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Bridging VET and HE

Best Practise Example

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Munich University of Applied Sciences

About the University

The University of Applied Sciences – Munich

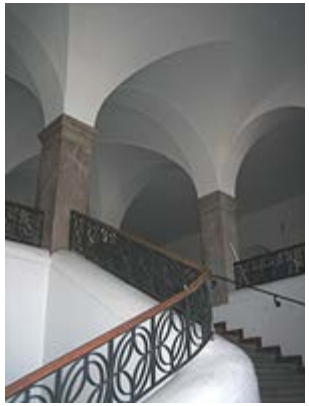
- Provides full-time and part-time degree programmes with a strong focus on practical application.
- Before they embark on their careers, our graduates will have gained a thorough practical and theoretical understanding of their field while acquiring relevant on-the-job experience.
- Students can choose from 2 diploma, 30 bachelor's and 29 master's degree programmes in 14 departments.
- There are 14,000 students (summer `09), 470 professors and 600 part-time lecturers

Department of Applied Social Sciences

- The Department of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Applied Sciences in Munich stands for innovation in teaching, training, research, and development, in a variety of socially relevant fields of work and sciences.

- With roughly 1,200 students currently enrolled in the various Diploma, Bachelor and Master programmes, this department is one of the largest academic institutions in the field of applied social sciences.

- 40 full-time lecturers and about 70 contract (some also part-time) lecturers make up the interdisciplinary team of teaching staff.



Bachelor programme:
Childhood Education in the Department of Applied Social Sciences

Studies

Students will acquire specific knowledge in the field of day care centers as well as in other corresponding educational facilities. This involves the following competences:

- The ability to initiate, encourage, guide, document, reflect and evaluate the educational process, considering intercultural and ethic challenges as well as the aspect of gender issues
- Social environmental integration of different educational and residential sites. Interface management (e.g. transition from day care centres to primary school)
- Leadership, organization and management of educational and child care institutions
- Evaluation and quality development

Curriculum structure

- The studies are designed for 210 ECTs, which normally represent a course of study lasting 7 semesters

- Certification as state-approved childcare professional / educator is usually validated and recognised with 75 ECTs (2,5 semesters)

- After having qualified for university admission within the professional formation in one of Bavaria´s academies and before entering the fourth semester students have to achieve additional merits (equivalent to 15 ECTs) by participating in so called “bridging courses” (in the fields of law, scientific working / methodology, empiric social research)

- The bachelor degree is a full-time course of studies

Excerpt of the Curriculum

The course offerings are structured in four module sections:

- Organisation and management
- Scientific basic information
- Values and norms
- Professional action in the field of education and upbringing

Academic degree: Bachelor of Arts, B.A.

Overview of the Structure of “Childcare and Primary Education Bachelor Programme”

7. Sem.	MS-O	MS-SI	MS-VN	MS-A	Pract.
6. Sem.	MS-O	MS-SI	MS-VN	MS-A	
5.Sem.	MS-O	MS-SI	MS-VN	MS-A	
4. Sem.	MS-O	MS-SI	MS-VN	MS-A	

Admission procedure:

Admission requirement: Admission to University of Applied Sciences + complete professional education as a state approved childcare professional

Formation of state approved childcare professional
4-5 years

Validated and recognised training contents
75 CP

Before start of studies: Summer academy (15 CP)

Requirements

If you have…

- A complete professional education as a state approved childcare professional / educator and
- Admission qualification for universities or
- Admission qualification for universities of applied sciences

Then you are all set for a course of study at Munich´s University of Applied Sciences!

Application

- The program begins in the winter semester (October-February) of each year.
- Applications are accepted between 2nd May and 15th June of the year in which you wish to begin.
- Application forms and more information can be obtained from the University homepage.

(www.hm.edu/home/fhm/home_e/e_welcome.pcms)

The bridge from MUAS´ perspective

- The course is especially offered for officially recognised childcare workers
- Contents of the course (HE) aim to extend and deepen the essential competences of the students, which they´ve already aquired in VET
- The course ECEC comprises 4 semesters and lasts two years (the study plan is extremely shortened – from 7 to 4 semesters)
- In the whole course, 210 ECTs can be acquired:

75 ECTs are assigned for the VET
and **15 ECTs** for the „bridge courses“

The bridge between VET and HE

Information about the course of studies on the **internet**
(homepage of the university)

Information session:
A professor of the university presents the features and characteristics of the university and the course of studies ECEC at the „Institute for social Jobs“ (a school for vocational education and training)

As part of the cooperation between the university and the school, pupils are invited to get to know the university, talk to professors or swap ideas on the course with other students.
They get the chance to experience the processes of the university and get a read of life as a student.

Application to university
(condition: to be officially recognised child care worker)

Start of the „**Bridging courses**“

Case Daniela

Daniela has graduated from a Vocational Education and Training in a small town and worked as a child care worker in a crèche with children at the of 1 to 3 years.

After she had gained some practical experiences in her vocation, she decided to study further and applied for a place at *Munich University of Applied Sciences.*
She is now living in Munich and is studying „Early Childhood Education and Care“.
After 3 months of studying, she settled very well, because the university provided a pleasant transition to her. Step by step she could grow into her new role of being a university student.

Benefits, Daniela discerns

Competences in professional practice can be extended with **theoretical background knowledge**, which is transmitted in the course:

Scientific basics,
Organisation and management,
Values and norms,
Professional conduct in ECEC

The so called „**bridge courses**“ as fundament of the whole course enable the students to attain a bachelor´s degree in only 4 semesters.
The topics, which are covered in these courses are essential for the whole course and help students to come across easily:

1. *Scientific work*
2. *Empirical social research*
3. *Law and justice*

Despite the shortened study plan, the students complete an **internship** of six weeks to gather further practical experiences. If students are interested in foreign countries, cultures and practices from abroad, they have the opportunity, to do such an internship abroad.

Contact and Information

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