

Instruction Leaflet for Mentors, Teachers and Students Educational Block Practical (BP II)

According to examination and study regulations concerning practical teaching students in primary and secondary education have to pass a three week block teaching practical, normally between semesters 4 and 5.

The following applies to students in primary and secondary education: If block practical I has been done at the chosen level (elementary or secondary), block practical II has to be done at the other level.

By that time the students will have completed a course such as **“Introduction to Teaching Practice”** during their first semester (one semester of which is obligatory) and in their second or third semester a **Weekly Practical for Beginners** with teaching attempts and after that a three week block practical at a primary or secondary school. In the course of this **block practical** the students have the opportunity to teach a minimum of 15 lessons - but usually the number is much higher. After this the students are considered to be “Advanced” and are assigned to the **subject-related practicals** in the subjects they have studied. By the end of the fourth semester students will have passed at least one of these practicals.

During this block practical students will apply their special knowledge of didactics and of educational theory in their teaching attempts in their subjects and in interdisciplinary projects. However, it is very useful to encourage the students to also teach subjects that they have not studied.

A **minimum number of 12 lessons** should be taught. It goes without saying that the lessons have to be prepared in writing – at least as outlines of lesson plans. In the weekly day practical for advanced students at least one detailed lesson plan has to be presented. This arrangement also applies to block practical II. The detailed lesson plan has to be presented to the tutor **before** the lesson is taught.

It is part of the trainer’s (mentor’s) duties to provide assistance in the planning and the performance of the lessons to give advice to the students in discussions before and after their own lessons to enable critical reflection on their own behaviour in class.

Retry of the school practice

School practice can be repeated once if the first try failed. In case, a successful completion of the school practice seems questionable, the supervising teacher is obligated to inform the student about the situation as early as possible. The supervisor should also communicate the requirements for passing school practice. Any dropout at this stage is rated as an unsuccessful attempt.

Report:

The mentors sum up their impressions of the particular candidate’s suitability as a teacher in a report and confirm the candidate’s successful/unsuccessful participation in the practical.

The reports are part of the examination documents. For this reason we ask you to please

- use the official report forms (or download them from the official PH-website: www.ph-gmuend.de / Studium / Schulpraxis / Formulare und Merkblätter)
- **A concluding talk with the trainee in which the reasons for success or failure of the practical are given is desirable.**
- **If the practical has been done abroad**, the original report has to be given to the student after completion of the practical so that s/he can present it to the Office for Practical Teaching.

Portfolio:

obligatory for students starting their studies in the summer term 2005

The portfolio about their teaching experiences, activities and problems that has to be kept by the students from the first semester onwards has to be carried on during the block practical. Let the student show you the portfolio and take it as a basis for discussions and reflections. It is not intended that the tutor evaluate the portfolio. (contact person at the university: Dr. Martina Geigle Tel. +49 7171 – 983271 martina.geigle@ph-gmuend.de)

Illness, leave, absence

Any interruption of the practical due to illness or leave that takes longer than 2 days as well as absence without excuse can mean failure to complete the practical. Leave can only be permitted by the director of the Department of Practical Teaching. Days of absence with a valid excuse may be made up (if the organization of the practical permits it).

If you have any further questions concerning the three week block practical, do not hesitate to contact

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