# CONNEXT: Welcome to your new studies

## Background information

### For professionals

These game challenges have been developed by Metropolia University of Applied Sciences as part of CONNEXT for inclusion project. The aim is to support new social services students to learn to know their new degree programme as part of the orientation, in a playful way.

You are welcome to copy the game challenges and modify them to your own purposes.  
Other game challenges in English can be found at [www.metropolia.fi/games-seriously](http://www.metropolia.fi/games-seriously).

For further information on the project, please see [www.connextforinclusion.eu](http://www.connextforinclusion.eu).

### Orientation for players

Welcome to get acquainted with the Degree Programme in Social Service while carrying out game challenges!

Background picture

Tiina Lehto-Lundén/Metropolia University of Applied Sciences

## **1. Welcome to studies at Metropolia...**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE EXERCISE**

Why here? Check student ambassador video: [Student Abbassadors at Metropolia video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PP4v4zdIAq8)

Give three reasons why students might choose to study at Metropolia UAS?

1. Project and group work
2. International environment
3. Possibilities to study in English
4. Early childhood studies
5. Practical training opportunities
6. Dynamic class interactions
7. World class Finnish education

MULTIPLE CHOISE EXERCISE

Oh no....what kind of skills will I need to study?

Studying at the university level is different than studying in high school (upper secondary school or lukio).

Which of the following skills do you think are needed when studying at the university level?

1. active reading skills
2. time management skills
3. class attendance
4. beer drinking skills
5. group or teamwork skills
6. self-management and social skills
7. SoMe (social media) skills

Thanks for your answers!

## 3. What kind and how much reading will I need to do?

IMAGE EXERCISE

Yikes....reading in English, how will I manage? One of the identified study skills needed at the university level was active reading skills. Reading for understanding rather than to fulfill the assignment requirements.

Go to your browser and look for material on active reading skills, take a screenshot explaining what active reading skills actually means in practice.

You're technologically savvy! We'll discuss these in class.

## 4. Yikes...how do I remember these words from English?

**WRITING OR AUDIO EXERCISE**

What things can I do to help me understand and retain information when reading in English?

[Frustrated With Reading in a Foreign Language? Here’s how to Do It Better (medium.com)](https://medium.com/@kwhayden11/frustrated-with-reading-in-a-foreign-language-heres-how-to-do-it-better-8a348d078128)

[7 Simple Strategies to Improve Your Reading Comprehension (indeed.com)](https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/reading-comprehension-improvement-strategies)

Based on the above articles, write down or make an audio what do YOU already do well and where do YOU need to develop?

Thanks for your answers. It's important to know your starting points. We'll discuss these in class.

## 5. Internationalisation....

CHOOSE A RIGHT OPTION

Africa, America, Asia or Europe....where should I go?

One of the strengths of the universities of applied sciences lies in their international activities. Students may complete part of their studies or work placements abroad beginning in their second year as part of their study path at Metropolia. In today's working environment, international skills are highly desired.

Can you guess how many partner universities the Degree Programme in Social Services has?

1. 3-5
2. 6-15
3. 16-25
4. 26-35

You can search for more information here: [Internationalisation (opiskelija.oma.metropolia)](https://opiskelija.oma.metropolia.fi/group/pakki/opiskelijan-opas/palvelut/kansainvalisyys" \l "Kv%20opinnoissa" \t "_blank)

Right answer:

a) 3-5

-Try again ;-) ...

b) 6-15

- Sorry....try again

c) 16-25

- Awesome! 22 partners globally currently

d) 26-35

- Too many to manage ;-P ...

## 6. How do I manage my time?

**WRITING EXERCISE**

Work is calling, I need to be in class and my dog ate my homework!

Time management and organization skills are some of the most important of the skills needed while studying.  Balancing your personal lives, work responsibilities and school classes, study time and group work.

What kinds of tools are out there to help students organize their lives and their time?

Go to your browser and attach links to your favorite tools or to tools you might be interested in getting to know more about.

Exercise completed, excellent! We'll discuss these in class.

## 7. 1st year of studies - General Path

**MULTIPLE CHOISE EXERCISE**

I want to work with people across the lifespan. During the first year of studies the focus is on getting an idea of what working in the social field looks like and becoming familiar with the basic theories which underlie the work.

Here is a screenshot from the curriculum.  


Which courses do you think focus on social work theories?

1. Communication and IT Skills
2. Individual Growth and Development
3. Social Participation and exclusion
4. Individual and Community Counselling
5. First Internship

## 8. Where do I want to work when I'm finished?

VIDEO OR AUDIO EXERCISE

I want to work in early childhood, with youth or people with mental health or addiction issues.... Who should I work with during my studies?

Cooperation with business, cultural, the public and third sector organisations is a key part of the activities of universities of applied sciences.

Work placements, innovation and course projects as well as final thesis are often implemented together with partners from the field (Kindergartens, NGO's or City services).

Many students have said that their work placements are one of the best experiences of their studies at a university of applied sciences.

The work placements may have a significant impact on the student’s future, as it may be their first place of employment within the field after they graduate.

What are you most interested in doing with partners from the field during your studies?

**Choose one idea and one potential partner. Prepare a presentation of your idea in a short video or audio clip, with which you try to convince the partner to work with you.**

Interesting! Now is the time to begin exploring where you feel like you fit and where you definitely DON'T want to go.

## 9. Thesis

**CHOOSE THE RIGHT OPTIONS**

I need to do a thesis…??

A thesis is a part of the studies at universities of applied sciences. It gives employers a good opportunity to get acquainted with future Metropolia experts in a flexible way.

The thesis is mainly designed to meet the needs of the employer and the content is tightly linked with the curriculum of social services. Thesis can be carried out as a personal or a small scale group project. It can be a qualitative study or a functional thesis (which produces a product such as training or support material) for the employer.

Which of the following are true about the thesis process, mark them with a check mark:

1. worth 15 credits
2. it must be completed individually
3. the process begins in the 3rd year
4. attending the seminars is 'a must' for supervision
5. the thesis is published in an academic journal.

Thanks for you answer, we'll talk more about this in class.

## 10. I'm finally ready as a professional Bachelor of Social Services

**IMAGE EXERCISE**

Congratulations!

You made it...you are now professionals and our colleagues.  We wish you well in your new adventures.

What is the first thing you think you will do when you are finished with your studies?

You can be creative now and draw or make a picture collage of your dreams. Make a screen shot of your image. Dream Big as this will help keep you focused during challenging times.

Excellent! Keep this long-term goal in mind when things get challenging. You'll get there!

