UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Professional Contexts in Social Work

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Professional Contexts in Social Work (L4515)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	30,00
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora CRISTINA MARIA RAMOS COELHO

12. Assistants

Prof. Doutora CLAÚDIA MARIA SERPA GARCIA

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

Develop a critical and analytical reflection on the multiple contexts of professional practice and explore new fields of intervention for social workers in contemporary times.

15. Specific Objectives

- Identify social workers practices in different contexts, sectors and areas of intervention;
- Characterize the contemporary professional identity of Social Work in Portugal;
- Identify the elements of the methodology of Social Work, deepening the diagnostic capacity in the face of specific contexts of intervention based on the
deontological dimensions of the profession;
- Identify processes of professional intervention in the implementation of social policies.

16. Skills to be acquired

- Identification of different areas and units of professional action of Social Work through reflective analysis on the theoretical-methodological and ethical-political challenges in different contexts of intervention;
- Development and promotion of the professional identity of Social Work;
- Planning and developing skills on a specific context of professional practice.

17. Teaching Methodology

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Theoretical exposition of the subjects;
Analysis and interpretation of technical documents;
Discussion of case studies, based on students' fieldwork on specific contexts of professional practice of social workers (observation visits to professional contexts) and / or with support from testimonials of practices of invited professionals.

18. Course Unit Program

1 - Professional identity of the social worker and contexts of professional intervention
1.1 - The professional identity of the social worker: specificities of the profession
1.2 - Professional jurisdiction of social worker's intervention
1.3 - Definition of the object and objectives of intervention
1.4 - Sectors, areas and fields of intervention of Social Work

2 - Configuration of the space of professional action and analysis of professional contexts in Social Work
2.1 - Framework of action facing the service, the institution / organization and the population covered
2.2 - The relationships that are established with and between teams, users and the institution
2.3 - Challenges of social workers action in the mediation relationship between users, the organization, social policies and the problematic
2.4 - Articulation between theoretical knowledge, methodological and technical intervention in Social Work

19. Assessment Methods

Two written assignments.
Written assignment and presentation of a group report on the observation visit.
Other elements

20. Didactic Resources

Computer
Projector
Powerpoint presentations
Documentation and bibliography recommended and/or provided by the teacher

21. Sustainability Objectives

SGD 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
SGD 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries

22. Keywords

Professional Contexts
Professional Identity
Social Intervention
Social Work

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Tomás Fernández García e Carmen Alemán Bracho
Title: Introducción al trabajo Social
Edition: 1ª Edição Year: 2009
Local: Madrid
Publisher: Alianza Editorial
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Maria Inês Amaro
Title: Urgências e emergências do serviço social.
Edition: 2ª Edição Year: 2015
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Universidade Católica Editora
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Clara, C. Santos, Cristina Albuquerque e Helena Neves Almeida
Title: Servico Social: Mutações e Desafios
Edition: 1ª Edição Year: 2013
Local: Coimbra
Publisher: Imprensa da Universidade de Coimbra
ISBN Code:

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Dean H. Hepworth, Ronald H. Rooney, Glenda Dewberry Rooney e Kimberly Strom-Gottfried
Title: Direct social work practice: theory and skills
Edition: 9ª Edição Year: 2013
Local: Belmont, CA
Publisher: Brooks-Cole - CENGAGE Learning
ISBN Code:

Author(s): APSS
Title: Código Deontológico dos Assistentes Sociais
Edition: 1ª Edição Year: 2018
Local: [versão pdf]
Publisher: APSS

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ISBN Code:

Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'CONTEXTOS PROFISSIONAIS EM SERVIÇO SOCIAL': Academic Year 2025/2026
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora CRISTINA MARIA RAMOS COELHO
Classificação / Classification	-
Descritores / Descriptors	-
Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s	-
Data Hora / Date Time	
Formato de dados / Data Format	Texto / Text, PDF
Estatuto de utilização / Usage	Acesso público / Public Access
Relação / Relation	Version 1,0

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