



Information in brief: The Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, its Research and its Degree Programs

Faculty of
Applied Social Sciences

Technology
Arts Sciences
TH Köln



Table of Contents

The TH Köln – A University on the Move.....	3
The Faculty of Applied Social Sciences	4
Organizational Structure	5
Degree Programs	7
Bachelor’s programs	
Social Work	8
Early Childhood Education and Family Studies.....	10
Master’s programs	
Counseling and Advocacy in Social Law	12
Pedagogy and Management in Social Work	14
Gender & Queer Studies	16
Applied Media Education.....	18
Research at the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences.....	20
Further Information and Contact	22

A University on the Move

The TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences offers students and scientists from Germany and abroad an inspiring environment to learn, work and research in the social, cultural, engineering and natural sciences. The TH Köln creates social innovation – this is our main idea as we approach the challenges of today’s society. Our interdisciplinary thinking and acting, as well as our regional, national, and international activities, have made us both a valued partner and a trailblazer in many areas. The TH Köln was founded as the Fachhochschule Köln in 1971 and is regarded as one of the most innovative universities of applied sciences.

Benefitting from diversity, and developing competencies

Studying at the TH Köln - University of Applied Sciences is learning through projects that awaken students’ curiosity and stimulate sustainable learning processes. Through research- and problem-based as well as project-oriented learning, students gain insight into scenarios that potentially reflect situations of their future professional life. Recognizing great potential in diversity TH Köln has shifted focus from teaching to learning and strives for excellence through diversity.

International relationships

The International Office of TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences offers advice to all types of questions related to the international field. Different kinds of activities and support services give orientation and help to incoming students, while concepts of further internationalisation of TH Köln are developed continuously.



The Faculty of Applied Social Sciences

The Faculty of Applied Social Sciences is one of the largest German institutions of its kind in higher education. About 100 academics and staff and 2,000 students belong to our faculty. Located at TH Köln's Campus Südstadt it is a well integrated part of a lively neighbourhood in the heart of Cologne. The faculty encourages international exchange. We welcome people from all parts of the world who would like to be a guest or a part of the faculty as a student or teacher.

Although we foster international mobility, our teaching offer is generally held in German. A few »English-friendly courses« may support students from abroad to attend the courses and assessment, nevertheless a good command of German is indispensable.

Studying at the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences means discussing German, as well as international social and political issues in a rigorous academic setting. In our degree programs, students acquire subject-specific knowledge and (methodological) skills. Personal reflection and personal development are further important topics in our programs. Together they enable professional relationships with the people that graduates will have contact with in their practical work.

The teaching and learning culture of our faculty is formed by generalist and interdisciplinary educational outlooks in all degree programs, the connection of practice and research, and the use of new methods and techniques of teaching and learning. Furthermore, we offer service and individual program design on a high level, as well as a variety of options for specialization.

Organizational Structure

Seven institutes belong to the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences. Together they are responsible for the faculty's Bachelor's and Master's programs as well as its research activities.

- Institute of Management and Organization in Social Work (**IMOS** – Institut für angewandtes Management und Organisation in der Sozialen Arbeit)
- Institute for Research in Social Work (**IRIS** – Institut für die Wissenschaft der Sozialen Arbeit)
- Institute for Childhood, Youth, Family and Adulthood (**KJFE** – Institut für Kindheit, Jugend, Familie und Erwachsene)
- Institute for Intercultural Education and Development (**Interkult** – Institut für interkulturelle Bildung und Erziehung)
- Institute of Social Law (**ISR** – Institut für Soziales Recht)
- Institute for Media Research and Media Education (**IMM** – Institut für Medienforschung und Medienpädagogik)
- Institute of Gender Studies (**IFG** – Institut für Geschlechterstudien)

The primary task of the Institute of Management and Organization in Social Work (**IMOS**) is to impart students with knowledge in the areas of human services management, social economics, social planning and social services. These areas are highly relevant to students' education, professional practice and research.

The primary task of the Institute for Research in Social Work (**IRIS**) is to root the academic study of social work in the faculty's programs, as well as to sharpen the profile of the academic discipline and profession of Social Work.

The Institute for Childhood, Youth, Family and Adulthood (**KJFE**) engages in teaching and research in the areas of early childhood education, especially youth work and family education as well as adult education at the interface between formal, nonformal and informal learning. The angle of inquiry is differentiated by the ages, age spans, and life worlds of research subjects. These fields of action are the primary conceptual and analytical research subjects, as they contribute to professionalized and generational conditions on interactional, organizational and societal levels. The institute focusses in depth on theories of education, diagnoses of time and society, educational practice, and methods and forms of institutionalization.

The Institute for Intercultural Education and Development (**Inter-kult**) deals with subjects in the fields of migration, displacement and mobility, diversity and inclusion as well as in intercultural education and skills. These issues are associated with key political, legal, social, and educational questions. Furthermore, they are connected with numerous challenges on the levels of demographics, the educational system, societal structures, labor markets, and business management.

The complexity of the legal system requires that clients of Social Work are supported professionally in realizing their legal rights and in resisting illegal attacks and demands on these rights. With this goal in mind, the Institute of Social Law (**ISR**) engages in teaching, research, the development of human services practice, and internationalization.

The Institute for Media Research and Media Education (**IMM**) sees its main tasks in exposing the impacts of media on the education and socialization of subjects. Further topics of interest include the communications culture of society and the development of concepts for media education practice.

The emphasis of the Institute of Gender Studies (**IFG**) is on teaching and engaging in applied research that investigates gendered life worlds, their institutional and cultural representations, and calling into question the binary gender system in its limitations. Gender-based skills can become practical skills that are used to begin individual and societal change processes.



Degree Programs

Bachelor's programs

- Social Work
- Early Childhood Education and Family Studies

Master's programs

- Counseling and Advocacy in Social Law
- Pedagogy and Management in Social Work
- Gender & Queer Studies
- Applied Media Education



Bachelor's program **Social Work**

The three year program in Social Work certifies students with an academic qualification. In this generalist program of study, students acquire basic academic competencies, methodological skills and professional qualifications. The degree is associated with state licensure and enables graduates to work in all Social Work fields of practice in the public sector. In addition, the Bachelor of Arts degree allows graduates to continue their education in master's programs.

Program Goals and Contents

This modular program takes three years to complete (six semesters, 180 ECTS). The program begins with two transdisciplinary modules, which enable an understanding of the multidisciplinary contexts of Social Work and its fields of practice.

Coursework in the area of »Scientific Foundations of Social Work« offers students the opportunity to develop academic skill-sets. In the area »Methods of Social Work« students learn about theories of action and their methods. In addition to theoretical discourse and research-practice transfer, students are supported throughout the program in didactical settings such as workshop seminars, e-learning, group work, educational coaching and tutorials. Beginning with a transdisciplinary perspective on key terms and issues in Social Work, students acquire general knowledge of theories and concepts in the fields of education, media education, sociology, psychology, social medicine and human services

management. There is particular emphasis placed on the program's supplementary coursework in the legal field.

In the fourth semester, students complete a field placement in a Social Work field of their choice. Students are supported in an academic and supervisory capacity by the university during the practicum.

Using the foundation of key issues covered in field work and program courses, the elective classes in the fifth and sixth semesters give students the opportunity to specialize in an area of research as well as continue to develop practical strategies for their professional work. In the thesis module, students critically analyze a topic relevant to the social sciences and Social Work, concluding the degree program.

The Bachelor Social Work exists also as a part time program, which allows the students to flexibly complete coursework at a time that fits their own personal situations (e.g. work, child care, care of ill family members, sickness or disability, other social issues).

Fields of Practice

The fields of practice in Social Work are diverse. Examples of work include child and youth services, social counseling, services for people with disabilities, gender-informed counseling and education, workforce integration, community organizing, culturally-based, play-based, and media-based education, school Social Work, resocialization and intercultural Social Work.

Degree

Bachelor of Arts (Social Work)

Entry Requirements

Qualifying school-leaving certificate / High School Diploma

Important Dates

The program commences each year in the winter semester.

Further information:

E: basa@f01.th-koeln.de



Bachelor's Program Early Childhood Education and Family Studies

Children require a stimulating environment and empathic support for healthy emotional and physical development, be it in families, preschools, primary schools, or family centers. Sensitive, needs-based encouragement of these educational processes, as well as strengthening parents in their own role in the child's life, must be coordinated carefully.

This program of study is based on the following principles:

- Educational practice orients itself to the rights and individual needs of children, as well as their growth processes, lived experiences and interests.
- Educational practice aims to strengthen the child and family in their own spheres of education, development and agency. This requires inclusion of the individual life situations of children, their biographical transitions, as well as formal and informal educational and learning spaces.
- Educational practice supports the diversity of childhood and family forms of life. It sees itself as Social Work that promotes participation and equal opportunity in the context of the international educational concept of inclusion.
- Educational practice sees itself not simply as work with children, but also as Social Work: it creates shared educational spaces, especially with parents and other stakeholders of children and families.

Program Goals

In establishing this degree program (B. A.), the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences has prioritized the development of an integrated professional profile for the work with children and families. The program caters to certified preschool teachers, as well as high school graduates. In the undergraduate program »Early Childhood Education and Family Studies«, students acquire comprehensive skills for documenting and pedagogically supporting childhood educational and development processes, as well as in parent counseling, participation and education. Students develop a reflective and professional researcher-practitioner approach to their work. They collect experiences in various fields of practice. Students especially focus on current research regarding: political, economic, and societal conditions of childhood, the diversity of child and family life, community networking, concept development and quality assurance in developing inclusive educational processes. The program leads to state licensure.

Program Content and Coursework

The program is comprised of five areas, in which students acquire foundational skills:

1. Foundational skills in social sciences and human sciences;
2. Observational and research skills;
3. Professional and practical skills.

Two 12 week internships are integrated into the program. One of these internships can be completed overseas. In the fifth and sixth semesters students can specialize within the social and human sciences. The program concludes with a bachelor's thesis.

Fields of Practice

Graduates can work in public education institutions, early and middle childhood education and care as well as family education and counseling centers. At the same time, the program offers a foundational qualification for graduates to develop a variety of related professional roles such as didactic support for children and families, leadership roles in educational institutions, programmatic and conceptional development. Youth work and inpatient services in Social Work are not considered primary fields of practice for this program.

Degree / Important Dates

Bachelor of Arts / The program begins each year in the winter semester.

Further information: E: info.paedkifa@th-koeln.de



Master's Program Counseling and Advocacy in Social Law

The development of Social Work is closely connected to the development of the welfare state. Social Work and human services received a stable legal and economic foundation only after the state assumed responsibility for social justice and social security.

However, Social Work succumbed to the development processes that influenced the welfare state in the 20th century: perpetually accelerating and intensifying juridification, the economization of human services through cost and value control, and internationalization through Germany's increased economic and legal internationalization. The paradigm shift to an »activating welfare state« at the end of the 20th century strengthened these trends. Internationalization and the demands of the activating welfare state have increased the counseling, mediation and advocacy needs of individuals and families in their personal and work lives. These challenges require specially qualified Social Work professionals.

Program Goals

The goal of the program is to qualify graduates to provide counseling and advocacy for clients in fields of practice with extensive psychosocial and legal challenges. Students acquire specialist knowledge in areas of legal practice, population-tailored counseling methods, and mediation and advocacy skills.

Overall, the program's didactic concept prioritizes increasing students' professional skills and efficacy.

Program Content and Coursework

This consecutive, practice-oriented master's program is modularized and intended for full-time study, though part-time work is compatible with its schedule.

Students acquire current, practice-oriented specialist knowledge in various legal areas, as well as methodological and personal skills for population-tailored and gender-sensitive counseling. In the first two semesters, theoretical and methodological foundations are laid in the areas of civil and social law, which are then combined in integrative modules during the second half of the program. The coursework utilizes students' experiences during required field work. This targeted transfer between theory and practice, and between law and counseling content, continues throughout the program and is intensified during the master's thesis. Students have the opportunity to choose individual specializations. Students may be required to pay additional fees for field visits and other excursions.

Fields of Practice

The program principally qualifies graduates to work in counseling-related fields of practice. Examples include settings where clients are counseled on welfare benefits, e.g. financial counseling, counseling for caregivers and senior citizens, or for people with disabilities and legal guardianship. Specialized counseling skills are required in other fields as well, for example in school Social Work, ex-offender services, and in child and youth services.

Degree

Master of Arts

Entry Requirements

Proof of qualification and ability are required for program admission. A degree (B. A. or Diplom) in Social Work Education, Special Education, Nursing or Nursing Management is required.

Important Dates

The program commences each year in the winter semester; Length of program: four semesters.

This program is full time. Classes usually take place Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Further information:

E: f01-master@th-koeln.de



Master's Program Pedagogy and Management in Social Work

Current developments in Social Work require qualified professionals with knowledge of management and governance. Furthermore, the need for evaluation, practice-based research, and theory-based reflection in the human services has continued to rise.

The graduate program in Pedagogy and Management in Social Work conveys skills in two key areas: Firstly, students' knowledge in the social sciences and humanities and their methodological skills in education are expanded. Secondly, students are given the opportunity to develop strategic skills and knowledge of the work process management, which enables the program to overcome the focus on traditional 'pedagogical' and 'social' approaches to the human services. The program is also research-oriented and qualifies students for doctoral programs, as well as research activity in Social Work.

Program Goals

This program prepares students for leadership and development roles, both on an organizational and theoretical-conceptual level, for example in nonprofit associations, government bureaus, human service agencies, as well as for-profit companies. Additionally, the research focus of the program seeks to promote the disciplinary development of Social Work in Germany, as well as to connect to international developments in the field.

Program Content and Structure

The program's structure is based in **three main areas**, which are conveyed using three interdisciplinary perspectives: »Diversity and Inequality«, »International Perspectives« and »Media and Culture«.

- The **first** main area is »Social Work«. Students critically examine current and relevant theories of Social Work and its methods. Students' knowledge from their undergraduate studies is expanded and critically discussed.
- The **second** main area is »Pedagogy in Social Work«. In this area, students are asked to analyze and assess educational and pedagogical perspectives and theories, and apply them to the populations of children, youth and young adults. The framework for this area is based in historical and systematic approaches within the traditions of critical Social Work and Education.
- The **third** main area is »Management in Social Work«. In this area, students acquire foundational knowledge in organizational analysis and consulting for human service agencies.

In this master's program, students complete extensive coursework in qualitative and quantitative research methods, which is applied in group and individual research projects. Beginning in the second semester, students attend a graduate colloquium where they develop research ideas for the master's thesis. Students receive intensive guidance during this process. In the elective module, students prioritize their interests, and in the transdisciplinary module a variety of different theoretical perspectives are combined.

Didactics and Research-Oriented

The program utilizes innovative teaching, learning and exam formats that conform to international master's degree standards. Small research projects are completed in groups and individually across multiple seminars. Students are introduced to the research community through attending conferences, congresses and other relevant events.

Degree / Entry Requirements

Master of Arts / a degree (Bachelor's, Diplom, Staatsexamen) that qualifies applicants for work in the human services, e. g. in Social Work, Social Education, Human Services / Nonprofit Management, Social Sciences, Education, or Childhood / Family Studies

Important Dates

This full-time program begins each year in the winter semester; Length of Program: four semesters. Courses generally take place Wednesday through Friday and on block days.

Further information: E: f01-master@th-koeln.de



Master's Program Gender & Queer Studies

»Gender« and »Sexuality« are, both individually and collectively, highly relevant and controversial categories: They generate and structure identities and relational forms, as well as processes of societal labor division, and influence opportunities for political and social participation. Graduates of this program recognize the meaning of »Gender« and »Sexuality« for various relevant social arenas, such as politics, culture, technology and science. They critically reflect these conditions and structures, and are able to initiate change processes on this basis. This genuinely interdisciplinary program addresses the diverse experiences and skills of its students, stimulates critical discussion of the state-of-the-art, and offers the opportunity to consolidate and expand skills and research knowledge in Gender and Queer Studies.

This research-based graduate program is offered jointly by the University of Cologne and the TH Köln. Graduates receive a joint degree from both universities. Furthermore, the University of Music and Dance Cologne contributes to the program. This cooperation between three universities gives students the unique opportunity to develop individual profiles from a wide range of course options.

Program Structure and Content

Three foundational modules introduce the basic concepts of Gender and Queer Studies, as well as shared methodological skills for the interdisciplinary student cohort.

Students acquire and consolidate knowledge in three areas:

1. Methods of empirical social research,
2. Counseling and intervention methods,
3. Methods based on text and cultural analysis.

The advanced and specialized modules of the second and third semesters offer students a diverse range of opportunities to create individual profiles. As part of the specialized modules, students develop and implement their own projects. The theoretical and methodological knowledge acquired by students in their first semester is utilized for example in practice-based research or concept development in a non-academic field of practice where Gender and Queer Studies issues and interventions are addressed. Parallel to this, students attend four out of five thematically advanced modules, consolidating and expanding their knowledge in the field of Gender and Queer Studies. In addition, during their first three semesters, students attend a core course designed to continually integrate contents and allow for exchange in the context of a complex and diversified master's program. The program concludes with a thesis and colloquium during the fourth semester.

Fields of Practice

Depending on a student's undergraduate degree, the graduate program offers the possibility to specialize in any of three areas professionally. These areas include:

- Fields of practice in the context of fostering (gender) equality, e. g. in anti-discrimination bureaus or as an equal opportunities officer in the public sector;
- As an expert for gender issues in fields of practice relevant to the student's undergraduate education, e.g. in gender-sensitive political consulting, human resources, product development, or in the human services and education;
- Gender-related research activities in German and international universities and research institutes.

Degree / Entry Requirements

Master of Arts / Applicants are required to have completed their first university degree (Bachelor, Diplom, Magister), and a minimum of 12 ECTS coursework in Gender and Queer Studies, any special commitment and interest regarding the area of Gender and Queer Studies might be considered

Important Dates

The program begins each year in the winter semester;
Program length: four semesters. The program is full-time.

Further information: E: master-gender-queer@uni-koeln.de



- Innovative Education
- Research Methods
- Implementation of a Practice-Based Project

Program Structure

The program is broken into face-to-face courses and complimentary self-study, which is facilitated through e-learning formats. Further connections to media education practice are ensured through field visits and attendance of conferences and other events. The exam formats include term papers, extensive project-based work in groups and individually, and a master's thesis with a public oral defense.

Degree

Master of Arts – Length: 5 Semesters, compatible with full-time work. Tuition fee required

Certified Program – Length: 2 Semesters, compatible with full-time work. Tuition fee required

Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to have a completed university degree from either Germany or Austria, or a foreign equivalent. The Danube University Krems is responsible for the administrative and organizational aspects of the program

Further Information:

www.donau-uni.ac.at/de/studium/medienpaedagogik
www.th-koeln.de/homp

Master's Program **Applied Media Education**

Together with the Danube University Krems and the Remscheid Academy for Cultural Education, the TH Köln is proud to offer the graduate program »Applied Media Education – The Use of New Media and Games in Youth Work« (HOMP). The program is specially tailored for students in full-time employment. The main target group of this program are educators in school and non-school settings who want to utilize or critically reflect on interactive media in their professional practice. The program is composed of a certificate course lasting two semesters, and a Master of Arts degree lasting five semesters. The face-to-face seminars take place in Cologne, Remscheid and Krems. Starting and enrollment times can be found on the Danube University website (see below).

The following thematic modules are offered:

- Foundations of Media Education
- Media Ethics and Child Protection
- Informal Learning and Interactive Media Worlds
- Play, Theater, Experiential and Crafts Education
- Media Law
- Introduction to Practice-Based Projects
- Target Group Oriented Methods and Didactics
- Pedagogical and Technical Media Skills
- Theory of Games
- Future Media



- The research units are:
- Educational Spaces (»Bildungsräume«) in Childhood and Family
 - Digital Technologies and Social Services
 - Media Worlds
 - Migration and Intercultural Skills
 - Non-Formal Education
 - Regulation and Steering of Social Work

Research at the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences

Knowledge for Progress in Society

The Faculty is engaged in a wide variety of research activities dedicated to the socially sustainable development of society. Undergraduate students can already gain experience in research and advance their expertise in the research-oriented Master´s program.

Doctoral dissertations can be supervised by several members of the faculty in cooperation with various foreign and domestic universities.

Diversity, Life Stages, Media, Politics and the Profession ...

These are the main research themes at the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences. All our current research projects connect to at least one of these themes. We encourage the exchange of ideas and collaboration between research projects within thematic cluster.

Specialised Research Units

Research activity at the Faculty is mostly – but not exclusively – organized into research units. In each research unit, several professors and their research assistants work continuously on their respective topics and collaborate with other universities as well as partners from the professional world.

Further Information and Contact

International Office of TH Köln
Claudiusstrasse 1
50678 Köln
E: international-office@th-koeln.de

www.th-koeln.de/internationales/

Faculty of Applied Social Sciences
Ubierring 48
50678 Köln

www.th-koeln.de/f01-international

Faculty Secretary

T: +49 221-8275-3633
F: +49 221-8275-3349

Departmental Coordinator

Sabine Becker
E: sabine.becker@th-koeln.de

Research Service Center

Agnes Senkow
E: agnes.senkow@th-koeln.de

How to Reach Us



Public Transit

Streetcar Lines 15, 16, 17
Bus Lines 106, 132, 133, 142
to the stations »Ubierring« or »Chlodwigplatz«

Publishing Information

Publisher:

Executive Board of the
TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences

Editing, Layout & Composition:

Department of Communication and Marketing

Printing:

saxoprint

Photos:

Dirk Osterkamp, Costa Belibasakis, Heike Fischer,
Thilo Schmülgen/TH Köln, webphotographer/iStock

Current as of:

March 2018

**Faculty of
Applied Social Sciences**

**Technology
Arts Sciences
TH Köln**