

International Leadership Course of Church Based Development Work

APPLICATION INFORMATION – AUTUMN COURSE 2019

The duration of the course is 90 days – 25th of August to 22nd of November 2019.

The Diaconal College of Aarhus is offering an international, Christian leadership course with focus on diakonia and development in church and society.

Course Goal and Values

The participant will through theological reflection gain a fundamental understanding of diakonia (Christian practice/social work) and its developmental aspects. The course provides training in organizational development, leadership and communication on the basis of diaconal values. The participant will be able to initiate, monitor and evaluate development projects and to raise awareness of social and rights-based development issues in church and society.

Our course is based on the value that all human beings are created in the image of God and therefore are unique and valuable, entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. The word *diakonia* is Greek and means *service*. To do diakonia is to put your faith into action. We believe the church and church related organizations should play a key role in civil society working for a positive and sustainable change and our goal is to equip our students to become change agents in church and society.

About the Diaconal College

International Course is situated in Aarhus, Denmark, at the Diaconal College. It is a state recognized educational institution that dates back to the 1920s. Every day life consists of teaching as well as fellowship between students from the different courses and staff via meals, devotions, school meetings, spare time activities and practical work such as cleaning and kitchen duty. The Diaconal College has around 350 students of which app. 12 are international. Besides the International Course we are offering two BA educations – “Diakonia and social pedagogy” and “Christianity, Culture and Communication”.

Content of the Course and Teaching Methods

The course is a full-time study and equals 20 ECTS points. The weekly schedule consists of app. 30 lessons, app. 2 hours practical work and at least 12 hours homework in the form of books, papers, written assignments and oral presentations. The teaching is communicated through lectures, dialogue, sharing of experience, group work, exercises, excursions, study trips, and participant presentations. For further description than the outline of modules and subjects below, please see the attached curriculum. (This might be subject to minor changes).

Module 1: Church and Civil Society	110 lessons
a. Diakonia (Christian practice/social work):	28 lessons
b. Civil Society & Sustainable Development Goals:	30 lessons
c. Dialogue with Authorities and Media:	22 lessons
d. Civil Society study trip to Copenhagen:	18 lessons
e. Culture & Faith Dialogue:	12 lessons
Module 2: Project Work	76 lessons
Module 3: Organizational Management	141 lessons
a. Organizational Development:	28 lessons
b. Value-based Leadership:	51 lessons
c. Counselling & Mentoring:	16 lessons
d. Communication:	20 lessons
e. Personal Study Week in Local Community:	24 lessons
4. Other Subjects	63 lessons
a. Introduction to the Diaconal College & DK:	20 lessons
b. Study Skills:	14 lessons
c. Family Time:	12 lessons
d. Farewell Party:	2 lessons
e. Re-entry:	2 lessons
f. Course evaluation:	3 lessons
g. End of Term:	10 lessons
Lessons in all:	390 lessons

Partners

The Danish/European partner organizations

The International Course has been developed in collaboration with different church related organizations. The group of Danish partners who have sponsored students at our course has included following organizations: DanChurchAid, YMCA & YWCA, Y's Men International Region DK, Danish Mission Council Development Department, Areopagos, Danmission, Mission Africa, Promissio, Viva, International Aid Services, Future & Hope, the Baptist Union in DK, Farming4life, Assist, Apostolic Church Mission and some Danish dioceses.

The course helps our Danish/European partners to link closer to their partner organizations abroad. As they and the student from their partner organization get to know each other better, they exchange experience, share knowledge, build network and improve mutual cultural understanding. The students will have opportunities to meet representatives of their Danish/European partner organization - through visits or when possible by taking part in meetings, annual assemblies etc.

The role of the sending church or organization

The aim of International Course is to educate students to work with diaconal and development projects in their home country. It is therefore important that all applicants return to church or church-related organizations that will assist them in transforming their new experience and training into solutions that are applicable in their own country and enhance diaconia and development in their church or organization. Thus the church or organization that recommends a student, should consider how to support the student in doing that when he / she returns.

Admittance criteria and finance

The target group of the course

The course takes place in an international environment with students from various cultural, national and church backgrounds. The main target group is young people, who are actively involved in social, diaconal or development work either professionally or voluntarily, and who are willing to take up responsibility in their church or church based organization upon returning home. The organizations are encouraged to look for present or future key persons with potential for leadership for attending the course.

Requirements for attending the course

Applicants must:

- Be able to speak and write English fluently at bachelor level. For the sake of the outcome of this course - for the student, as well as his/her classmates, this is absolutely necessary. Therefore the Danish/European partner is asked to confirm that the applicant meets the language requirements and the applicant must be able to fill in the application papers without help. Otherwise we recommend that he/she works on improving language abilities before making an application.
- Be interested in all course subjects, take active part in all teaching and do at least 12 hours homework pr. week. It is a full-time study and it is not possible for the student to work for their organization, while they are here.
- Take their part of the practical work at the school such as cleaning and kitchen duty.
- Seek to build up good relations with fellow students – international as well as Danish.
- Engage in a respectful interfaith dialogue and participate in our Christian devotions.
- Be willing to share a double room with another international student.
- Be committed to return to their home country to do diaconal or development work in a local church or church-related organization.

Requirements for obtaining a visa to Denmark

- Most non EU-citizens need a visa to go to Denmark and the main question for the authorities who handle visa applications is: "Can we be sure he/she will not stay in DK?" They will therefore be concerned whether the applicant has family, job or other strong ties to his/her country. Especially young singles with no job does not easily get a visa.

Finance

The admission process is done in collaboration with a Danish/European partner of a local church or a church-based organization. The Danish/European partner will usually also be the sponsoring organization and it is responsible for:

- The price of the course: 44.000 Danish Kroner. This includes meals, accommodation, teaching fee, teaching materials, excursions, study trips and pocket money.
- Other expenses as: travel from home to the school, travel to partners, fees in connection with applying for visa, and expenses for a travel insurance, which the applicant needs in order to enter the country.

The Diaconal College is not able to offer grants to students. They are therefore dependant on having a sponsoring organization or raising the money themselves.

The Application Process

- The applicant must send a completed *Application Form*, *CV* and *Recommendation Form* by e-mail to his/her Danish/European partner organization, who will forward the application to the Director of International Course.
- Due to limited space late applicants might be put on a waiting list or have to apply again the next year.
- The Danish/European partner organization needs to appoint a contact person, who will be the link between International Course, the Danish/European partner, the student and the sending organization.
- If you change contact person temporarily or permanent, please let us know.
- When we have processed the application and accepted the student, we will send *Acceptance letter*, *Confirmation Form* to be signed and returned, *Guidelines for Visa application* and *Invitation Letter* to show the Danish Embassy/Consulate.
- Those who need to apply for a visa should do so by the 27th of May, enclosing Passport, *Invitation Letter* and maybe a copy of *Recommendation letter* as well.

For further information: <https://www.diakonhojskolen.dk/uddannelser/international-course/>

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