

Block 13: Professional stage.

Course: Practicum of WOP Psychology Master.

UNIVERSITY: Valencia, Barcelona, and Coimbra.

ECTS: 15

In the ENOP reference model, the apprenticeship (stage) should give the student the opportunity to work on a particular type of problem posed by an individual or organizational client, while supervised by a qualified psychologist. This should help the student to develop competencies such as: intake, diagnosis, planning, intervention, evaluation, reporting, and documentation. Special consideration should be given to communication, client participation, and professional ethics. Apprenticeships should be performed on the basis of a plan and conclude with a report.

The general aim of the stage is to familiarize the student with the professional setting and activity of WOP psychologists, and to acquire basic professional competencies as described above. This is achieved by involving the student in a professional activity that brings him into contact with a client (organization) and a typical problem. Typically the student learns to work independently while being supervised by an expert. Different types of stages can be distinguished, like e.g.:

- Orientation type: familiarization to a certain professional setting
- Safari type: temporary presence in the setting for a particular purpose (e.g. the collection of data)
- Rotation type: systematic familiarization with different parts of an organization, different roles, etc.
- Role type: learning to fulfil a particular professional role
- Project type: performing a project (individually or in a team) defined by a company or the university.

It should be noted that, in Italy, the Master (second level degree, Laurea Specialistica) provides only the basic qualification needed for entering the practice of psychology and it is mandatory to have a further specific period of supervised practice and to pass the State exam before an individual would be regarded as an independent practitioner. Then the practicum (*tirocinio*) designed for the Master Mundus students will be joint responsibility of the university and of the Regional Professional Psychologists' Order because it represents a first phase of professional training useful for becoming psychologists. So, the location where students take place will normally be an institution or private organization which signed a specific agreement with the Faculty of Psychology approved by the Regional Professional Psychologists' Order.

Didactics:

The apprenticeship (stage) should give the student (professional practitioner-in-training) the opportunity to work on a particular type of problem posed by an individual or organizational client, while supervised by a qualified psychologist. Apprenticeships should be performed on the basis of a plan and concluded with a report.

The stage (as supervised practice) is designed for a professional context, in order to give rise to the competencies oriented to practise as an independent psychologist at the end of this process.

The type of activities, oriented to practice intervention techniques, is around psychological services in organizational context (with different kinds of firms).

The period of the stage is, at least, three full-time months or equivalent time in a part-time system. Always, this period must be supervised by a professional in exercise.

Teaching materials and readings:

- Bartram, D. (1996). Occupational standards and competence-based qualifications for professional applied psychologist in the U.K. *European Psychologist*, 1,157-165
- British Psychological Society. (1998) National Occupational Standards in Applied Psychology.
- EFPPA (1990). Optimal standards for the training of psychologist.
- Roe, R.A. (2002). What makes a competent psychologist? *The European Psychologist*, 7 (3), 221-225.
- Rogard, V (2004). La formation initiale des psychologues du travail : offre, contenus et débouchés. In V. Cohen-Scali (Eds), *Les métiers en psychologie du Travail*, Paris : In Press Editions