



SPRING SEMESTER: FEBRUARY – JUNE

Location: Department of Social Education JYDSK, Aarhus.

This international course focuses on how children and youth can benefit from exploring and experiencing their physical surroundings and heighten their body awareness, pleasure in activity, performance and health.

The Danish pedagogical tradition strongly emphasises the free and self-governed child and youth that must be stimulated through inspiring surroundings in a democratic context. This course will provide students with relevant knowledge, competencies and skills in order to understand and work with nature, health, body and physical activity.

The duration of the course is 4 ½ months which constitute 30 ECTS points.

The course is conducted in English with the following learning situations:

- Theories and methodology focusing on pedagogy in an outdoor and democratic context
- Theories and methodology focusing on health, body and life quality in a pedagogic perspective
- Individual practical placement in a professional setting
- The course is open to both foreign and Danish students on the fourth semester at VIA University College, Department of Social Education JYDSK, Aarhus.

MODULE 1:

Danish pedagogy and democracy in theory and practice: 7 ECTS points

The module will investigate how the pedagogical work for children and youth is based on supporting children's and young people's learning, development, cultural formation, care and socialization. Theories on pedagogy and pedagogical practice will be examined and discussed.

The module will examine how the pedagogical approach to children and young people embodies an ideal of a free and competent individual that acts in close interaction with other human beings. The students will investigate the relationship between the individual, the group and the wider society and the ideals and practical implications of active citizenship, rights and participation.

The module will focus on the following issues:

- Understanding of pedagogical practice
- Child-centred pedagogy
- Democracy and active citizenship
- The Welfare State

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge of and skills in:

- Pedagogy and pedagogical work as learning, development, up bringing, cultural formation, care and socialization
- Views of human nature and understanding of democracy in pedagogical work as in society in general
- Pedagogical work seen in the context of the Nordic Welfare State
- Theory and practice on active citizenship and participation of children and young people

Competencies in:

- Analytical and critical reflections on pedagogy and pedagogical work
- Understanding the significance for the connection between the pedagogical work and the democratic society in general

MODULE 2:

Outdoor approach to the pedagogical practice: 7 ECTS points

The module will investigate how different types of outdoor excursions can be used as pedagogical projects, how nature and experiences in nature can attribute importance in pedagogy, and how social educators can carry out field trips with an emphasis on experience, learning and nature-specific formation.

Students will examine different types of nature activities, visit specialist outdoor institutions and test different kinds of outdoor activities with children. There will be a field trip in canoes/kayaks and the students will have the opportunity to stay overnight in nature during the module. Some of the areas the module will investigate are:

- The development and testing of nature activities targeted at children and youth
- Experimental, scientific and environmental ways of working in nature
- The discussion and practical experience of how domestic animals and pets can be part of pedagogical work
- Wild animals and plants in their natural surroundings

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge of:

- The pedagogical possibilities in selected biotopes
- How different groups can learn and develop in nature

Skills in:

- How to carry out outdoor activities with a focus on the Nordic concept of "friluftsliv"
- How to organise learning activities for selected groups in nature

Competencies in:

- Carrying out different kinds of pedagogical activities in nature with children and youth
- How to focus on nature-specific formation as part of the pedagogical work in nature

MODULE 3:

Health, body and movement in pedagogical practice: 7 ECTS points

The module will focus on subjects such as health, physical ability, nutrition, movement, sports, water activities, dance and play. In these contexts, the social educator is an important, skilled professional who by means of his/her

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knowledge, skills, practical abilities and general reflection can initiate learning processes, which will encourage immediate health and well-being as well as a long-term motivation for a healthy lifestyle.

The module will focus on:

- Physical activities such as play, games, dance, swimming and other water activities
- Motivating and encouraging physical activities
- Fitness training, movement exercise and theory of training
- The importance of body expression in relation to health
- Learning through aesthetics and creativity

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge of:

- The pedagogical opportunities in relation to physical activities
- How do physical activities increase body-consciousness, state of health and need for physical activity and expression

Skills in:

- Carrying out physical activities
- Organizing learning activities in consideration of physiological, health and social conditions

Competencies in:

- Understanding the importance of physical as well as creative processes in relation to human development and life conditions
- Substantiating and expressing health; the potentials of educational movement, experience, culture and health

MODULE 4:

Practical Placement: 7 ECTS points

This module gives the student the possibility to choose an individual practical placement at a specific pedagogical facility focusing on outdoor activities or health and physically orientated pedagogical activities.

Fees and Housing:

There are no tuition fees for Erasmus bilateral partners of VIA University College.

For students coming from institutions without a bilateral partner agreement with VIA University College and for all non-European students the tuition fee is € 3,200.

Department of Social Education JYDSK, Aarhus, will assist in finding housing.

Application:

Deadline for application is 15 November. The course starts 1 February and is of 4½ months' duration. Send applications to Senior Lecturer Helle Johnsen hjo@viauc.dk

Download the application form from this website: www.viauc.dk/jydsk

The international course is open to students attending similar programmes at colleges and universities and to postgraduates who wish to acquire knowledge of and skills and competencies in pedagogical theory and practice of nature, health and democracy in pedagogy.

Focus will be on the student's abilities to observe and participate in pedagogical activities.

Before and during the placement, the student will receive guidance from a member of the staff at the faculty. This person is overall responsible for the placement. The student will also be supervised by a member of the staff at the pedagogical facility.

Before the placement period starts, the student will write down both personal and professional objectives, which include the knowledge, skills and competencies he/she aims to acquire. These objectives will provide a basis for the assessment that is carried out between the two supervisors at the end of the practical placement.

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge of:

- The nature and style of the work carried out at the placement facility as well as knowledge of the physical environment and social climate of the workplace
- The people attending the facility and their particular needs as a group

Skills in:

- How to observe, describe and analyse pedagogical work in practice
- How to plan and carry out pedagogical work in relation to a specific group of people

Competencies in:

- Developing practical and theoretical know-how about pedagogical work
- Planning, carrying out and evaluating pedagogical activities

MODUL 5:

Assessment: 2 ECTS points

Based on the experiences from the practical placement, the student will write a report which the student defends at an individual oral examination.

Academic and practical questions

If you have academic and practical questions please contact Senior Lecturer Helle Johnsen hjo@viauc.dk or contact Project Secretary Ulla Røjmer Nordstrøm, the International Department, urn@viauc.dk, International Office: 00 45 87 55 35 18.

About Aarhus

With a population of more than 300,000, Aarhus is Denmark's second largest city. It is at heart, however, also Denmark's youngest city when you consider the average age of its inhabitants which is far lower than anywhere else in the country. At the University of Aarhus and VIA University College alone, there are nearly 40,000 students, and there are a total of 25 educational and research institutions in the city. But Aarhus is also a city with clearly visible roots, founded, as it was, by the Vikings in the 8th century. Aarhus is close to the sea and forests.

