

Assistive Technologies – Assistec

Assistive Technologies (AT) provide a higher grade of autonomy for people with disabilities and elderly in *all* aspects of their every-day-life. They support a higher quality of life, the chance of social participation and sustainable (re)integration into labour market. Unfortunately, there is a lack of persons being able to offer comprehensive support in choice and accommodation of adequate AT to concerned persons. For that reason the Institute Integriert Studieren at Linz University works on developing a comprehensive AT-training programme.

The four-semester academical course of studies "Assistierende Technologien (Assistive Technologies)" represents an in-service curriculum predominantly designed as e-Learning. Theoretical backgrounds will be discussed in a multidisciplinary field adjusted to international scientific standards.

Contents: The academical course starts with medical basics on disability, applicable laws and public funding and basics on Design for All. The following levels contain Assistive Technologies teaching the basics of AT, Rehabilitation Technologies and various categories of AT (cognition, vision, hearing, augmentative and alternative communication, mobility). Additionally this theoretical knowledge will be fostered by self-experienced actions the participants gain from various field trips. Participants learn how to arrange a comprehensive demand analysis to be able to realise the process of assortment and acquisition of AT. A comprehensive demand analysis includes both the assessment and the social, technical and economical surroundings of the person concerned. Because of the importance and influence of the direct social surrounding of the target group in choice and use of AT, mediation and conflict management are essential parts of the curriculum. Last part of the training represents a thesis. Preparing this thesis the participants are obliged to organize, implement and accompany a process of assortment and acquisition of Assistive Technologies for a person with disability or elderly one on their own.

Graduates are entitled to use the following academic denomination: Akademische Expertin für Assistierende Technologien" (female graduates) / "Akademischer Experte für Assistierende Technologien" (male graduates) (Academic expert for Assistive Technologies).

Several target groups addressed are out of different subject areas including social area, health, pedagogy, economy and technologies. Especially persons working in the area of "integration" and "people with disabilities" are approached. In health services we particularly address persons working in the area of "rehabilitation" and "(medical) care of elderly". In pedagogical field particularly inclusive educationists of students with disabilities are addressed. We also approach persons working in fabrication, distribution, training, research and development of Assistive Technologies. In this vocational fields we also aim to activate persons who re-entry to employment, people with disabilities, students and graduates of universities as well as persons living in fringe areas.

Contact:

Name: a.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Klaus Miesenberger
MMag.a Barbara Hengstberger
Institute Integriert Studieren
Email: assistec@jku.at
URL academical course: www.assistec.at
URL Institute: www.integriert-studieren.jku.at

Partner organisations (exempla)

Fortec - technical University of Vienna
Universität Vienna
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Lifetool
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