Building transformative and sustainable societies

International course for social and educational professions - autumn 2026



PROTESTANT UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES
FREIBURG

Contents

P.3 Introduction

P.4 Protestant University of Applied Sciences Freiburg

P.6 City of Freiburg – a living and travel destination

P.8 Programme

Theoretical reflections and discussions

1. Childhood and youth in international comparison
2. Counselling and Empowernment within the Context of racism and right wing extremism
3. Transitions and networking in the education sectors

P.10
4. Transformative education
5. Living social utopias
6. Transforming societies in the perspectives of sustainability and social justice. Initiatives from the Global South

P.12 Method workshops

7. Workshop in media or art education
8. Motivational interviewing

P.14 Study project

9. Local development and international cooperation

P.15 Practical observation

10. Field placement in a social or educational institution

P.16 Further information

Application

Lectures

P.17 Grade scale/ECTS grade

Accommodation

P.18 Financing

Insurance

Visa

P.20 Contact

Building transformative and sustainable societies

www.eh-freiburg.de/en

International course for social and educational professions

In the autumn 2026, the Protestant University of Applied Sciences Freiburg (EH Freiburg to us) offers again an one-semester course in English (30 ECTS) for incoming students from partner universities (Bachelor level).

The course units bring together both incoming students from partner universities and domestic students, providing important perspectives on global issues and a framework for lively mutual exchange in an international classroom atmosphere.

The overarching thematic focus lies on possibilities for transformation to build more sustainable and socially just societies.

Social work and social education seminars shed light on the topic from different angles and perspectives. Methodological workshops, practical observations and a study project complement the theoretical reflections.



Protestant University of Applied Sciences Freiburg

The Protestant University of Applied Sciences Freiburg is a state-recognised university of applied sciences (HAW) under church sponsorship. It is known for its outstanding teaching and excellent interdisciplinary research in the fields of gender studies, child education as well as civil society and demographic change. It also offers practice-oriented scientific training. The university's international outlook is reflected above all in a wide variety of international university partnerships which promote cooperation in teaching and research.

The university has some 1,000 students studying for bachelor's or master's degrees in Social Work / Social Education, Child Education and Religious Education. The bachelor's degrees are particularly interdisciplinary. The consecutive master's degrees are research-oriented. We reopened our main university building, which has been renovated to meet the latest standards, in the summer of 2022.

The university is located in the Weingarten district, about 10 minutes from the city centre by tram. Weingarten is a vibrant district with residents from diverse backgrounds. Through its projects and internships, the university plays an active part in the promotion of successful coexistence in the district and benefits at the same time from the residents' expertise and special experiences.



City of Freiburg – a living and travel destination

Freiburg is one of the most popular cities, not just in Germany, for studying, living and as a travel destination. The city has a population of about 220,000 and is strongly influenced by the more than 30,000 students studying at five higher education institutions. The Black Forest city is very charming with its old cobblestone streets, the Bächle (a network of streams of water), the beautiful building façades and the over 500-year-old cathedral.

Freiburg is also known around the world as a Green City. The city is now seen as an excellent example of merging “gentle” ecology with “hard” economics. The city’s economic, political and urban development is guided by environmental policy, solar technology, and sustainability and climate protection concepts.

From Freiburg it’s not far to the Black Forest, Lake Constance and even Switzerland and France. Sports fans can go hiking, skiing and mountain biking, and culture lovers and foodies will find outstanding museums, architecture and restaurants in all three countries. Welcome!

Programme

Theoretical reflections and discussions

(elective seminars – 4 or 5 seminars must be chosen)

1. Childhood and youth in international comparison (3 ECTS)

In this seminar you will first be asked which events in your life stages "childhood and adolescence" you consider to be formative and typical. You will then conduct interviews with people who did not grow up in Germany in order to explore the extent to which there are different constructions of childhood and adolescence that may vary by country of origin. National support systems for children and adolescents are examined and you are introduced to the systems of other European countries. Since the life stages childhood and adolescence are integrated into the family in all countries, the topic of "constancy and change" in European families will be discussed.

Performance record: individual oral or wirtten presentation
Class type: regular weekly sessions

2. Councelling and Empowernment within the context of racism and right wing extremism (3 ECTS)

This seminar focuses on action approaches and interventions within the context of racism and right wing extremism. In addition, the course explores the evelopement of a counseling attitude and professional disposition, which incorporates relective practice and considers power asymmetries. This course will also address and engage students to discuss structural, societal and individual challenges faced during the practical implementation of counseling approaches. It is preconditioned that students will assess and reflect upon their own personal attitudes, and present the willingness to read specialized texts and literature.

Performance record: individual oral or wirtten presentation

3. Transitions and networking in the education sectors (3 ECTS)

In this seminar we will look at "doing transitions": What educational concepts exist nationally and internationally with regard to transitions? How are the transitions organised in practice, specifically from daycare to primary school? What transition skills do children, parents, professionals and teachers need? What best practice examples are there? With the participation of students (who give presentations) and based on the accompanying lecture, national and international models of successful transitions are presented and discussed. Students who choose this course should do their field placement in a daycare centre or primary school.

Performance record: individual written paper (which is graded – deadline: 31 December)
Class type: regular weekly sessions

4. Transformative education (3 ECTS)

Growing up in a society is framed by upbringing and educational processes that take place in institutions: family, kindergarten, school, vocational training and university. Upbringing and education, however, have a contradictory element: young people want to and should become self-reliant and socially capable members of society while at the same time they are seen as having the potential to transform society. There is a lot of talk about socio-ecological transformations that aim at a reconstruction of the current social formation and challenge the existing institutions. This seminar will explore subjective and collective transformative learning and educational concepts and processes that address these societal transformation challenges. The aim is to gain an overview of socio-ecological transformation challenges to education and to discuss possibilities/difficulties of transformative educational processes.

Performance record: written or oral presentation in groups (pass or fail – no grade)
Class type: regular weekly sessions

5. Living social utopias (3 ECTS)

In this seminar, we actively engage with, explore and learn about lived social utopias. Lived utopias show you how we can pave the way and accelerate socio-ecological change now. Taking the theoretical concept of a way of life characterised by solidarity as a starting point, we also examine lived "utopias" in a very practical way. To this end, we will visit individual initiatives and talk to people involved in them. The focus will be largely on nutrition and economic relationships. Examples of experiences and projects at the international level will complement the discussion about new ways of globally responsible ways of living.

Performance record: individual written or oral presentation (pass or fail – no grade)
Class type: compact seminar.

6. Transforming societies in the perspectives of sustainability and social justice. Initiatives from the Global South (3 ECTS)

In addition to human rights, sustainable development is increasingly gaining attention as a topic of social work. This seminar starts from the assumption that these two agendas are interrelated and need to be discussed in a global political context. We explore local initiatives and reflections from the Global South - and from Latin America in particular. Examples include solidarity-based agriculture, strengthening indigenous community structures, restorative justice and social sustainable management. They offer learning potential for international social work. They also show that even in extremely stressful situations projects can be developed that open up important perspectives for the transformation of society in a global context. Exchange with local people

in different global contexts will be used to gain a deeper understanding of different topics and approaches.

Performance record: individual written or oral presentation
(which is graded – deadline: 10th January)
Class type: regular weekly sessions

Method workshops

(at least 1 workshop must be chosen – 3-9 ECTS)

7. Workshop in media or art education (6 ECTS)

The module on expression and design focuses on aesthetic education as the promotion of expressiveness in children and adolescents. The seminars on art education, media education and body therapy (theatre and movement) aim at implementing separate offerings for children and adolescents. Interaction with artistic materials, creative media and body action open up the non-verbal realm of education. Elective courses engage with the design of social interaction, the art of living and way of living and are about change and innovation.

Performance record: small project with written and practical part (graded – deadline 31st January)
Class type: regular weekly sessions

8. Motivational interviewing (3 ECTS)

Motivational interviewing (MI) represents a directive, client-centred counselling concept that aims at furthering clients' readiness to change behaviours that endanger their own or others' health and well-being. Today, MI constitutes an internationally recognised method widely employed in all health and social areas. Theoretically based on humanistic and cognitive-behavioural psychology, the spirit of encompassing empathy and the strengthening of clients' sense of self-efficacy are central to the approach. The theoretical elements of MI will be experienced and practised through role play in small groups.

Performance record: successful attendance
(pass or fail – no grade)
Class type: compact seminar



Study project
(compulsory - 8 ECTS)

9. Local development and international cooperation (8 ECTS)

The study project is part of a series of study projects that connect social change processes at the local level with development cooperation or international cooperation. This can be about “resilient communities”, “fair trade” or “sustainable development cooperation” – the topics vary from year to year. The exact questions and contents are developed by the students themselves. The study projects are also characterised by their exploratory dynamics: field studies, interviews and participant observation. International students are welcome to introduce their respective country-specific contexts.

Performance record: written report – deadline: 31st January)

Class type: regular weekly sessions

Practical observation
(compulsory - 3 ECTS)

10. Field placement in a social or educational institution (3 ECTS)

Practical experience is gained in social and educational institutions in the Weingarten district and focuses on community work. The district, which is also home to the EH Freiburg, has a high proportion of people with a migration background and at risk of poverty. Several institutions and organisations have been working together for decades, including a second-hand store, a multi-generational house, neighbourhood work initiatives, a children‘s and youth centre, children‘s daycare centres, schools and religious communities. The district could be described as a future-workshop, not least because of the close links between the institutions, which have already brought about many positive developments.

Performance record: regular attendance and concluding interview (pass or fail – no grade)
Class type: regular weekly sessions

Further information

www.eh-freiburg.de/en

Application

Application/nomination deadline for this international course: 30th of April 2026

Application requirements:

- Nomination by the International Office of the home university
- Existence of a valid partnership agreement between the universities
- Proof of CEFR level B2 in English

Application details:
https://www.eh-freiburg.de/study-offer

Lectures

Beginning of lectures in the autumn semester 2026/27: 5th of October 2026

Orientation days from:
30th of September - 2nd of October 2026

End of lectures in the autumn semester 2026/27: 23rd of January 2027

Grade scale / ECTS grade (A-E)

A	1.0
A	1.3
B	1.7
B	2.0
C	2.3
C	2.7
D	3.0
D	3.3
E	3.7
E	4.0
F/FX	5.0

Accommodation

A limited number of rooms will be made available to our international students by the Studierendenwerk Freiburg at a price of approximately 350-400 euros per month for the period uninterest in one of the rooms must be communicated to the EH Freiburg during the application process.

Financing

Erasmus applications can be submitted to the International Office of your home university.

A “Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium” scholarship can be applied for via the EH Freiburg. More information can be obtained at:

https://www.eh-freiburg.de/study-offer

Insurance

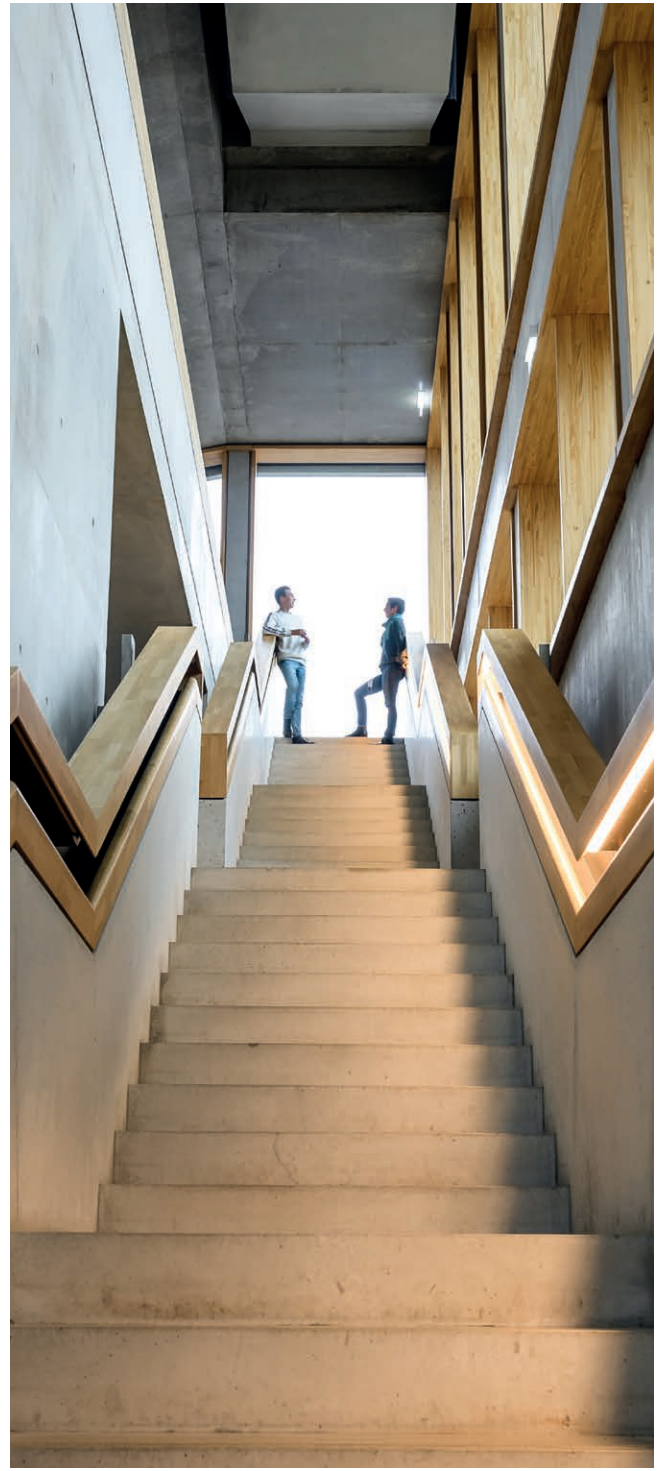
EH students are covered by the statutory accident insurance of Unfallkasse Baden-Württemberg. The insurance only covers personal injury, not property damage. Additional insurance cover (liability, recreational accident, theft and household insurance) can be taken out through the Studierendenwerk if the social contribution is paid.

Please make sure that you have sufficient health, liability and accident insurance cover.

Visa

Students holding EU or EFTA citizenship do not need a visa. Students outside this area should get in touch with their International Office.

Details are subject to change.



Contact

—
www.eh-freiburg.de/en

Prof. Dr. Dirk Oesselmann
Director Internationalization
oesselmann@eh-freiburg.de
Phone: +49 761 47812 370

International Office
internationaloffice@eh-freiburg.de
Phone: +49 761 47812 432

Protestant University of Applied
Sciences Freiburg
Bugginger Str. 38, 79114 Freiburg (Germany)

https://www.eh-freiburg.de/en

—
September 2023
Photos: Marc Doradzillo (students, building),
© PantherMedia / stefano.zaccaria1704.gmail.com (Freiburg)