

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

INTERNSHIPS



The HAN Bachelor of International Social Work has the mission to train social workers who are ready for the future. We want our graduates to make sustainable contributions to the quality of social work and the image of the profession.

Learning by doing is a central component of our degree program that prepares students to become entry-level professionals. This focus on learning in practice, in actual contexts and from professional role models in the field aligns with the gold standards of the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work.

INTERNSHIP SEMESTERS

Every International Social Work student completes three internship semesters during their third and fourth years of study. Each semester (20 weeks) includes at least 540 hours of practical experience (approximately 28 internship hours per week). The schedule is tailored to the possibilities and wishes of the internship organization and the student. Students can change workplaces each semester or stay at the same organization for two or three semesters, allowing for internships of 5, 10 or 15 months.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM THE ORGANIZATION?

Our students gain skills and knowledge in the first years of their studies. But they still have a lot to learn from the people they work with in the internship organization and the community. Students need space and time to develop by learning from each other, participating and co-creating. The organizations that offer internship placements should provide an educational climate in

which students can learn and experiment with (most of) the duties of a social worker.

The qualifications below are the backbone for our students' professional development during the internships (except for qualifications 6 and 7, which are not assessed during the internship). Each semester, students can choose to focus on three qualifications for their professional development. That choice is based on the internship's characteristics and opportunities.

1. Be actively open, make contact and pick up signals.
2. Empower people in their immediate environment to actively shape their own and others' well-being, development and social participation.
3. Empower people and their social networks to actively contribute to creating an inclusive, just society in which people's well-being, development and social participation is key.
4. Work with available means in an effective, efficient and transparent manner.
5. Work in an enterprising, strategic and policy-based manner.
6. Promote the social work profession.
7. Reflect on and develop their own professionalism.
8. Conduct research and improve the professional field.
9. Cooperate with people in different roles.
10. Consider critical and ethical concerns.
11. Think and act creatively.

OPEN UP NEW HORIZONS.

**HAN UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES**

We expect students to be guided by an experienced practice supervisor who is a qualified social work professional connected to the organization. The supervisor should be able to observe the student at work, have experience with the work itself, and be able to help the student identify with the profession. The supervisor should also have an affinity for teaching, actively ask questions, and provide feedback to the student. Practice supervisors should give students space to learn.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM THE STUDENT?

Our students gain a considerable amount of knowledge, skills and experience in the first two years of our Social Work degree program. As interns, they learn to act in a complex, real-life context. At the beginning of their internship, the student is expected to act as a junior professional with all the qualifications of a social worker. Gradually, the student will become able to contribute to complex problem-solving activities related to a professional or societal issue.

After a familiarization period appropriate to the context and the organization, the student can be expected to carry out tasks independently. Their tasks may become more complex as the internship progresses, but the student will always remain under the supervision of a practice supervisor.

Students are expected to actively contribute to the daily practice of social work at their organization. They can justify their actions and formulate a vision of the social work profession. We also expect students to proactively manage their own learning process, including actively asking for feedback, informing the practice supervisor about assignments, and scheduling evaluations.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Alongside the practical experience gained in the internship, students follow an (online) educational program one day a week. That program gives them additional lessons and guidance related to the knowledge and skills of a professional social worker.

Students are guided through their personal learning process to develop the professional qualifications and attitudes needed to meet the requirements of our degree program's qualification and assessment framework. In their final internship semester, students learn about strengthening the context for sustainable social change and conduct participatory research.

ASSIGNMENTS

During the internship, students primarily focus on the qualifications that shape their assessment. To offer structure and guidance, we have designed three internship assignments that are supported by the educational modules students follow alongside their internships. The assignments are broad enough to apply to the diverse social work contexts within each possible internship placement.

Assignments per semester:

- People module: Use empowering methods (like asset-based, solution-based or other social work approaches) to strengthen the capacity of people and communities to contribute to their own well-being and that of others.



- Context module: Use politicizing interventions to help shape a context that optimizes the well-being of everyone.
- Change module: Conduct Participative Action Research that contributes to meaningful social change by facilitating co-design of one or more pressing social issues.

CONTACT

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