social, economic and environmental challenges in communities.
- apply sustainable developmental goals to community development in practice.

COM0005Y21S COMMUNITIES IN CHANGE 5 ECTS

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student is able to:

- analyse the evolution of communities at the global and local level.
- analyse the challenges and opportunities faced by new forms of communities.
- evaluate new forms of governance, civil society and community action.
- promote inclusion and good relations between population groups in communities.
- apply community analysis and impact assessment in practice.

MET0005Y21S METHODS AND PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY-BASED WORK 5 ECTS

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student is able to:

- analyse the theoretical perspectives of community development critically.
- analyse community development policies and models in a global context.
- evaluate processes and outcomes of community development.
- promote partnerships, networking and multi-agency work in communities.
- apply participatory and asset-based methods in community-based work.

THESIS — 30 ECTS

A thesis is a research and development project that will be completed during the entire study process in collaboration with working life partners.

Objectives/ learning outcomes

The student is able to:

- select and integrate an appropriate theoretical and conceptual framework to structure all aspects of the RDI process.
- apply appropriate research and development methods to RDI projects in a systematic and ethical manner.
- act with initiative and responsibly when carrying out RDI activities with relevant partners and organisations.
- report and disseminate the results of RDI projects.
- critically assess the results of RDI when developing professional practice.

ELECTIVE STUDIES — 20 ECTS

In the beginning of the studies, students choose 20 ECTS of elective studies in accordance with their personal study and career plan.

Students can choose elective studies in English from the degree programme's available elective modules (e.g. Eco-Social Change and Social Innovation, Innovative and Collaborative Leadership) or from other Master's degree programmes. Students can also choose electives offered by Diak's partner universities.

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