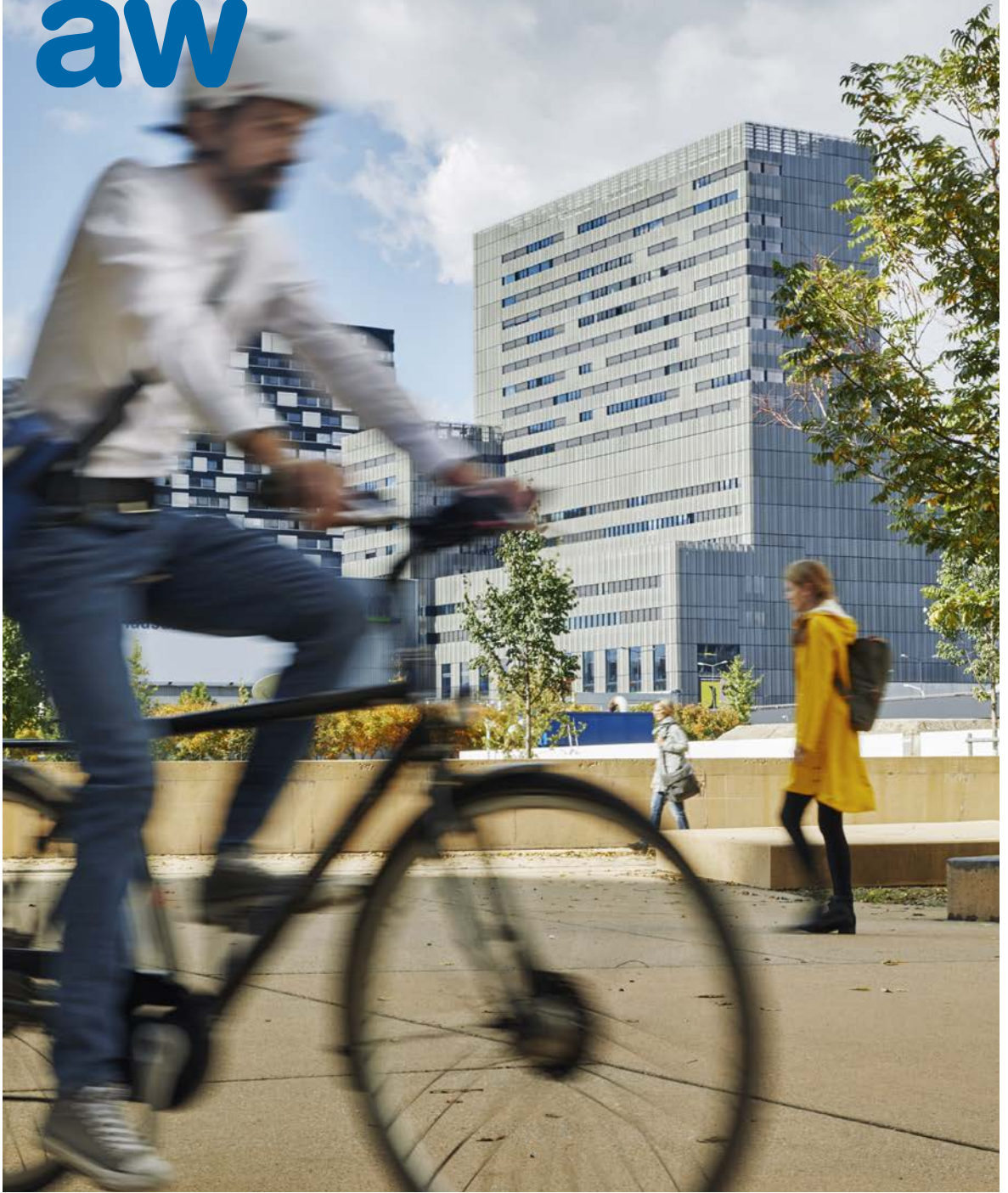


Zurich University
of Applied Sciences

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School of
Social Work



Areas of activity



Key topics

Areas of activity

Society, politics and the economy are changing rapidly – and they are subject to constant interaction. Social work addresses areas where problems emerge: with an eye on the big picture, social work provides answers to issues involving coexistence and it makes a significant contribution to a cohesive society.

The School of Social Work at the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences is one of the leading Swiss education and research institutions in the domain of social work. At four institutes, the Centre for Social Work Studies, as well as the Centre for Development and Services, a staff of around 120 people play a driving role in work on current issues pertaining to this discipline and profession.

Urban and cosmopolitan

The ZHAW School of Social Work operates in the middle of Zurich, at an urban and cosmopolitan place of work. Its close proximity to the city's social hotspots in the charged environment of regional and global developments heightens awareness of current and future challenges in all fields of activity. Here, it focuses on the fields "childhood, youth and family", "delinquency and crime prevention", "diversity and social integration", as well as "management and social policy".

Forward-looking and practice-oriented

In an application-oriented and scientifically based manner, the ZHAW School of Social Work contributes to sustainable and

future-proof solutions for social challenges in four areas of activity: teaching, research, continuing education and business services. The activities in each area are characterised by established collaborations in the domains of practice and science, and oriented towards the issues, interests and needs of the dynamic profession of social work. New findings from research are directly incorporated into the education and continuing education curriculum, and implemented in the provided business services. Thus, students benefit from an exchange between science and practice, as well as from the professionalisation that this entails.

The ZHAW School of Social Work offers:

- A broad-based general degree course at bachelor's and master's levels
- Professionally sound continuing education
- Application-oriented research and development
- Services tailored to meet individual customer needs and requirements

Forward-looking, international and based on practice and research

Study

The [Centre for Social Work Studies](#) is responsible for the social work degree programme at both bachelor's and master's study levels. Together with the institutes and numerous partners in practice, it guarantees an up-to-date education and develops students into sought-after social work professionals. The Centre for Social Work Studies initiates ongoing development of the degree programme, works out the subject-specific fundamentals that this necessitates and implements them. All the while, it facilitates and maintains a quality structure and incorporates lecturers, partners in practice and students into the shaping of this structure.

Bachelor's and master's degree course

In the degree programme with both bachelor's and master's study levels, students are helped to develop broad-based general skills in diverse teaching and learning settings. They also have the opportunity to build an individual profile along the lines of the school's key topics. Thus, the degree programme is strongly linked to the institutes' research topics. The modular structure and the digital means of teaching and learning enable students to define their own study path on a largely individual basis.

With its scientific basis and a substantial practical component, the degree programme prepares the students for all fields of activity in the domain of social work. The diverse regional, national and international collaborations with practice, as well as with tertiary institutions in Switzerland and abroad, provide for profitable insights and cooperation.

Both study levels qualify graduates for a profession. The bachelor's degree course prepares students for work in direct contact with clients: they graduate with the title "Bachelor of Science ZFH in social work". The master's degree course, leading to the title "Master of Science in social work", represents the next level of education. It qualifies graduates for complex project work and demanding interdisciplinary fields of activity within the domain of social work.

More on the Centre for Social Work Studies and the degree programme:

➤ www.zhaw.ch/zlsa/en

➤ www.zhaw.ch/en/socialwork/study

**Professionally sound, practice-oriented
and topically current**

Continuing education

In its continuing education programmes, the ZHAW School of Social Work enhances professional specialist, methodological, social and personal skills. Course content is combined with current findings from research, while partners from practice are directly incorporated, so that professionals and leaders from Swiss social services benefit from application-oriented and professionally sound knowledge.

Interdisciplinary cooperation

Social work operates at the interface between various disciplines. The ZHAW School of Social Work takes this into account by offering many of its programmes in interdisciplinary cooperation with other ZHAW schools.

Different continuing education formats

Different continuing education formats of various lengths enable participants to obtain compact essential knowledge and know-how in a subfield, or to spend several years completing an in-depth continuing education course in a certain field of activity.

Consulting and support

Throughout the entire continuing education process, considerable importance is attached to consulting: from selecting the programme that best suits the student's plans, to situation assessment during the continuing education itself.

The ZHAW School of Social Work offers continuing education in the following fields:

- Childhood, youth and family
- Delinquency and crime prevention
- Community development
- Migration
- Social gerontology
- Management and social policy
- Supervision, coaching, mediation
- Social law

More on continuing education:

➤ www.zhaw.ch/en/socialwork/continuing-education



Application-oriented, relevant to the profession and interdisciplinary

Research

Practice, politics and science are constantly faced with new social issues, raised as a result of societal development. The School of Social Work plays a role in overcoming these challenges by ensuring that topics relevant to society take centre stage in its research and development projects.

In research, the ZHAW School of Social Work provides scientifically sound support, particularly in the form of analyses, as well as solutions and concepts that are compatible with current social issues and societal developments.

The range of activities encompasses expertise, development of practical innovations, user and requirements analyses, health services research, social planning and social reporting, monitoring and evaluations, effects models and analyses, application-oriented basic research, and object-related theory construction.

Diverse cooperation

The projects are designed to help close the gap between theory and practice, as well as between generating knowledge and using knowledge. They are supervised and executed by qualified, well-networked researchers with comprehensive expertise pertaining to social services and the education system.

The research groups work together with partners in Switzerland and abroad, in a variety of ways:

- In cooperation with practice-based organisations on the development of study designs and suitable forms of implementation
- In national and international collaborations with other tertiary institutions
- In interdisciplinary cooperation within departments and the university as a whole

The ZHAW School of Social Work conducts research on behalf of:

- The Swiss Confederation, cantons and municipalities
- Public and private institutions, foundations and NGOs
- Trade associations

It also executes projects that are supported by:

- National research-funding bodies
- Private foundations

More on research:

➤ www.zhaw.ch/en/socialwork/research

Business services

The ZHAW School of Social Work offers leaders, professionals and private individuals customised services and consulting formats to solve complex issues.

Professionals in social organisations, communities or administrations are constantly confronted with new challenges. Be it the financing of the organisation, conflicts in the team, continuing education of staff, or processes of change in the organisation, the ZHAW School of Social Work advises and supports people, teams and organisations individually, in a manner customised to suit their requirements – also on site.

The ZHAW School of Social Work offers:

- Specialist consulting, evaluations and appraisals
- Supervision, coaching and mediation
- Organisation development and process structuring
- Customised continuing education
- Lectures and moderating

The range encompasses the following fields:

- Childhood, youth and family
- Delinquency and crime prevention
- Community development
- Migration
- Social gerontology
- Management and social policy
- Supervision, coaching and mediation
- Social law

More on business services:

➤ www.zhaw.ch/en/socialwork/business-services



Key topics



Key topics

With its four institutes, the Centre for Social Work Studies, as well as the Centre for Development and Services, the School of Social Work at the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences is one of the leading Swiss education and research institutions in the domain of social work.

The ZHAW School of Social Work covers the following key topics, with one institute for each:

- Childhood, youth and family
- Delinquency and crime prevention
- Diversity and social integration
- Management and social policy

Expertise in four main areas

The staff are qualified experts in their respective fields. In many different forms of collaboration, they use their professional competence for further development of offerings, and for the execution of projects in all of the school's four areas of activity. Established specialists work together with young scientific staff from the professional and educational field of social work, or

from neighbouring scientific disciplines. This results in broad-based skills and perspectives that are used in a directly beneficial way for work on current issues.

The centres and institutes also promote regional, national and international cooperation and networking, in addition to providing a basis for development of the profession and discipline.



Campus on the Toni site

The university of applied sciences campus on the Toni site is an academic location with international appeal – a centre of education, science, society and culture. The attractive site in the dynamic and inspiring district of Zurich West facilitates links with developments in social work and aids exchange with practice-based organisations.

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➤ www.zhaw.ch/socialwork

Key topic

Childhood, youth and family

The [Institute of Childhood, Youth and Family](#) looks into issues involving growing up, upbringing, education and socialisation in childhood and adolescence, as well as all related social work activities. From a lifetime perspective, the institute covers the entire field from early assistance at pre-school age to professional and social integration programmes, as well as the transition to adulthood.

Alongside the traditional core area of child and youth care (upbringing in residential and foster care), the institute addresses open forms of youth work, as well as parent education or family support activities and adoption issues. In addition, it develops solutions pertaining to the impact, planning, financing and guidance of services for children, youths and families.

The institute focuses on three topics:

Family and growing up

Societal developments have meant that biographies can no longer be clearly divided into various phases. A shortening of childhood, with simultaneous lengthening of adolescence, is also evident. The institute provides answers to questions that social challenges, both new and old, raise for adolescents and their families.

Child and youth care

The topic of child and youth care encompasses all services, programmes and activities that support and secure child welfare and the process of growing up. In this context, the institute primarily looks at how living conditions that meet the needs of children and youths can be established with the aid of public and private providers, as well as issues regarding vulnerability when growing up.

Social work and school

After an initial boom and expansion phase, the practical field of social work in the school context is currently going through a consolidation phase – new challenges are arising with regard to all-day schooling. In its research, services and continuing education programmes, the institute strives to strengthen the position of social work in cooperation with the school and the family home.

More on the Institute of Childhood, Youth and Family:

➤ www.zhaw.ch/ikjf/en

Delinquency and crime prevention

The [Institute of Delinquency and Crime Prevention](#) addresses issues regarding the causes of delinquency and criminality, as well as the possibilities and limits of societal and institutional responses to them. Prevention corresponds to the field of intervention, with the goal of (re-)establishing norm-compliant behaviour and of reintegration or non-recidivism.

The institute focuses on three topics:

Domestic violence

Increasingly, society's taboos surrounding domestic violence are being removed. Thus, offenders are being criminalised – whereby the estimated number of unreported cases remains high and victims' ability to express themselves is limited. In this field, the institute, for example, looks at the frequency and consequences of violence against children within families.

Juvenile delinquency and violence

The handling of youths' deviant behaviour is a central topic in Swiss social work, due to the specific interconnection of youth care with the justice system. Alongside issues of (universal and selective) prevention, as well as issues regarding the cause and aetiology of delinquency, the institute also focuses on the handling of adolescent and young adult offenders. In addition, the institute addresses various forms of extremism and how they come about.

Reintegration of offenders

Political pressure and social trends, such as the zero-risk society, are leading to an increased need for justification of the reintegration mandate. The institute's interest is focused on structured interventions for the reintegration of offenders on the case level and on the institutional level. The current make-up of the penal system in Switzerland is also studied.



Diversity and social integration

The handling of people's heterogeneity, as well as promoting, maintaining and restoring their social integration, are central concerns at the [Institute of Diversity and Social Integration](#). Opportunities for participation that are lacking or insufficient for population groups impaired by their material, legal, cultural, age-related or health-related conditions are demonstrated and addressed.

The institute focuses on three topics:

Community development

Population growth, modernisation processes and changing lifestyles are driving urbanisation forwards in Switzerland. At the same time, more disparities in the social environment, such as processes of segregation and gentrification, are to be expected. The topic of community development is to be seen as an umbrella term, combining the theoretical methodological traditions of community work, socio-cultural animation and social urban development.

Migration

To a particular extent, issues involving integration and opportunities for access and participation arise with regard to the immigrant population and their descendants. The institute develops substantiated, extensive responses to fundamental challenges, as well as specific action-guiding concepts. It primarily works on this topic against the backdrop of approaches based on inclusion, social integration and intersectionality, examining each of these in the charged environment of minorities and the majority population.

Social gerontology

The way society deals with older people, as well as the need for (and development of) related services, must be analysed and kept track of, by means of social work with interdisciplinary cooperation. The institute primarily addresses the compatibility between the needs of elderly people and the conditions of their living environment, the protection and support of vulnerable groups, participation issues, and improvement of the quality of services and institutions.

Key topic

Management and social policy

The [Institute of Management and Social Policy](#) develops solutions for organisations that work on social problems. It addresses leaders who want to bring about further development in the social sector and who have the courage to act in a forward-looking manner, to adopt unconventional solutions and to take a more entrepreneurial stance.

Together with its partners, the institute breaks new ground, so as to make the social and non-profit sector a more innovative and effective field of activity. The focus is on analysis of the professional activities and co-production processes of leaders, staff, supervisory bodies and external stakeholders.

The institute focuses on three topics:

Leadership and organisational design

The institute addresses the strategic orientation and development of organisations, as well as the design of structures, processes and cultures. The ways in which organisations can successfully adapt to altered framework conditions and play a role in shaping change are of central importance. The institute helps leaders to deal with conflicts, to manage stakeholders, to set socio-political agendas and to develop skills.

Innovation and quality

The institute answers the question of how organisations in the social sector and neighbouring fields of activity can design, implement and further develop the services they offer, such as consulting, support, care, protection and prevention. It studies the effectiveness and impact of social interventions, and also helps organisations in dealing with pressure to make savings, as well as in designing innovation processes.

Supervision, coaching, mediation

Prudent use of supervision, coaching and mediation, as consulting formats, facilitates organisational cooperation and, in the process, causes the company to become a learning organisation. Beyond the interpersonal level of supervision, coaching and mediation, the institute also addresses other consulting formats, as well as tools such as team development and organisation development.

More on the Institute of Management and Social Policy:

➤ www.zhaw.ch/ism/en