



Den 5. nordiske kongress for synspedagoger  
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visuelle barrierer  
synshemmet i en visuell kultur

# Master's Degree course: Visual impairment

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# Vision Impairment Pedagogy as an academic subject

- Promotes an interdisciplinary cognitive approach
- Offers knowledge and skills in order to develop the ability of running, managing and supporting services to visually impaired at all ages
- Analyses policy documents defining the rights for visually impaired to service at individual, group, and national levels
- Emphasises the importance of learning and multidisciplinary teamwork
- Offers specialised knowledge of visual impairment as supplement to qualifications already acquired (basic profession)

# Master's Degree course: Visual impairment

- Interdisciplinary perspectives and professional co-operation
- Five semesters (two and a half years)
- Part-time studies and distance education

- Target groups:  
Different professionals interested in supplementary training in visual impairment
- Entrance qualifications:  
B.A. Degree as an educationist, an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist, an ophthalmic nurse, an orthoptist, an optometrist, a qualified social welfare officer, a psychologist

At least three years of professional experience

# Overview of the programme

- Introductory course (first semester)
- Visual impairment: Basic course  
(second semester)
- Visual impairment: Theory and Didactics  
Advanced course I (third semester)  
Advanced course II (fourth semester)
- Degree project (fifth semester)

# Introductory course (first semester)

- Different perspectives of /re/habilitation and special education with regard to visual impairment
- Different models with holistic approach and interaction
- WHO-ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health)
- National public goals for /re/habilitation of visually impaired
- Field studies/Practice (two weeks)  
(Identify a home placement for student's practical training periods)
- Anatomy & Physiology of the Eye, assessment of normal vision
- Neuro-anatomy and Physiology

# Basic. Causes and educational consequences (second semester)

- Eye diseases
- Optometry
- Childhood and youth development with visual impairment (and in combination with other impairments)
- Aging and visual impairment
- Identity as an individual with blindness or with low vision
- Communication skills: Reading and Writing, Orientation and Mobility, Activities of Daily Living
- Field studies / Practice (two weeks)
- Research overview on visual impairment

# Theory and Didactics - Advanced course I (third semester)

- Eye diseases (extended)
- Optometry (extended) – optical and technical devices
- Ergonomics and environmental adaptation
- Communication skills (continued):  
Reading and Writing, Orientation and Mobility,  
Activities of Daily Living
- Participation with regard to visual impairment (linked to ICF)
- Field studies / Practice (two weeks):
  - Activities: medical-optical (one week), psycho-social (one week)
- Research methodology

# Theory and Didactics

## Advanced course II (fourth semester)

### ***Communication skills (continued) - practical application***

- Functional assessment of visual problems
- Low vision stimulation and low vision training
- Reading and writing
- Orientation and Mobility, tactile maps and pictures
- Activities of Daily Living
- Devices and computer adaptations
- Field studies / Practice (two weeks)
- Preparation for Final Degree Project

# Degree Project (fifth semester)

The Degree Project can consist of:

- Development work
- Teaching methods and materials
- Project work connected to the student's ordinary workplace involving colleagues

# Examinations

- Theoretical and Practical
- Written and/or Oral
- Marks: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- Full programme pass = Master's Degree in Vision Impairment Pedagogy

# Summary

- The programme offers students theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in /re/habilitation of both individuals with blindness and low vision
- The programme offers a broad spectrum of knowledge
- The programme has education and didactics in focus