

Here you get important information in English about the vocational training of "Sozialpädagogische Assistenten" in the Fachschule für Sozialpädagogik 2 (FSP 2) in Altona:

Where is the school located?

The FSP II is in Altona, Max-Brauer-Allee 134, 22765 Hamburg. See also <http://www.stadtplandienst.de/spd20/Map.aspx?sid=A77C6941FC4FEFF99AAAF6897B62A80>

The school is only one stop away from Altona station. From the station it is a short way to school. The central station of Hamburg is only 10 minutes away if you take the "S-Bahn" (the German word for city train).

What is special about the surroundings of the school?

Near the school is a park where you can spend some time during your school break. During your breaks you can go to a shop which is not far away. If you have a longer break you can go to the "Mercado". It is a shopping centre near the station Altona. In Altona there are a lot of cafes where you can spend your time. From Altona the Elbe, the main river of Hamburg, is not far away. The Altona district has a lot of people from different cultural backgrounds. You can notice it when you walk through the streets and spend some time there.

How long is the vocational training?

The vocational training lasts two years. During the first semester you have to prove your abilities in school and in the kindergarten. After you have passed the first semester the vocational training takes another one and a half years. You finish the vocational training with an exam.

I would like to gain work experience. Is that possible?

It is not voluntary, you have to. During the two years of the vocational training you have to work in the kindergarten for twelve hours a week (two days). The days can vary between Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday. During the first and the third semester you have a two-week practical work experience.

Where can you work after the vocational training?

After the vocational training you can for example work in a kindergarten or in a children's home.

What interests do I need to have?

If you like children and you want to gain knowledge about their development you are at the right place! You also should be a very caring and warm-hearted person who has got a lot of social skills.

What do I need to get registered at this school?

Firstly you need to be a Hamburg resident. To get registered at this school you need a police report, a first aid certificate (not older than 2 years) and a qualification which can be compared with a high school/GCSE qualification.

What kind of salary and financial support can I apply for?

People without enough money can apply for financial support (a grant called "BaFöG). Unfortunately you do not get paid during the vocational training.

What can I do after the vocational training?

You can work in the kindergarten as a "Sozialpädagogische Assistent". After the SPA you can start with the vocational training to become an educator. This vocational training takes three years.

What school subjects are there?

The main compulsory topics are:

- social pedagogical work
- communication and language
- natural science and health
- English
- creative arts
- sports, games and music

The school subject contents are related to your practical work.

How many days per week do you go to school?

We go to school three days a week and we go to the nursery school for two days. Every class has different school days. The school is visited by our class on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Monday and Tuesday we have got practical training. For special events like outings and trips with children you need to let the teachers know that you would like to join your kindergarten group.

Is there a trial semester?

Yes, the first one is a trial semester. If your grades do not have an average above 4.0 you cannot continue your vocational training.

How long do the lessons and the breaks last?

At the FSP-Altona the lessons last 90 minutes and the breaks 30 minutes.

Are there any class tests?

Yes, we have to write many class tests. Most of the time we have to write two class tests per subject.

Is there a final exam?

In the 4th semester of the vocational training for "Sozialpädagogische Assistentin" there is a final exam in the following main school subjects:

- "social pedagogical work
- communication and language
- natural science and health

What kind of food do they offer in the cafeteria?

They offer organic food. They also offer apples and different kinds of chocolate. The cakes that they offer are very tasty. If you don't like fish or something like that you can eat a fresh and crispy salad. They don't offer meat because the school wants to offer healthy food.

Do the teachers visit the students in the kindergarten?

Yes, a teacher who is your tutor visits you once a semester. If you have any problems or questions he or she will assist you.

Do you have to document your practical work?

Yes, there is a book where you have to report important things.

Do I have to stay in one kindergarten?

Yes, you do. But if you have serious problems you need to talk with your teacher first. If there is no alternative solution it is possible for you to change your kindergarten.