

ADVANCE
MA Advanced Development in Social Work (ADVANCES)

Duration: 24 months

Course description:

The “MA Advanced Development in Social Work” (ADVANCES) course offers advanced social work training in response to the requirements of an increasingly complex and globalising world. It will develop the knowledge and skills of qualified social work practitioners by uniting the expertise of leading university departments in five EU countries. ADVANCES learning outcomes, academic content and intensive mobility emphasise the ability to transfer and apply social work know-how in different cultural and international contexts.

The programme draws on both the Dublin Descriptors and IFSW Global Standards for Social Work Education to deliver a relevant and rigorous education. To promote international learning, students will visit at least four different countries over the 22-month course and benefit from the input of renowned social work academics from outside the EU. Students will be taught together for Semesters 1-3 to ensure coherence and then distributed among the consortium partners for fieldwork and research projects. Students will undertake placements in local social services in Semesters 1, 2 and 4 to enhance their understanding of social work practice. Successful completion of the ADVANCES programme will lead to a multiple degree award with a joint certificate of studies and diploma supplement. Semester 1 takes place at the University of Lincoln (UK) and offers an in-depth foundation in social work knowledge, theories and skills in addition to training on academic English and core study skills. Aalborg University (DK) teaches Semester 2 and will deepen students’ understanding of social work by exploring the different actors and power relations within social service systems. Participants will be trained in using problem-based approaches to analyse social work by synthesising theory and field data. The first year ends with a Summer School (alternating between Nanterre and Warsaw) dedicated to social work research. Semester 3 at ISCSP in Lisbon focuses on social entrepreneurship as well as global applications of social work knowledge. Students will use Semester 4 to conduct fieldwork for a 25,000 word social service evaluation project, which they will present at a student research conference that concludes the course (Warsaw/Nanterre).

The ADVANCES course is underpinned by joint teaching, management and quality assurance procedures designed and approved by all consortium members. Tuition will be given in English and students will study at least one other EU language during the course. Course fees have been set at 2,000 Euros per semester for EU students and 4,000 Euros for third country students. The consortium plans to recruit annual intakes of 12 EU and 18 non-EU students through an intensive marketing campaign and informative course website. A special ADVANCES scholarship fund of 8,000 Euros per edition will be created to support self-funding students.

Website: www.socialworkadvances.org

Partners:

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN, United Kingdom (Co-ordinating Institution)
AALBORG UNIVERSITET - AALBORG UNIVERSITY, Denmark, Denmark
UNIVERSITÉ PARIS OUEST NANTERRE LA DÉFENSE, France
UNIwersytet Warszawski, Poland
UNIVERSIDADE TECNICA DE LISBOA, Portugal

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