

Social Work for a Challenging Society

International Semester Programme

September 2023 — February 2024
Bachelor of Social Work

2023
2024

think. act. become.

International semester programme

- 30 ECTS
- Taught in English
- Autumn Semester
- Mid-September - End of January (specific dates can be found on the website)

In Belgium as well as in Europa and worldwide, the societal, cultural, economic and political context changes rapidly and affects living conditions.

These changes give rise to challenges that impact the competences and the profession of social workers.

The package of courses is designed to effectively make you a future proof, versatile professional that answers to a diverse range of needs and issues by means of multiple considered approaches.

There is room for application of current methodologies, refreshing frameworks and innovative practice as well as personal and professional development.

The bachelor in Social Work of Artevelde University of Applied Science is committed to a strong generic competence profile that can be deployed in various professional contexts.

Challenged? Curious?
We invite you to take part in this programme!

Competences

think & act



Professional identity

become





Courses

Mixed groups with local students

Global and local social work

5 ECTS

Social work covers a wide range of social interventions, involves various actors and interacts dynamically with the broader society on a local and global level. This course focusses on gaining a deeper insight in social work by means of local, global and comparative perspectives. The principle question we will deal with is how global phenomena and trends can have an impact on social work in a local context in general and on the job floor in particular.

Study visits in Ghent, testimonials of social workers and theoretical framing are all ways to better understand social work in a local context (definition, vision, professional field and practice ...). The influence of and interaction with a dynamic societal, cultural and economic context, and addressing current challenges are important elements of this story, as well as discovering the boundaries and opportunities of social work.

Social innovation project

8 ECTS

Social work is an action-oriented profession, innovative answers are needed due to new upcoming social issues. Starting from a concrete research question, a wicked problem or challenging social issue students are collaborating in small groups to create an innovative output or answer.

The project will be carried out in co-creation with a local professional organisation and coached by a lecturer.

Professional development

3 ECTS

The professional context of a social worker is very dynamic and is continuously challenging. Professional development is a process which should be ongoing and involves the critical reviewing of practice to identify learning requirements. It serves as the crossroads where frameworks, social research, field experience and personal growth meet to integrate into a unique and continually developing professional identity.

It also implies an awareness of and well-founded vision on the challenges social work faces in today's world. Students reflect actively on their own professional identity and how to respond to the rising challenges for our profession in a globalised and ever-shifting world.

Storytelling

3 ECTS

Social work starts by connecting with people in / and with their environment(s). Vulnerabilities and inequalities on individual as well as structural level are growing and new forms of needs are emerging. The professional positioning of social work demands both an examination of and a response to the complex configuration of needs produced by these effects.

Storytelling or the narrative approach can provide a basic understanding of what works and what does not. Grasping the stories of people on the individual, group as well as community level suggest qualified solutions as input in the decision making process of social change. The course explores several methods and perspectives on this issue.

Online social work

4 ECTS

If social work fails to embrace digital, it runs the risk of becoming irrelevant. Especially since the pandemic social work professionals in welfare, e-mental health and education are challenged to be active online. In online chat services, in chatrooms, and on social media. Organisations are forced to explore new boundaries and develop strategies and methods to reach people online. The constant flood of digital and other technological tools adds a new set of competencies especially for social work professionals.

Use of this technology requires a great deal of technical mastery in addition to awareness of, and compliance with, rapidly evolving ethical issues and challenges. Central question of this course: How can we strengthen organisations in their online processes of communication, care and co-creation? This course focuses on the reflection on specific apps in either online and blended care or online social work with groups. In addition, students will gain some hands-on experience in the methodology of using online tools as a social worker.

Diversity

3 ECTS

Facing the reality of diversity and being able as social worker to deal with this reality is the focus of this course. Diversity is defined very broadly but at the same time very tangible. We approach the reality of diversity by different perspectives and in diverse contexts/settings. The individual as well as structural aspects of diversity as well as the societal and personal impacts are discussed. Related issues such as exclusion, xenophobia, racism, polarization... Diversity is also challenging the social worker's role and position and asks for innovative answers and the design of inclusive approaches.

Policy influencing

4 ECTS

Social problems are often structural problems. Addressing them at an individual level can be useful for the concerned individual, but will never rid society of the problem in itself. Social work functions within a society that is organised by rules and politics, which can vary over different societies and timeframes.

Therefore, the social work profession must have a policy-oriented mission. The social worker must support dialogue and participation, not only between different groups of society, but between individuals, groups and society itself. To reach the fundamental goals of social justice a social worker must relate to politics and will sometimes be required to influence government policy or shape it.

A basic knowledge of how governments work and how one can act to influence their policy is a basic necessity for any social worker. In this course you will learn how to make a policy analysis of a structural problem and plan actions to influence the policy in that situation. The main focus is on the European policy level.

The International Semester is aimed at students...

- *in the subject area of Social Work or disciplines related to Social Work*
- *from Higher Education Partner Institutes with which we have an agreement*
- *with an advanced level (obtained 60 ECTS in social work or related studies)*
- *sufficiently proficient in English, level B2*

If you want to come to Ghent for a whole year, we recommend you combine it with the programme 'Together for Social Education.'



Interested?

Next steps and procedure

Step 1

Nomination by the International Officer of your institution

Email the following documents to international.socialwork@arteveldehs.be:

- data of the selected student
- confirmation that the student meets the necessary requirements, such as the advanced level and the language skills.

Step 2

Application by the student

The student enrolls in the online mobility application on www.artevelde-uas.be/enrolment

Period of online application:
15 March 2023 — 15 May 2023

Location

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Artevelde University of Applied Sciences
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