

→SGP/SSP 2015 soumission pour une présentation

Career Path Planning in Psychology: 2 Pilot Academic Swiss Approaches

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Abstract for PRESENTATION

Although the spectrum of careers in psychology is vast, undergraduate psychology students generally have little knowledge about their career options. It is therefore crucial to provide them with information on career issues and help them plan their professional futures early in their academic curriculum. We present two courses that were developed to meet these challenges by two Swiss higher education institutions (one distance learning and the other traditional). The three objectives of the two courses are: 1) to define and to clarify the professional direction and post-bachelor choices, 2) to make explicit academic, transversal and professional competencies required, and 3) to learn to adopt a personal reflexive approach and to develop a realistic professional post-bachelor project. Additionally, the distance learning approach includes an additional 7-day internship that provides adult distance learners with an opportunity to gain experiential learning. The traditional class-based approach presents live testimonies of former graduates students, who have already begun working in psychology.

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