

## **The Social Work Programme**

The aim of the social work programme is to qualify students professionally and personally to practice social work independently and in cross-disciplinary co-operation upon completion of the programme.

In accordance with the general development in society and in the fields of social work and science the programme must qualify students to carry out theoretical and practical social work and counselling. The Bachelor Programme in Social Work must enable students to identify, describe, analyse, evaluate and act according to different living conditions and social problems at an individual level, at group level and in relation to organisations and society as a whole. Students must acquire knowledge of and insight into the situations of the target groups and environments enabling them to make changes and act as social workers both in a public and a private context.

Completion of the social work programme confers the title "Bachelor of Social Work".

### **Core competencies**

Students must be qualified to:

1. practice and co-ordinate social work and plan social measures as well as providing guidance and counselling and implement preventive measures,
2. obtain critical and analytic competence with a view to identifying, describing and evaluating social problems in their entity and choosing relevant methods and measures in relation to the actual situation,
3. transfer theories and methods into practical measures and create changes in co-operation with users and other involved parties,
4. establish professional relations with users and be able to enter into dialogue with users and to see the users' resources and support them in utilising their resources,
5. participate in organisational processes with a view to influencing and changing the framework and conditions and to act and negotiate in relation to conflicting requirements and expectations,
6. carry out regulatory functions and make decisions while taking into account legal requirements, the actual situation of the users and the practice of the public administration and to be able to act according to the decisions made,
7. develop social work on the basis of documentation and evaluation, implement quality

control and to follow, apply and participate in research within the field of social work,

8. continue post-graduate studies on completion of the programme.

(The Ministry of Education's Executive Order No. 536 (28 June 2002)  
on The Bachelor Programme of Social Work)

## **Tuition**

The programme includes tuition and supervised practice placements as follows:

### **Subject Area 1: Social Work**

84 ECTS points

Students should obtain skills from the subject area's own theoretical and research-based foundation with a view to understanding the conditions and possibilities of social work including methods and choice of method.

Furthermore, the subject area must gather and integrate skills from its own field and from the other subject areas so that students obtain competence to support changes and act as professional social workers.

### **Subject Area 2: Psychology and Psychiatry**

28 ECTS points

Students should obtain skills within the field of psychology and psychiatry with a view to understanding the human psyche and life, e.g. the dynamical development of the individual in interaction with the surrounding world, perspectives on relations between individual, group, organisation and society and an understanding of ones own learning process and development as a professional person.

### **Subject Area 3: Law**

28 ECTS points

Students should obtain skills within the legal field and the field of public administration with a view to including relevant elements of common, substantive and procedural legal disciplines as a basis for the application of law in social work and for the counselling on the legal position of individuals.

### **Subject Area 4: Applied Social Sciences**

34 ECTS points

Students should obtain skills within the sociological and organisational field and the fields of

political and economical science with a view to understanding the function, structure and development of society, the relations between human living conditions, health problems and social problems. Furthermore, students should understand the conditions of social policy and labour market policy and the role and function of the social sector in relation to these policies.

## **Practice Placements**

36 ECTS points

The following didactic objectives are emphasised in the methods of study:

the ability to work with one's own learning processes

the ability to apply different methods and strategies of learning

the ability to plan and organise the course of one's own learning

The following forms of tuition can be involved:

Tuition within the individual subject areas, thematic cross-disciplinary modules and optional modules. The form of tuition can be lectures or seminars with a high degree of student involvement. The tuition often involves group work or exercises in the form of role-plays.

Practice placements

Project work based on a chosen subject. Project work is interdisciplinary, with application of different subject areas and it involves fieldwork / reference environments.

Study groups in relation to subjects of the students' own choice.

Independent studies with assignments, cases and supplementary literature based on course tuition.

Study visits to various agencies.

Discussion groups.

Exercises in social work practice.

The lecturers are recruited from the fields of Social Work, The Humanities, Psychology, Law and Social Sciences.

## Structure

| Study themes   | Semester | Study form  | Assessments/ examinations   |
|--|----------|---|---|
| The context and practice of social work  | 1.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition modules</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practice studies report</li> <li>- First year examination</li> </ul> |
|  | 2.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition</li> </ul> Project work: Social case-work within the public sector (local authorities), including 2 months' practice studies |   |
| Different approaches to and types of social work in relation to social problems and social action  | 3.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition modules</li> </ul>   | 1 subject area examination  |
|  | 4.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice placement (20 % tuition, 80 % practice placement)</li> </ul>  | Assessment of the practice placement  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elaboration of different aspects and types of social work; - emphasising the interaction between theoretical and empirical insight and social work action and competencies</li> <li>Development, dissemination, evaluation and research in social work</li> </ul> | 5.       | Studies based on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth modules</li> </ul>   | 2 subject area examinations   |
|  | 6.       |   | 2 subject area examinations   |
| Bachelor project   | 7.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project work within an area of social work</li> </ul>  | Project examination   |

Each of the 7 semesters is equivalent to 30 ECTS credit points

## Entry Requirements

The Schools of Social Work in Denmark admit students once a year. The admitted applicants

are divided into two groups. One half begin their studies on 1 September in the year of admission and the other half start on 1 February the following year.

#### Language Requirements

Applicants holding a foreign entry qualification must be proficient in Danish both orally and in writing. The Social Work Programmes require, that you have passed Studieprøven i dansk som andetsprog (the “Study Test in Danish as a Second Language”) or the former “Danish Test 2” in order to be admitted.

If you are a Danish citizen, you are not required to take a Danish test if you can document that Danish is your mother tongue or that you learnt Danish at school.

Applicants from the Nordic countries are not required to take a Danish test if Danish, Norwegian or Swedish has been studied as part of the entry qualification.

For a list of language schools, see: [www.vidar.dk](http://www.vidar.dk).

#### Higher Preparatory Examination

The Social Work Programmes admit students from within two different categories: 50 % of students are selected solely by their grade levels, in high school leaving exams (i.e. University Entrance examinations), or other recognised higher preparatory examinations.

The other 50 % admitted, are given credits for certain qualifications in addition to passing the prerequisite exams named above. The selection is made in accordance with the following qualification criteria:

#### Work Experience

- The work must have been paid work.
- The weekly work hours must have been at least 30 hours per week.
- The work has to be minimum 6 months in total.
- Study relevant work has to be a minimum 6 months continuous period.
- Work done while attending high school will not be considered.
- Only work experience prior to the 5 July of the year applying for admission will be considered.
- The work has to be documented entailing work hours and length of work.
- Only work within the last 10 years will be considered.

#### Residence Abroad

- Minimum 16 weeks’ continuous period.

#### Folk High School Courses

Minimum 16 weeks’ continuous period.

### Voluntary Work

Voluntary and unpaid activities. For example within voluntary child and youth work, voluntary social work, cultural activities, political and trade union activities and work of a similar nature.

### Other Relevant Courses

Courses in addition to the recognised higher preparatory examination. These must be courses at a higher preparatory level or at university level.

### Average Mark

The average mark from the higher preparatory examination.

### Curriculum Vitae

All applicants in this group must enclose a curriculum vitae.

### Social Workers' Major Fields of Employment

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Municipal level<br>App. 77 %       | Local social services, projects and institutions:<br>Social integration in the local community.<br>Social work with e.g. 'activation', re-entry to the labour market, pensions, addiction, children and families, refugees and immigrants, special needs, community psychiatry, mental health home care and pedagogical support, family treatment in day centres, care families, outreach social work. |
| Region level<br>App. 7 %           | Regional social services, projects and institutions:<br>Individual integration (treatment).<br>Social work in e.g. somatic and psychiatric hospitals, social medical care management, residential social work.   |
| State level<br>App. 7 %            | Social work with e.g. criminal offenders, students, people in military services.<br>Teaching, development, research, dissemination.  |
| Non Governmental level<br>App. 9 % | Private organisations and agencies:<br>Social work in e.g. trade unions, housing associations, voluntary organisations, interest organisations   |

### The Danish Association of Social Workers

The Danish Association of Social Workers (Dansk Socialrådgiverforening) organises social workers, and ensures that in their field of work they are employed on a collective agreement

basis by public and private employers.

The professional journal of Dansk Socialrådgiverforening appears every fortnight.

Social workers are admitted to the unemployment fund (FTF-A), and are entitled to unemployment benefit upon the completion of their education.

The Danish Association of Social Workers

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