Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Orientation placement
Course Code	51125
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	NN
Language	Italian; English; German
Degree Course	Bachelor in Social Work
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Dr. Elisabeth Berger, elisabeth.berger@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/17921 Dr. Christina Eberhöfer, Christina.Eberhoefer3@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/4127
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	All semesters
Course Year/s	1
CP	4
Teaching Hours	80 Internship
Lab Hours	20
Individual Study Hours	0
Planned Office Hours	0
Contents Summary	Practical orientation has a high priority in the social work degree programme. With regard to the required theory-practice relationship, practical study and training phases are important and central components of the overall training programme. Practical training phases must be consciously structured, planned and, in this sense, guided teaching and learning processes. The practical training phases of the degree programme are about much

	more than just observing everyday routines, but also about active and responsible participation in a practical field. The orientation internship provides an insight into a selected field of action and an initial examination of the role and practice of social work. Students analyse the organisational context as well as the applicable legal provisions and socio-political framework conditions. They observe and analyse the access requirements for the field of action and its services. They participate actively and responsibly under the guidance of the practice tutor. They reflect on their practical experience, both individually and in groups under the guidance of the academic tutors. They combine the theories acquired during their studies with their practical experience. - Direct internship: 80 hours of orientation internship in a field of social work. These 80 hours must be spread over a period of at least three weeks. - Indirect internship: 20 hours of participation in events accompanying the internship ("Internship Reflection" laboratory). Completion of an orientation internship of at least 100 hours in a field of social work (direct and indirect internship) is a prerequisite for taking the internship examination. General information on the internship can be found in the internship regulations. Hours completed in the internship (direct internship) are confirmed by the internship tutor in the evaluation form on the CareerHub portal. Participation in the indirect internship is confirmed by the academic tutors who maintain the corresponding list of participants.
Course Topics	Practical orientation has a high priority in the social work degree programme. With regard to the required theory-practice relationship, practical study and training phases are important and central components of the overall training programme. Practical training phases must be consciously structured, planned and, in this sense, guided teaching and learning processes. The practical training phases of the degree programme are about much more than just observing everyday routines, but also about active and responsible participation in a practical field.

	The orientation internship provides an insight into a selected field of action and an initial examination of the role and practice of social work. The students analyse the organisational context as well as the applicable legal provisions and socio-political framework conditions. They observe and analyse the access requirements for the field of action and its offers, they participate actively and responsibly under the guidance of the company tutor, they reflect on their practical experience, both individually and in groups under the guidance of the academic tutors, and they combine the theories acquired during their studies with their practical experience. The internship consists of 2 parts. 1) INDIRECT INTERNSHIP as support during the first practical experience. The challenge of transferring theory to practice becomes particularly apparent as soon as students are confronted with practical experience in complex fields of action in professional social work. For this reason, in the "Practice Reflection" laboratories, students' experiences are linked back to university theory and students are encouraged to actively engage with their learning experiences in the group, both on an individual and on a systemic and organisational level. Observation at the meta-level and self-reflection play an essential role in the development of social work competences. The academic tutors use supervisory methods and techniques such as exemplary group work, role-playing, didactic exercises, preparation of practice protocols and others. The active participation of students is required. According to the programme regulations, attendance is compulsory as for all laboratories. The indirect internship comprises 20 hours and includes the preparation meetings for the internship, supervision during the internship and reflection at the end through the "practical reflection" laboratories and participation in the internship days. The dates for the laboratories are published in the university lecture calendar. 2) DIRECT INTERNSHIP to be completed in a field of social work

	chosen by the student. If necessary, the academic tutors will support students in choosing a suitable internship. Internships can be completed in South Tyrol, in the rest of the country and abroad. In the case of an internship abroad, it is possible to take part in the Erasmus Traineeship programme. The Career Service can provide information. The decisive criterion for the approval of internship applications is whether they are in line with the educational objectives of the degree programme.
Keywords	Orientation placement, laboratory "Internship reflection"
Recommended Prerequisites	none
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	Upon approval of the internship applications, students are assigned an academic tutor who accompanies them throughout the internship. The direct and indirect internships take place in presence. Teaching methods Indirect internship: - Interactive method, - group work, - individual pair and group reflection, using various reflection and supervision models. Teaching methods Direct practical training: - Observation, - active and reflective participation in everyday working life at the placement centre, - Assumption of subtasks in consultation with the practical tutor and the academic tutors.
Mandatory Attendance	In accordance with the regulation
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	The aim of the orientation placement is to gain initial practical experience in a field of social work and to link this with and reflect on the knowledge acquired during the course of study on the basic principles, ethics, theories, methods and organisation of social work, as well as on the fundamentals of social policy. Specific educational objectives of the internship in the first year of study are:

	- Insight into and initial examination of the role and practice of social work in a selected field of activity; - Analysis of the organisational context as well as the applicable legal provisions and socio-political framework conditions; - Analysis of the admission requirements and the services offered; - Utilisation of acquired knowledge and initial development of professional skills for interpreting and assessing different needs and for participatory assistance planning; - Reflection on practical experience; - Establishment of links between theory and practice.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	The overarching aim of the orientation internship is to gain initial practical experience in an area of social service work and to reflect on this by using the knowledge acquired during the course about the basic principles of social work, ethics, theories, methods and organisation of social work as well as the socio-political foundations. The specific objectives of the internship are mainly to gain an insight - the role and practice of social services in the chosen field of work - the organisational context, the legal provisions and the social policy framework in which the service operates - the conditions of access and the services offered by the service. Expected learning outcomes - Utilisation of theory-practice transfer by reflecting on practical experience and making connections between theory and practice - Development of initial professional competences for the interpretation and participatory planning of the support service or project, e.g. practical documentation, conducting discussions and rules of communication. Formal preparations: Students* must register on the Career Hub platform. The internship project must then be entered online by the internship centre via the Career Hub platform. The Internship and Job Service (careerservice@unibz.it or 0471/012700) can help with this. Deadline for submission of internship project: Friday, 13 March 2026

	The internship period and the exact timetable will be agreed between the student and the internship tutor and specified in the internship application. The preparation of the detailed timetable for the internship is the responsibility of the student and the tutor of the host department and can be organised flexibly, taking into account their respective availability and the needs of the department. Students are insured for the entire period specified in the internship project. If the orientation internship is to be extended beyond this specified period, this must be requested online via the CareerHub portal at least one week before the originally specified end date of the orientation internship. If this is not done, the insurance cover will not be extended and the internship may not be continued beyond the originally planned period. If the internship ends earlier than planned, the CareerService must also be informed promptly.
Assessment	The exam consists of writing a report and an oral examination in which the internship report is discussed and experiences during the orientation internship are critically reflected upon: • Internship report (see guidelines for orientation internship reports); Deadline for submission is two weeks before the internship exam by uploading it to the CareerHub portal and sending it by email to the respective academic tutor • Oral exam with members of the internship committee. The oral exam consists of a critical reflection on the orientation internship in a social service as well as on the content covered in the indirect internship.
Evaluation Criteria	The orientation internship is graded with a single mark, taking the following points into account: 1. The written report on the orientation internship (assessed by the academic tutors in terms of content and formal correctness, clarity of expression and use of technical terminology, presence of appropriate references, ability to argue, critical analysis, ability to reflect on oneself);

	2. The internship experience in a social service (evaluated by the practical tutor) 3. The oral exam on critical reflection, including active participation in the proposed activities The final grade is composed of 70% from points 1 and 2 and 30% from point 3.
Required Readings	Codice deontologico dell'Assistente Sociale Cornice legislativa e normativa regolante l'ambito di servizio sociale scelto.
Supplementary Readings	Wird im Rahmen des Labors bekannt gegeben
Further Information	Consultation hours with the academic tutors can be arranged individually (in person or online via Teams). In any case, an enquiry via e-mail is required.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Quality education, Good health and well-being