

STUDY IN DENMARK

CHILDREN AT RISK

1ST SEPTEMBER – 20TH DECEMBER 2011

“Children at Risk” is an international course of 30 ECTS for students of social pedagogy or social work.

University College

SEALAND



WWW.UCCSJ.DK/INTERNATIONAL

CHILDREN AT RISK

“Children at Risk” is offered by University College Sealand at Campus Roskilde. The working language of the course is English.

PARTICIPANTS

For “Children at Risk 2011” we accept 20-25 international students from social pedagogy, social work or related bachelor programmes. We give high priority to the diversity of the group.

It is preferable that the students have had some practical experience.

The Children at Risk programme is based on dialogue and on a participatory approach to learning. All students are expected to take an active part in the study activities and to contribute to the learning process through discussions, presentations and the exchange of professional experiences and reflections.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To gain insight into theory, methods and ethics related to professional social pedagogical work with children, youth and families at risk
- To understand the significance of a participatory, inclusive approach to children and youth at risk.
- To develop competences for professional critical reflection on pedagogical approaches and methods
- To develop personal competences for intercultural communication and cooperation
- To develop competences for carrying out problem-oriented project work
- To understand the significance of creative and aesthetic processes to personal and social development
- To gain insight into the potential of creative and aesthetic expressions in pedagogical work

CONTENTS

The course has the following elements:

- A. Cultural understanding and intercultural competence5 ECTS
- B. Creative and aesthetical expressions related to pedagogical work5 ECTS
- C. Children and Youth at Risk. Theory and practice.10 ECTS
- D. Problem oriented project related to Children and Youth at Risk10 ECTS

Introduction

During the first week team and class building activities are aimed at students getting to know each other, the college and the teaching and learning approach in the programme. The students present and compare their education and their future profession related to children and youth at risk in their home countries.

A. Cultural understanding and intercultural competence

The course is organized in a way that will enable the students to get experiences and develop their personal competence in intercultural communication and cooperation during the whole period. Their awareness and insight is increased through the reading of theory, discussions, exercises, presentations and creative processes. The students will document and reflect on their own experiences and learning process throughout the entire module. We will focus on:

- Communication and cooperation in a social – constructive perspective
- Different concepts of culture
- Living and working in social and culturally diverse groups
- Conflict management
- Appreciative inquiry and response

“Working in an intercultural group is an experience for lifetime.

I learned a lot by it for my personal development and I had a lot of new insights – also about my own country”

B. Creative and aesthetical expressions

Developing creative skills of expression in subjects such as drama, music, physical activities and visual art is an integrated and valuable part of the Danish education. The students will be introduced to social pedagogical methods that focus on the combination of the physical, emotional and intellectual aspects of learning and personal development. Students will meet pedagogues who use their creative skills in the pedagogical work. Creative subjects will also be included in activities such as documentation and team-building. The aim is that the students are able to:

- Motivate and substantiate the pedagogical and cultural potential of creative and aesthetical expressions in pedagogical work with the target group
- Understand the significance of creative processes on human development and possibilities in life

C. Children and Youth at Risk.

Theory and Practice

The students will be engaged in a variety of study activities; lectures, texts, group work, class discussions, case work, role play etc.

To train critical reflection the students will work in small international groups to compare and discuss the differences in social conditions, in professional approaches and in practice experiences from the students' home countries.

To study social pedagogical work in practice the students will go for field visits and share their findings and reflections with each other through written reports and presentations.

Focus will be on the following topics:

- Understanding risk, protection and resilience
- Processes of social exclusion and social inclusion and the significance for the lives and the well-being of children and youth
- Children's rights - legislation and conventions
- Approaches, methods and values in professional practice with children and youth - in prevention, outreach and residential care
- Applying a child's perspective, child participation
- Systemic and narrative ways of working with children, youth and families at risk
- Ethics in social practice with children and youth at risk

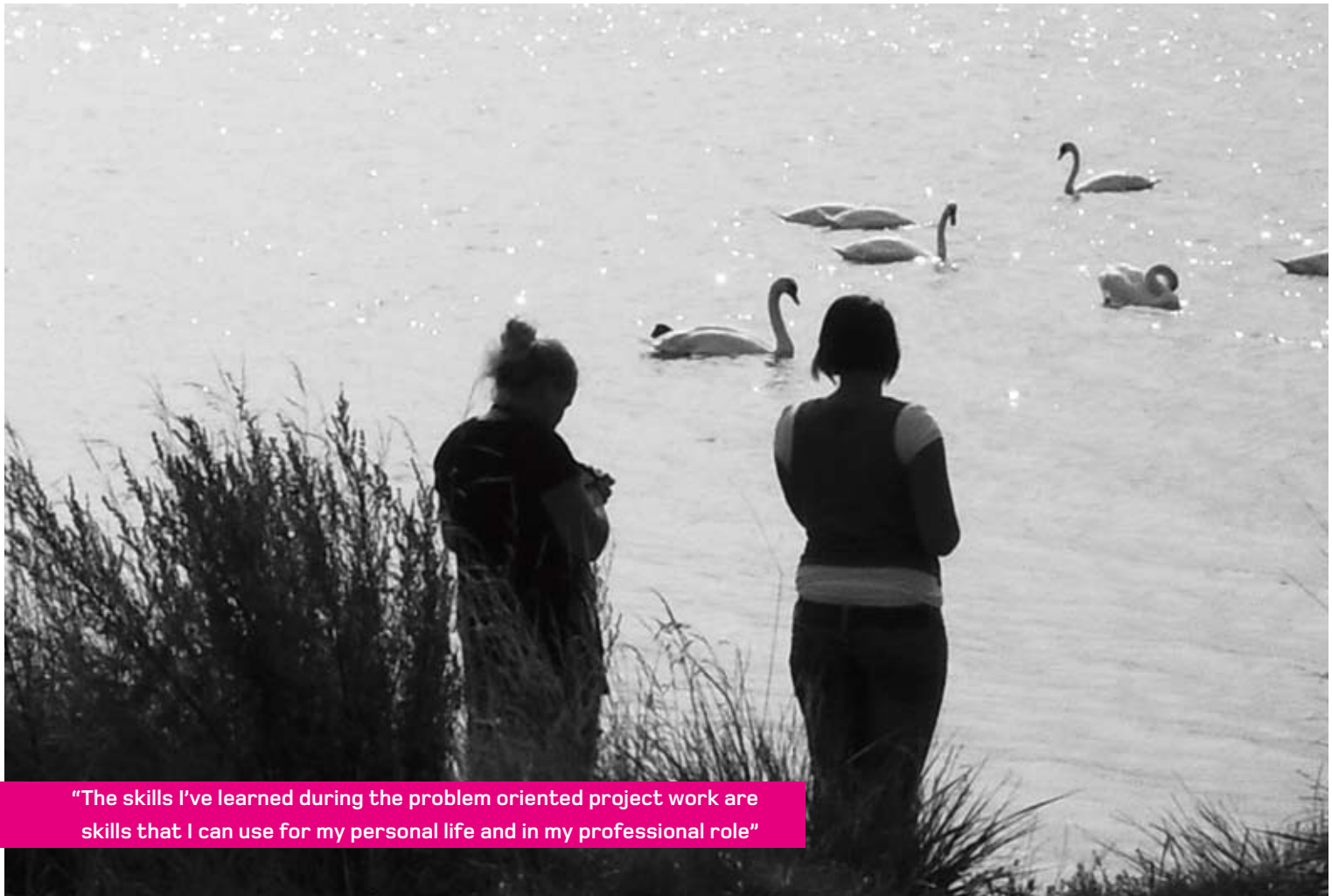
D. Project Work

The focus of the project work is on a problem from the professional practice of social pedagogues working with children, youth or families at risk. The project work is carried out in small cross-national groups.

The project group chooses a target group and identifies the problem they want to address. They choose the methods they find relevant for exploring the problem in theory and practice. The group members work together to collect and analyze theoretical and empirical material which contributes to the understanding of the character, the context and the implications of the problem. Furthermore, the group discusses the problem and how to deal with it in professional social practice. The group works independently, supported by written guidelines and meetings with their supervising teacher.

The project group concludes the work with a project report and an oral presentation of their findings and their professional reflections.

Each project group prepares a professional response on a project made by one of the other project groups, and all students take part in the discussion of problems presented by other groups.



"The skills I've learned during the problem oriented project work are skills that I can use for my personal life and in my professional role"

ASSESSMENT

The study value of the “Children at Risk” programme is 30 ECTS. The student’s achievements throughout the course will be assessed by the team of teachers in terms of a global assessment. This global assessment is based on the quality of the student’s products, for example written assignments, oral presentations, project report etc. together with an assessment of the student’s participation in the study activities throughout the programme.

At the completion of the programme the student will receive a Diploma stating the learning outcomes of the course, the subject of the student’s project work and the result of the global assessment. The result of the assessment is either: pass or fail. If a partner institution requires an assessment in terms of a grade, the global assessment will be given as a grade within the Danish grading system, which is compatible to the ECTS grading system.

GRANTS

University College Sealand has bilateral Erasmus exchange agreements with university colleges and other educational institutions in most of the countries in Europe. Likewise we have Nordplus agreements with some schools in Scandinavia. An exchange agreement between the schools will qualify you for grants and allow you to engage in student exchange without tuition fee. Ask your international coordinator if our institutions have an exchange agreement or to contact us to make one.

ACCOMMODATION

If you need it, we shall help you find accommodation.

STUDY IN ROSKILDE, DENMARK!

Spend 4 months in an international group of students. You will qualify for professional practice with child protection through varied and engaging study activities including project work and visits to Danish institutions.

Your participation in a creative international study environment will open your mind and develop your intercultural competence.

Campus Roskilde is situated 35 minutes from central Copenhagen. Roskilde is an ancient city with a rich cultural life close to the vibrant social life of the Danish capital.

CONTACT

Place: University College Sealand, Campus Roskilde
Faculty of Social Education and Social Work
Ibsgaarden 222, DK-4000 Roskilde

Contact: Jo Gudmand-Høyer, jgh@ucsj.dk
Anne Liebing, anl@ucsj.dk

ECTS: 30 ECTS credit value

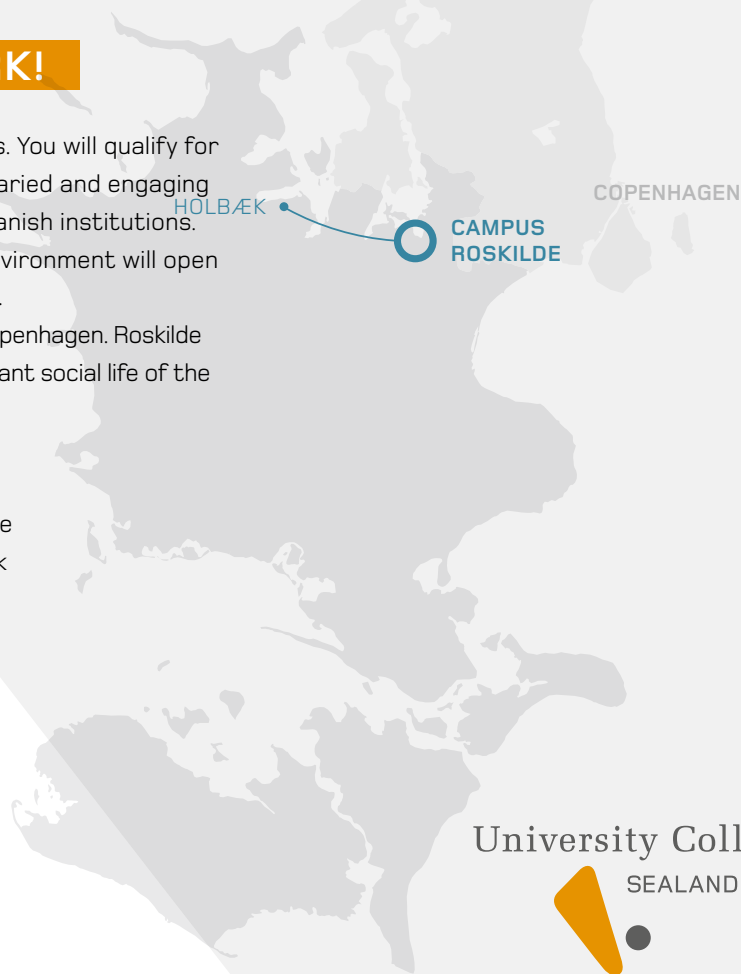
Period: 1st Sept. 2011 – 20th Dec. 2011

APPLICATION

Deadline for application 3rd May 2011

Application forms are available at www.ucsj.dk

www.studyindenmark.dk



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