



To Parents

Social and Healthcare Vocational Education and Training Course

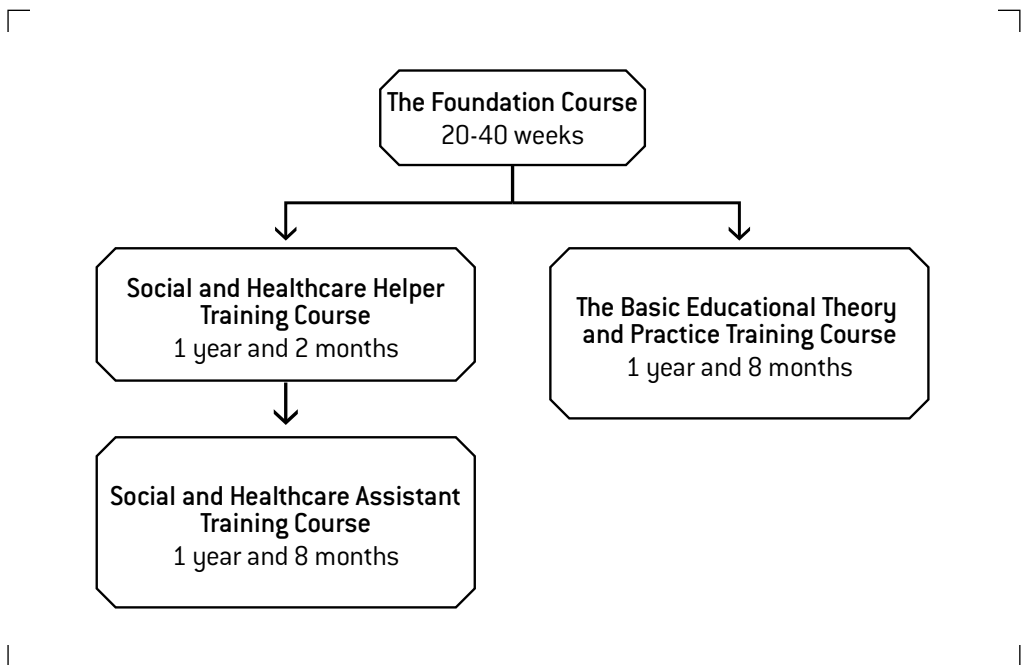
Education and training are important if one is to get on well and integrate into Danish society. The social and healthcare vocational education and training courses fulfil an extremely important function, where human care and nursing constitute some of the most important elements in our welfare society. The social and healthcare vocational education and training course will provide your child with good job opportunities for the future, when there will be a need for manpower. With this course of education behind them your daughter or son will help and care for senior citizens, children and young people, the mentally ill or disabled people in a professional manner and thus make a difference to the everyday lives of these people. Workplaces include old people's homes, hospitals or institutions for children and young people.

One of the great advantages of the social and healthcare vocational education and training courses is that training is arranged stepwise, whereby your child is constantly able to build on his or her existing knowledge with another step taken at his or her own tempo. Following the 9th grade, he or she can be admitted to the foundation course which lasts between 20 and 40 weeks. The foundation course starts with a two-week introductory phase followed by a number of special subjects, such as e.g.

- Healthcare studies, social and community studies, educational theory and practice with psychology and activity studies.
- Basic subjects such as Danish and Sciences. IT forms part of the foundation course.

Subsequently, students can carry on studying for a further 1 year and 2 months to become a social and healthcare helper. This course can be extended by an additional 1 year and 8 months in order to train to be a social and healthcare assistant. After the foundation course one may also choose to apply for admission to the educational theory and practice basic training course, which lasts 1 year and 8 months.

We are dealing here with an extremely flexible course of training and education, which constantly alternates between formal education and practical experience at the workplace, with the result that what is learned in school is then applied in practice, and vice versa.





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Your child's strengths and competencies

Young people from a non-Danish ethnic background enjoy particular strengths relative to these courses. They often bring with them values such as politeness, solicitude, trust and respect for the aged. These strengths are rooted in their cultural background and are an important part of family life in general. Your child could contribute to passing on these values to their Danish fellow students and colleagues and thus contribute to strengthening the quality and professional level of social and healthcare work in the future.

Other benefits of the social and healthcare vocational training courses

- After the foundation course, pupils receive a wage during the whole course of training.
- All pupils admitted to the courses will have access to work trainee positions.
- A social and healthcare education provides opportunities for continuing one's training to become e.g. a nurse.
- Education and training guides your child into Danish society and contributes to keeping him/her on the right track.

Help your children in their choice of education

It is crucial to participate in helping your children in their choice of education in the future, when your goodwill and support as a parent will be extremely important for your child's success in that education.

- It is important to help your child attend every day and on time and to make sure he/she arrives in class prepared for the lessons. You must understand that he/she is perhaps not able to help with work about the house to the same extent as before.
- It is important to participate in parent-teacher and other meetings to which the school invites you in order to demonstrate your interest and support to the child.
- You can help your child by yourself having an understanding of Danish culture, i.e. reading Danish books and newspapers, watching Danish TV, and participating in cultural events.



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Below you can read a brief account of Ilhan, who is studying to be a social and healthcare helper.

Ilhan, 19, »This is the right road for me.«

Ilhan comes from Somalia and has lived in Denmark for 10 years. She has chosen to take the social and healthcare course because it opens up opportunities for her to become a nurse.

»I have chosen the social and healthcare vocational training course, as it will give me a practical insight into and familiarise me with my dream job of the future. My parents would have preferred me to remain in school, in other words to have continued into upper secondary school and then studied to be a nurse, but I believe one is better equipped professionally to be a nurse by familiarising oneself with the environment and the specific tasks as they are in practice - practice that one can only obtain knowledge of in advance if one chooses to follow the course of education and training as a social and healthcare worker. This is the right road for me.«

At first, her mother was not sympathetic to her daughter's choice of education, as she was afraid that people would react negatively to Ilhan's headscarf. However, her attitude has changed as she has gradually come to see that Ilhan has come through her trainee work experience without facing negative reactions. Ilhan thinks the good thing about training has been,

»Meeting a wide variety of new people each with their own story and circumstances, hearing the stories of their lives, learning to accept criticism and be critical and the many day-to-day challenges this gives rise to - at first this course of education can really open up new frontiers.«

Good job training workplaces have really whetted Ilhan's appetite to carry on and further her education.

This information sheet has been drawn up by the Ministry of Integration Affairs to encourage more young people from a non-Danish ethnic background to apply for social and healthcare vocational education and training.

Additional information and materials about the Ministry of Integration Affairs' campaign for the social and healthcare vocational education and training courses may be obtained from the campaign's website: www.brugforalleunge.dk or by applying to:

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