

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Schedule

The Summer University 2012 will take place from July 2nd to July 13th in Lausanne, at the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland · EESP · Lausanne (www.eesp.ch). Field visits and social events will be organized in Lausanne, Geneva, Fribourg and Valais.

Languages

Lectures will be given in English or French. Translation will be provided from French to English. Some level of proficiency in both languages is useful.

Conditions and fees

Registration is open to students holding a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in social work, social welfare or social sciences. A maximum of 30 students will be accepted. Early registration is recommended.

Fees (including lectures, teaching materials, transportation to field visits, social evenings and other organized events) are CHF 800.- (other currency according to exchange rates) for the two weeks.

Assessment and credits

6 ECTS credits will be awarded to students meeting the following requirements:

- 1 Prep on selected literature and draft concerning a first reflection;
- 2 Participation to the entire Summer University program;
- 3 Finalization of an original social work reflection elaborated in a small group;
- 4 Short personal essay on the participation to the Summer University.

More information on our web site: <http://www.susw.ch>

REGISTRATION

To register, please send an email to info@susw.ch. Your application must include a resume (CV) and a letter (2 pages) explaining your motivations for applying to the Summer University. If you need funding (for international students only; if awarded it can cover registration fees, air travel and housing costs), you must complete the «Funding request» form (to be obtained from info@susw.ch).

Registration will close on March 15th 2012.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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WITH PROFESSORS FROM

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SUMMER
UNIVERSITY

END OF LIFE AND SOCIAL WORK

SUMMER UNIVERSITY
IN SOCIAL WORK 2012



Lausanne, July 2nd to July 13th 2012

Hes-so
Haute école de travail social
et de la santé · EESP
Lausanne

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haute école de travail social et de la santé · Vaud

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fribourgeoise
de travail social
HEF-TS

h e t s
Haute école de travail social
Genève

Hes-so
VALAIS
WALLIS

Université
de la Vallée
de Jura

OBJECTIVES

The Summer University in social work aims at promoting exchanges between participants from various backgrounds, at facilitating comparative analysis and at stimulating new theoretical and professional approaches in social work. It offers a privileged place for discussions and debates to professors and students coming from many different countries (among others: Burkina Faso, Canada, England, France, Germany, India, Switzerland and United States).

CONTENTS

The Summer University in social work provides a unique opportunity to address social problems and professional challenges in a new way. In 2012, it will focus on the place and role of social workers in the last moments of life.

PROGRAM

End of life and social work

Conferences, lectures, workshops in small groups, visits of social facilities and institutions, cultural and social events are on the program of the Summer University; these various activities offer a unique opportunity to address social work issues and to identify similarities and differences with the participants' own national or regional contexts.

- Conferences and lectures will provide the chance to hear internationally renowned specialists from social work, social sciences and humanities faculties of Switzerland, Burkina Faso, Canada, England, France, Germany, India, United States,...
- Workshops organized for small groups, with methodological support, will enable students to develop their own reflections, based on their social work experiences as well as on the themes of the lectures.
- Field visits to social work services and structures will help students understand how social workers deal with concrete issues related to 'end of life' situations.
- Social evenings and other informal events will facilitate socialization between students and professors.

Switzerland, a multilingual and multicultural country in the heart of Europe, is ideally situated to host this third Summer University in social work.



END OF LIFE

The 'end of life' term refers to a particular time period experienced by individuals whose life expectancy is reduced, in decline or suddenly comes to its term rather than to an age group or a life phase. This last moment of life, that may or may not come about in a predictable way, also includes all elements of care and support offered to dying persons and their close relatives between the time when death is near and the beginning of the mourning period.

During the last thirty years, social work has progressively invested the 'end-of-life' field. Social work has contributed to adapting social support to the reality of severely ill people and to the needs of their relatives experiencing ruptures, crises and death. Inspired by health care practices and by specific palliative care approaches, it has participated in interdisciplinary and inter-professional efforts to provide help and support. Social work has increasingly sought to develop its own stance on individual, yet collectively relevant issues of ethics, psychology, societal issues and public policies such as respect of individuals' autonomy and self-determination, social integration, support provided to residents of social care institutions, family and informal carers' roles, gender relations, types and roles of rituals as well as bereavement support for employees or for clients of social services.

The 2012 Summer University will focus on the way social work addresses these issues. It will attempt to define the role and place social work should take in a wide range of 'end of life' situations: how does the part played by social work fit in with tasks carried out by other professionals? What is its specific contribution to families, close friends or the social environment? To what extent do social workers become engaged in 'end of life' care and how far should they go in order to legitimate their skills and usefulness in the fields of end of life, death and mourning? How does social work face these realities in different national contexts?

For two weeks, participants in the Summer University will be given the opportunity to explore these questions, discuss them with various international experts, share experiences from their own professional backgrounds and strengthen their common analyses of specific issues during workshops.

AND SOCIAL WORK

