Electives
Programme 1: Applied Gerontology

Catholic University of Applied Sciences Freiburg
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E1 Applied gerontology

Student manual
Introduction
This programme aims to develop knowledge and capacity building for social work in different gerontological settings, both in research and in professional practice. Associated with the demographic changes in modern societies gerontological competences can significantly increase career opportunities for social workers in the future. Therefore a student has to acquire gerontological knowledge, theories and concepts. Today specific competences in social gerontology are already needed more and more in the different fields of social work. In the nearer future these competences will become inevitably necessary. For specialists with specific knowledge in Applied Gerontology, many new competences are needed, such as skills in social management, networking and coordination. Social workers must be able to initiate processes to develop a new model of a civil society in which voluntary engagement is an inalienable component of the welfare mix. They must train volunteers, accompany them and offer them supervision. Further they have to connect different components of the welfare mix such as resources of the clients, the neighbourhood and the social space as well as those of the professionals in social work.

Applied Gerontology - a Programme in 2 Parts (in total 11 ECTS)

A: Multiperspective Positions and Competences in Gerontology (2 ECTS)
1. MODULE CODE: (by coordinator)
2. LONG TITLE: Multiperspective Positions and Competences in Gerontology
   SHORT TITLE: Multidisciplinary Competences
3. UNIVERSITY: Catholic University of Applied Sciences Freiburg
4. ECTS POINTS: 2
5. DATE OFFERED: (later: decision by the steering group)
6. LEVEL: Masters
7. LOCATION: Freiburg

Semester(s) in which this module is approved to run:
(for the electives: later: decision by the steering group)

Module Aims
The aims of this Module are to enable students to
- describe the specificity of the own profession social work and its relevance for social questions and problems in gerontology
- develop strategies for multidisciplinary thinking and acting
- combine knowledge and competences from very different disciplines which are complementary to social gerontology
- generate a new and emerging comprehensive professional thinking and acting in social gerontology

Intended Learning Outcomes:
On completion of the Programme “Applied Gerontology” students are able to focus on professional identity of social work specified as social gerontology, as well as the issue of how to link with other professions in a multidisciplinary way.
Themes

- Questions, duties and **Paradigms of Gerontology**
- **Specific Perceptions** in different disciplines (sociology, psychology, medicine, economy, nursing and care)
- **Theoretical Backgrounds and Draughts** of the single sciences in gerontology
- **Common Characteristics and Differences** in the methodical accesses
- **Typical Results of the Specific Research** in the single disciplines of gerontology
- **Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity**

Modes of Delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Seminar/Tutorial</th>
<th>Workshop/Prac/Group</th>
<th>Indep</th>
<th>Fieldwork/Professional Practice</th>
<th>Open Scourse/distance</th>
<th>Total Hrs:</th>
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<td>4h</td>
<td>36h</td>
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<td>10h</td>
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<td>56h</td>
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In this module students have to work with a mix of different learning methods. Basic informations are given in a lecture, which has to be analysed, discussed and differentiated in independent work units and in distance learning groups. The transfer from theory to practise is an important aim. Therefore, specific tasks are given for selfstudy, for distance learning and for the own professional practise.

**B: Specific Professional Fields in Gerontology (9 ECTS)**

1. **MODULE CODE:**

2. **LONG TITLE:**

   **Specific Professional Fields in Gerontology:**
   - Geragogy and Volunteering,
   - Counseling and Networking
   - Gerontological Nursing

3. **SHORT TITLE:**

   **Specific Professional Fields in Gerontology**

4. **UNIVERSITY:**

   Catholic University of Applied Sciences Freiburg

5. **ECTS POINTS:**

   9

6. **DATE OFFERED:**

7. **LEVEL:**

   Masters

8. **LOCATION:**

   Freiburg
The aims of this Module are to enable students to

- solve actual questions and problems in Social Gerontology by combining scientific theories and facts
- work with theories and concepts of Lifelong Learning, especially Learning in Later Life in the meaning of Geragogy (to learn getting older)
- design and implement projects and seminars in the field of Educational Gerontology
- support Volunteer Work of older people (volunteer's management)
- debate and differentiate the specific methods of Counseling and Social Networking for elderly people and their caring families
- be able to support professionals and volunteers working together in gerontological fields (Welfare Mix)
- compose interventions and planning processes in the field of Community Social Planning with the explained aim to promote civil participation and professional co-operation
- promote methods and strategies for Preventive-Health-Supporting
- transfer the results of Assessments and nursing investigation in suitable Interventions
- outline the actual Paradigms of Good Nursing and Care for elderly people and act in this way
- develop special competences and a new professional identity in the mindset of Cooperation and Multidisciplinarity.

On completion of the module students will be able to gain new professional perspectives, to work in practical fields of Social Gerontology. They have acquired new competences, such as skills in social management, networking and coordination with specific knowledge in Applied Gerontology. They initiate processes to develop a civil society in which voluntary engagement is an inalienable component of a new welfare mix. They train volunteers, accompany them and offer them supervision. They connect different components of the welfare mix such as resources of the clients, the neighborhood and the social space as well as those of the professionals in social work. They are planning and developing new concepts for social services and facilities and they are specialized to work with new methods such as Case Management and Social Networking in different gerontological fields.

Themes
- Learning in Later Life
- Biografical Work and Learning
- Educational Gerontology with Elderly People in the 3rd and 4th Age
- Civic Societies and Volunteering
- Counseling for Elderly People, their Families and Care-givers
- Everyday Company for Elderly People
- Counseling and Support in Life Crises and Life Crossings
- Case Management
- Social Planning and Social Networking
- Problems and Interventions in Gerontological Nursing and Care
- Nursing and Care Assessments and Nursing Classification
- Paradigms of Good Nursing and Care for the Elderly
Modes of Delivery

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<th>Total Hrs:</th>
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<td>180h</td>
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Learning outcomes in the elective programme Applied Gerontology

On completion of the programme students will be able:

- To explain and use the theories and concepts of gerontology in a professional way.
- To describe and categorize the basic themes and issues of professional gerontological practice.
- To compare the different professional fields in applied gerontology.
- To cooperate with other professions in an interdisciplinary way, in multiprofessional settings and teams and to initiate and moderate processes.
- To debate and revise the most important strategies and concepts of intervention gerontology.
- To apply the essential tools for social planning and developing new concepts for social services and facilities.
- To use new methods such as Case Management and Social Networking and to criticize them.
- To connect different components in a special welfare mix such as resources of the clients, the neighbourhood and the social space as well as those of the professionals in social work.

Competencies acquired in the elective programme Applied Gerontology

How can the students of ESMW recognize and develop their professional role in applied gerontology? What skills can contribute to this role?

- **Competency 1: Diagnose**
  Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to identify and analyze complex problems of elderly clients and their families in relation to the social environment and in the context of societal trends. They **know the special needs / developments in the European context as a base for professional interventions in different working fields of gerontological social work**.

- **Competency 2: Evaluation**
  Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to evaluate quality, efficiency and effectiveness of measures based on a thorough knowledge of methods and methodologies. They are able to **evaluate quality, efficiency and effectiveness of gerontological interventions based on a thorough knowledge of methods of evaluation**.

- **Competency 3: Management**
  Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to operate in a planned, policy and project oriented manner for a variety of organisations, both local and international, so that solution strategies are developed and carried out efficiently, effectively and responsibly. They are able to **operate in a planned and professional manner for a variety of organisations and providers in different gerontological fields of work and settings, both local and international**. In a developed concept these learning outcomes has to be visible and measurable.
• **Competency 4: Innovation**
Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to carry out assignments for organisations based on disciplinary expertise in relation to the developing, introducing and implementing of innovations such as new programmes for new target groups and new methods. They are able to initiate developmental processes for new concepts and methods and to improve the gerontological professional practices by going and trying out creative ways to solve problems in different gerontological fields of social work and settings. Applied Gerontology is a young scientific discipline that is constantly being developed and defines itself largely through innovation.

• **Competency 5: Advice**
Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to advise organisations and providers of social services in gerontological fields, on a national and international level, how to improve quality and enhance professional practice. They are also able to advise and train volunteers or groups of people who are working as volunteers in different gerontological fields and settings by using new training concepts and methods.

• **Competency 6: Research**
Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to use a range of methods and techniques of practice oriented/practice based research and know how to apply them in an effective manner. They are able to justify their policy advice or proposals based on valid judgements derived from evaluations and/or from research results. They are able to a critical analysis of research reports and data in gerontological research areas and questions.

• **Competency 7: Professionalization**
Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to develop their professional knowledge, skills, attitudes and are able to integrate their personal achievements successfully in their organisation. The graduate can also improve his own competencies and use them for the benefit of colleagues and the organisation. The graduate’s professional practices connect to the current and anticipated developments. The graduate can systematically transfer his personal expertise and vision to colleagues and other experts in the professional field. Students of EMSW are able to cooperate with other professions in an interdisciplinary way, in multiprofessional settings and teams. They are able to initiate and moderate professionalization processes in different gerontological fields of social work.

• **Competency 8: International Cooperation**
Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to cooperate inside and outside their own organisation in a intercultural and international context what is particularly important in gerontological fields of social work.

• **Competency 9: Intervention**
Students of EMSW acquire the competencies to intervene in complex problem situations of client groups in relation to the social environment and in the context of social trends/developments in Europe. They are able to use the most important strategies and concepts of intervention gerontology.
**Literature**

**Required**


**Optional**


European Master in Social Work


An extended bibliography with actual publications is given to the students at the beginning of the course.

**Organizational aspects of the module**

Applied Gerontology is an Elective Programme.

The both parts (A with 2 ECTS and B with 9 ECTS) have to be studied together in one semester.

For the workshop students have to bring in personal experiences with older people,

**Study load**

Applied Gerontology has a study load of 11 ECTS or 308 hours of work load for the students.

**Assessment:**

Criteria for evaluation and weighting by the teacher:

**During the seminar:**

- Compulsory attendance to the on-site sessions
- Written documentation of the selfstudy units
During the whole semester:

- Number of sessions in the online platform
- Individual written gerontological project, based on the own institution. This has to include:
  - concept: time, resources, costs, objectives.
  - project life cycle
  - planning and programming of the project
  - financing.
  - organization of the project.
  - evaluation of the project
  - results

The gerontological project should be written in English, using a specific professional style. The project should be sent using the online platform.

60% of the grade

Written peer-evaluation and assessment concerning the commitment and quality of contributions, provided by each student throughout the whole elective program

20% of the grade

Online activities: discussion of learning materials

How many times was the student participating in internet discussions and what was the quality of his input (How was the argumentation? Was it helpful or was it denied?)

20% of the grade

The peer assessment and the online activities should be written in the specific forums provided in the online platform.

We use a 10 point rating scale.
If the students have 5.5 or more they succeeded in their tasks.
If the students have between 4.9 and 5.5, they can improve their tasks within a month.
If the students have 4.9 or less they can improve their tasks within 3 months.

Feedback during the working process

After the instruction week in Freiburg posted information by the students will be reflected by the teacher regularly.

Teachers
Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kricheldorff (Catholic University Freiburg)