

Course: Freiwilligenarbeit im Sozialbereich. – Lernen. Engagement.Verantwortung. (L.E.V.) at the Johannes Kepler University

The elective course is open to students of all fields of study ("Freie Studienleistung") and for „Lehramts-students“ also in the context of professionally oriented or pedagogically relevant activities.

The aim of this course is to broaden one's own experience through voluntary activities in the social field, to contribute one's own competences and to acquire new ones. L.E.V. is based on the conviction that people learn through active, practical experience and their own actions, and that this experiential learning is particularly effective when it is subsequently reflected upon.

Procedure:

The course is structured as follows:

- Attendance of the starting lecture, introduction to the method and information about volunteering in Austria (approx. 3 hours)
- Finding a social institution/project and engagement in the extent of 40, 60 or 80 hours (depending on whether 2, 3 or 4 ECTS are to be acquired). Reflection opportunities in between.
- Participation in the final course to reflect on the experience (approx. 3 hours).
- If desired: joint preparation of a certificate of competence.

Here all steps are described in more detail:

Choice:

- For 2 ECTS credits: 40 hours of voluntary engagement
- For 3 ECTS points: 60 hours of voluntary engagement
- For 4 ECTS points: 80 hours of voluntary engagement

Registration at the university every semester possible via KUSSS. LVA-Title Freiwilligenarbeit im Sozialbereich. – Lernen.Engagement.Verantwortung
If you are not able to reach the required number of hours or if you do more than required, you can change the course without any problems until the end.

Crediting if applicable

If you have already done social work in the last two years, we can give you credit for up to 50 percent of your chosen course. Please contact us so that we can clarify the details.

Introduction to the topic

You will get an introduction to the topic Volunteering in the Social Sector - Learning. Commitment. Responsibility. The next event is on 14.03.2024, 12:00 – 13:30 at JKU, Room MT 127 – please contact: petra.koeppel@jku.at if you want to join in.

Find a facility and start volunteering

You will find a facility where you want to volunteer or develop your own project. If you want, we can support you in your search or in the development of your project.

You will sign an agreement with this institution. Please fill out a paper about your expectations before you start your work. How long you need for the engagement is up to you. It does not have to be completed within one semester. You will receive a timesheet in which you note the times you are working. You will find this in the appendix of the assignment agreement. (you will receive the documents within your registration)

It is best to send these documents to the institution where you want to work, because they contain important information for them. Give us a copy of the signed assignment agreement (a photo by e-mail is sufficient). The same applies to the signed time sheet at the end of your engagement.

Conclusion

When you have reached your desired number of hours, you will fill out a Reflecting Paper which you will find in KUSSS. You will then participate in the final course.

Optional: Proof of competence

On a voluntary basis, we recommend that you work with us to create a competency record of your commitment. This proof can be very useful for job interviews, for example. Just get in touch with us!

FAQs:

What is L.E.V. actually?

L.E.V. is a project carried out in cooperation between the JKU and Verein füruns (formerly Unabhängiges LandesFreiwilligenzentrum Independent State Volunteer Center). It is based on the method of so-called service learning and is one of the most innovative concepts in higher education didactics, which was already developed in America in the 1980s and quickly implemented there at the university level. The idea is that people learn through active, practical experience and their own actions, and that this experiential learning is particularly effective when it is subsequently reflected upon.

What do I get out of this LVA besides ECTS points?

As a student you will benefit in terms of your personal development. You can use your previous professional and social competences, develop new ones, acquire key competences and get a practice-oriented insight into the professional world. You become active, take on new perspectives, expand your network and realize how effective your commitment to society is. In addition, we can jointly issue a certificate of competence from the Federal Ministry for you, which confirms the skills you have acquired.

Why are there ECTS points for such things at all?

In times of growing social challenges, universities are also increasingly called upon to contribute their knowledge from research and teaching to society in order to fulfill their so-called third mission. By cooperating with the relevant organizations, they address real issues from the real world, thus creating the desired transfer of scientific knowledge to society. Through the students, impulses from science reach society directly and vice versa. This exchange creates an important cycle for identifying social needs and developing targeted solutions.

I have done social work before. Does that count?

If the quality criteria for voluntary commitment are met, a maximum of 50 percent of past / completed / existing commitment in a period of the last two years can be counted, provided that the activity was performed in an institution (e.g. Caritas, Volkshilfe, Diakoniewerk, old people's and nursing homes, NGOs from the field of children, youth, integration, flight, disability, etc.) and is certified by this institution. For the open 50 percent, there is the following option:

1. continue working in the existing organization, but with a new project or in a new function or role.
2. Activity in a new organization (is recommended).

I have been involved in rescue or firefighting before. Does that also count?

The crediting of voluntary commitment to the fire department and rescue services is carried out as before by the JKU within the framework of the course Volunteerism - Honorary Office. It can be found in the KUSS under the LVA-Nr. 231104 (LVA-Leiter:in: Johann Bacher / Herbert Kalb).

What if I'm too scared to call a social organisation?

That's no problem. Just contact us and we will support you!

Your contact for all questions concerning the L.E.V. project at JKU.

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