



A model for education: Lactation Consultant Post Graduate Course incorporated into a University setting

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Objectives

The aim of the lecture is to present the concept, structure and novelty of a new post graduate course on lactation that prepares candidates for the IBLCE exam as well at the Semmelweis University Budapest, Hungary.

Abstract

The aim of the lecture is to present the concept, structure and novelty of a new post graduate course on lactation at the Semmelweis University Budapest, Hungary.
In the last ten years the number of certified lactation consultants grew from one to thirty-five in Hungary. Our first IBCLCs had to study on their own, find their way to international literature and courses and even had to take the IBLCE exam in other languages. In the last decade courses were available that covered the Exam Blueprint, and study notes have become available in Hungarian as well. The first Hungarian language exam took place in Budapest in 2006.
Incorporating the lactation consultant's education into a University setting can be a milestone in the process of acceptance of lactation consultants as a distinct professional entity. The Semmelweis University, together with The Hungarian Association for Breastfeeding, launched a new post graduate course and planing to start its first semester in September 2010.
The main characteristics of the course are: two semesters, correspondence education, 180 contact hours of education (60 credit points). Structure: 1. Studies for Counselling Skills Development (special hours offered for counselling on students' own self experience); 2. Studies on Theoretical Basics of Lactation (including Ethics of the profession); 3. Clinical Studies (including field work supervised by a tutor); 4. Studies for Promoting Integrated Usage of the LC Profession (including Case Conferences); 5. Studies of Free Choice (e.g. Psychodrama workshop for scenes from profession; Course on English terminology of lactation). The Hungarian LC diploma (which is not a BA or an MA degree) cannot be obtained without the successful IBLCE exam, which is part of the curriculum.



The authors present the concept of this new initiative and the detailed structure of the new course. The presented course can be the first step in the development of a new Master's Degree on the field of human lactation at the Semmelweis University offered both in English and Hungarian.

Bibliography

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