

PRACTICAL

INTRODUCTION

The *Practical* is taken in the fourth year of the Social Work undergraduate degree. It is assigned 42 ECTS credits (36 for fieldwork and 6 for supervised education in the teaching centre).

Many social workers use the terms placement, fieldwork, field instruction, and external practice interchangeably. We shall use the term “*practical*” to designate the combination of field practice and supervised education.

A practical is a learning methodology emphasizing the practical application of theory and conceptual knowledge acquired during training in the various subjects that make up social work studies. This subject offers students the opportunity to integrate and assimilate knowledge and theory within practical experience, through specific and real situations, in order to construct the foundations of their own professional identity.

The subject strengthens students’ identification with the profession’s objectives, values and ethics. It promotes the integration of theory and practice and the development of professional competencies. It represents a point between practical realities and classroom learning.

COMPETENCIES

- a) Students have the opportunity to develop professional competencies, applying, refining and integrating theoretical and conceptual knowledge acquired in the various subjects to real experiences in the practice centres.
- b) Students are evaluated on their ability to engage in professional practice in a competent and ethical manner.

To achieve the above-stated objectives, the social work practical is carried out in two complementary and coordinated stages: in a social institution or social welfare organization, known as practice centres, and at the Faculty of Social Work facilities where supervised education takes place regarding the practical experience. In both stages, the learning process presents common, planned content.

CONTENT

1. Practical programme.
2. EU expectations of social work, practice centres and students.
3. Educational supervision.
4. The context of the institution of practicals.
5. Working in teams. The work-team.
6. The community context of the practical.
7. The context of the social problem in the practical.
8. The context of the social policy in the practical.
9. Communication.
10. Models of professional intervention.
11. The social work professional.
12. Professional ethics.
13. Care for professionals.
14. Information registers in social work.
15. IT applications applied in practice.