

## Danish University Colleges

### International Module in Global Health at University College of Northern Denmark, Aalborg

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## International Module in Global Health at University College of Northern Denmark, Aalborg

UCN health studies offer students the opportunity to develop competences in the urgent and fast developing field of global health. Through The European Network in Education in Global Health (ENEGH<sup>1</sup>) courses are held in The Netherlands, Norway and in Denmark.

An aging society and a growing conscience of the devastating consequences for health of the welfare society are by now well understood and described. Increasing exponentially is the prevalence of chronic diseases and co-morbidities<sup>2</sup> and one of the consequences is health inequality and social exclusion of large groups in society<sup>3</sup>. In general many political solutions are suggested; one of the more promising discussed is the creation of a more integrated health care system<sup>4</sup> national and global.

“Global Health is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences and promotes inter disciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population based prevention and promotion with individual-level clinical care”<sup>5</sup>. Building on this definition five themes are taught at the International Module in Global Health in Aalborg. The five themes are: Organization and cooperation; Global health; Communication; Health science and ethics and Welfare technology and innovation.

The contributions of the different health professions to global health concerning communication and inter professional cooperation in relation to citizens and patients in the social and health sectors, nationally and internationally are main topics. Furthermore, the organisation and framework of the health services as well as possibilities in the field of welfare technology are topics to be studied. The focus will be on the influence of social, cultural, and institutional factors concerning health promotion, health maintenance, disease prevention and rehabilitation initiatives in relation to the individual, the family or target groups with different cultures, philosophies and conditions of life.

Various learning methods are used: project work, study visits, student conference / workshop, class lectures, discussions presentations, group work, learning lab activities.

The module is terminated with an internal individual oral examination; a combination of a written and an oral examination.

The International Module in Global Health is equivalent to 18 ECTS points and has been developed and coordinated to be part of the curriculum of 5 different health educations and has successfully been carried out in 2012-2013 with a total of 40 students from five different countries.

Future plan will be to run the course twice a year.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.enegh.eu](http://www.enegh.eu)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.who.int/topics/chronic\\_diseases/factsheets/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/topics/chronic_diseases/factsheets/en/index.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sst.dk/~media/English/Health%20promotion%20and%20disease%20prevention/International/Health%20Inequality%20-%20determinants%20and%20policies.ashx>

<sup>4</sup> WHO, European health report, health and health systems, 2009, Kodner D.L., Spreeuwenberg L., Integrated care: meaning, logic, applications and implications a discussion paper, Int. Journal of integrated care vol. 2, 1-6, 2002

<sup>5</sup> Definition from Koplan JP et al. (2009). Towards a common definition of global health. The Lancet 373, 1993-1995.)

**Overview:**

