



## **Degree Programme in Social services, focus on Diaconia and Christian social practice**

### **Degree:**

Bachelor, 210 ECTS



Charles University

Protestant Theological Faculty



Diaconia University of Applied Sciences



International Academy for Diaconia and  
Social Action, Central and Eastern Europe

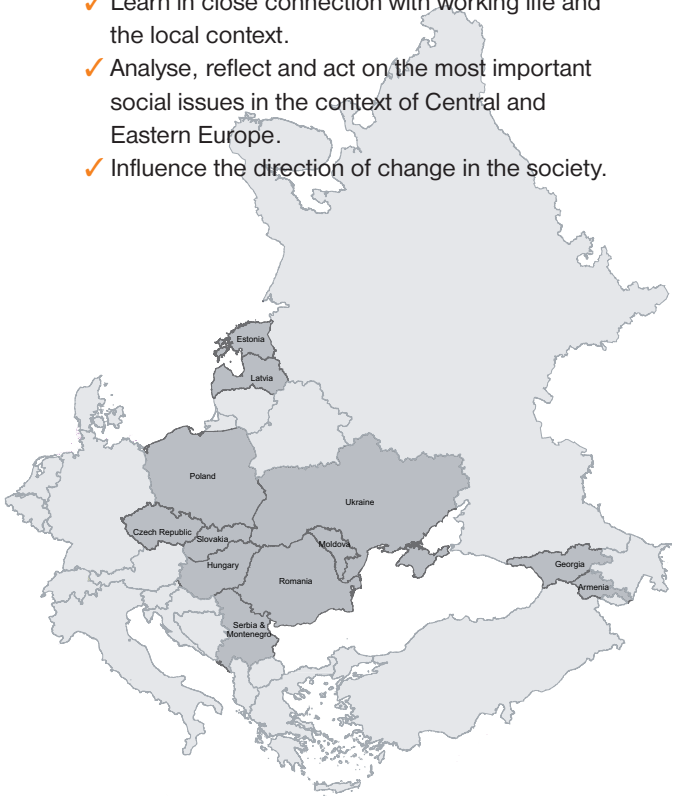


## Are you interested to:

- ✓ Work for change with people and communities?
- ✓ Study social service and diaconia with reference to the context of Central and Eastern Europe?
- ✓ Share knowledge and experience with a multicultural learning community of students and teachers?
- ✓ Learn in English?

## This programme is a good choice for you when you want to:

- ✓ Develop your professional skills in social service, working with marginalised people and communities.
- ✓ Work for diaconia or other social service organisations.
- ✓ Learn in close connection with working life and the local context.
- ✓ Analyse, reflect and act on the most important social issues in the context of Central and Eastern Europe.
- ✓ Influence the direction of change in the society.



## What is the programme about?

The study programme aims to train professionals who are able to work with marginalised or disadvantaged people and communities, especially in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Graduates will have a broad view of society which will enable them to develop their work in response to the rapid changes which are affecting people and communities.

The course will also integrate learning about the contribution of theology and spirituality to social service and diaconal work.

Because of the value base of our institutions, we are especially concerned about human dignity of each individual, empowerment, diaconia and we work for the concept of conviviality.

This means that you will develop your knowledge and skills in order to:

- ✓ work for communities and a wider society which are more just and inclusive and which offer greater chances for participation;
- ✓ address the challenges of differences in culture, religion, gender and race which impact on personal well-being and employment;
- ✓ develop diaconal action and social service which encourages the participation of those affected by different issues in their lives and their communities;
- ✓ have a European and global perspective on social policy.

## Focus on Diaconia and Christian social practice

Diaconia is usually understood as a ministry of the church which is focussed on social practice and health. It is organised differently in different countries and churches and goes by different names, for example in many Orthodox churches it is known as Philanthropia. Within this degree programme, the learning path includes a strong emphasis on value based organisations & work with groups

and communities. The study of theology and spirituality is integrated in the programme and is related to the specific context of the work.

## Graduate expertise

Graduates from the programme will be able to:

- ✓ work with people and groups facing issues of exclusion, marginalisation or discrimination;
- ✓ support the engagement of local communities in social action and of civil society in working for change;
- ✓ encourage processes which lead to community wellbeing and resilience;
- ✓ take a rights based approach to social welfare and social work in relation to such issues as refugees;
- ✓ address the impact of globalisation & economic crises on local communities and changes in working life in urban and rural areas;
- ✓ develop and manage new and innovative projects with communities and groups;
- ✓ relate Christianity through dialogue, to social and diaconal work in multi-faith contexts.

## How the programme will be organised?

The programme includes 7 semesters over 3.5 years. The teaching will be organised using a blended learning methodology. The educational process is designed in such a way that the learning tasks are carried out in practice contexts and relate directly to that experience.

Each semester will consist of four 3 - 5 day contact teaching sessions averaging a total of 19 days.

The contact teaching will be run mainly in Český Těšín (Czech Republic) and regional centres may be established if there is a group from one context.

In-between the contact teaching, you will be involved in concrete work in your home organisation or an interdiac partner organisation or in other diaconal organisations or in a church related placement

across the CEE region. Some students may be based the whole time in Český Těšín.

A key element of the programme is supervision. Each student will have supervisor who will support the whole learning process, especially during the in-between periods.

As an added advantage in intercultural learning, you will have an opportunity to learn with the international group of students at Diak University of Applied Sciences in Finland virtually and through the student exchange in the projects internationally. This is one of the benefits of a double degree programme.

### **Recognition**

The programme is recognised by Ministry of Education in Czech Republic and Finland. The Graduates will be able to work as social service workers for diaconal organisations, churches and faith communities, non-profit organisations, public and private organisations in their chosen national contexts. Graduates will receive the Diploma of both participating Universities.

### **Applying for the studies:**

The course is open to students of all ages, from the Czech Republic and internationally. It is focussed on the needs of Central and Eastern Europe. It is preferable that applicants have some experience of social service or youth and community work in a voluntary or paid capacity. Applicants should have a high school or vocational high school leaving diploma, an aptitude for the profession and be able to follow a course of study, practical and written work in English.

The selection will be based on qualification and the quality of the application form, a written examination and an interview.

The application process for the study programme will be opened in the autumn 2014.

Please check the interdiac web site:

[www.interdiac.eu](http://www.interdiac.eu).

The programme will start in September 2015.

### **Financial matters**

The study fee of 500 EUR per study year (2 semesters) will be charged.

Applicants are encouraged to apply to scholarship funds or for sponsorship in order to cover the study fee, the travel and living costs related to the contact teaching periods, as well as living costs during the periods between the contact teaching, where necessary. A scholarship system will be introduced by interdiac and the selected students will also be able to apply to it. Many organisations have shown interest in sending their employees to the study programme. Please consult your employer to find out if there are any opportunities for them to support your studies. If you need advice on these matters please contact interdiac at [office@interdiac.eu](mailto:office@interdiac.eu)

### **Further questions**

If you have further questions, please, consult with Ms. Janka Adameová of the following address:

[office@interdiac.eu](mailto:office@interdiac.eu) or by phone:

+420 731 401 449.





## PARTNERS INVOLVED IN RUNNING THE DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME

### Charles University Protestant Theological Faculty

Černá 9

115 55 Praha 1

Contact person: Mr. Jindřich Halama

E-mail: halama@etf.cuni.cz

Phone: +420 221 988 321

### Diak

Sturenkatu 2

00510 Helsinki

Contact person: Ms. Eija-Riitta Kinnunen

Email: eija-riitta.kinnunen@diak.fi

Phone: +358405092141

### International Academy for Diaconia and Social Action, Central & Eastern Europe, o.p.s (interdiac)

Dukelská 264/5

737 01 Český Těšín

Czech Republic

Contact person: Ms. Janka Adameova

E-mail: office@interdiac.eu

Phone: +420 558 764 341

## INTERDIAC FOUNDERS

 HELSINKI DEACONESS INSTITUTE

 **Slezská diakonie**  
Přinášíme světlo do života potřebným