

## The Swedish Red Cross University College

### Introduction

The Swedish Red Cross University College (SRCUC) belongs to the Swedish Red Cross organization, which is part of the international Red Cross movement with representation in 189 countries and has approximately 97 million members and volunteers around the globe.

The SRCUC's Vice Chancellor reports directly to the board of the Swedish Red Cross organization about strategic developments. Operations are conducted on the basis of the international Red Cross movement's seven fundamental principles; humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

SRCUC is a state-funded self-governed university. The SRCUC is government accredited and undergo the same evaluations and periodic reviews by the Swedish Higher Education Authority (*UKÄ – Universitetskanslerämbetet*; a government agency), as all higher education institutions in Sweden.

The university college has trained nurses since 1866, and was the first secular nursing education in Sweden. Today it is one of Sweden's leading educators in health care and nursing, at both undergraduate and advanced level.

The SRCUC is located in Stockholm and has 650 undergraduate students, 50 students on advanced level, and 65 employees. About 20% of the nursing students are men, which is the highest in Sweden.

**The SRCUC will now initiate a new three year bachelor program in Public Health** with specific focus on Global Health, equivalent to 180 ECTS. The education will be given in English including both Swedish and international students. Thus, the SRCUC will become a university with a broader aspect of education in health.

In accordance with our new profile we would like to be considered for membership in ASPHER.

## Characteristics of uniqueness

### The Red Cross profile

The SRCUC's affiliation to the international Red Cross movement is what distinguishes this university college from other higher education in Sweden. This is made visible in both education efforts to provide global perspectives within the various subject areas, and in the international collaborations with universities and clinical operations in different parts of the world. It includes educational training as well as integrated learning (placement abroad) and research. Students and teachers are thus given unique opportunities to achieve greater knowledge of international health, health prevention and health promotion among vulnerable groups, and health inequalities in any form of society.

**National perspective.** To create societal conditions for good health on equal terms for the entire population is a national overall target for the work of public health in Sweden. Population health is an important indicator of wellbeing, but you do not have to leave Sweden to meet people living in deprivation or people from different cultures with different ethnic backgrounds. The SRCUC's affiliation to the Swedish Red Cross creates opportunities for students to do project work at the various national Red Cross chapters. Field studies can also be made at refugee camps, in ambulance operations

and the prison and probation service, and at child care- and health care centers to get the vital experience of working in today's multicultural society.

**International perspective.** The SRCUC has an active international profile that enriches and characterizes the education and training programs. The close link to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva offer students opportunities to do clinical placements as well as minor field projects within the IFRC and/or other international Red Cross societies.

### **An international learning environment**

Both students and teachers are actively involved in international exchange programs and educational development projects. A number of teachers and students are each semester traveling to countries like Tanzania, Ghana, Iraq, Thailand, India and Japan, and in return, students and teachers from these countries will visit the SRCUC. The length of the studies abroad varies between three to 12 weeks. The SRCUC has bilateral agreements directly with the partner institutions and participates in major exchange programs, i.e. Erasmus, Linnaeus-Palme and Minor Field Studies. Some teachers also have significant experience of working as international delegates and with disaster nursing.

## **Research activities**

### **An academic learning environment**

At present, the SRCUC has four professors (one in nursing, two in public health, and one in technology and health; three associate professors, two research fellows, one post doc, and 24 graduate students. Fifty-five percent of the teachers have a PhD, and another 43% have a master's degree. Our research is conducted in collaboration with researchers from other universities, public institutions, associations and occasionally, from national and international industries, as well as a wide professional collaboration with external researchers, representing academic areas as well as international aid agencies and organizations. All senior lecturers have at least 20% and adjunct lecturers at least 10% of their working time devoted to research, which contributes to an active academic environment.

### **Research themes**

Recently, the SRCUC have taken a decision to actively expand and develop its research profile within matters of humanity, vulnerability and globalisation, and joint research projects have been initiated with the Swedish Red Cross and the IFRC in Geneva. The SRCUC will be focusing on the following three research themes:

**Health in global transitions.** Societies worldwide are increasingly being linked together in interdependencies. More people than ever are living in social exclusion, often involuntarily as a result of poverty, disasters and conflicts. Demographic and epidemiological health issues that have the potential to cross national borders are being studied. Researchers examine the impact of crises, disasters and migration, both in the acute and long-term perspective.

**Health promotion and resilience.** Efforts toward improving health, social inclusion, healthy conditions and environments require constant adaptation to changing patterns of health and ill health, social stratification, vulnerability and resources. Scientific and critical knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of health and welfare within a wide spectrum ranging from biological to psychological, social and ethical, emerges as an imperative for the sustainability of such efforts. Increased participation and promotion of capacity for adaptation, recovery and development are central elements of the theme's research.

***Health and Technology Development.*** Different technological as well as intersectional perspectives and social and technological innovations are tested and examined, as well as health and care ideology. Researchers study individuals, groups and health care at a time when digitization, robotics and other technological opportunities alters the interaction between people and technology. Health care professionals' involvement in innovation processes and implementation of new technology in health and health-related contexts are prioritized in the theme.

## **Future outlooks**

### **New locations**

In June 2016, the SRCUC will relocate to the newly constructed Campus Huddinge located in the southern part of Stockholm. The campus area has about 25,000 students. This will be the dawning of a new era for the SRCUC, as it will be partially co-located with the Royal Institute of Technology School and its School of Technology and Health (STH). The new premises and co-location with STH will provide students with access to the latest in innovative laboratory conditions, technical resources, creative IT solutions and other necessary equipment. Library co-located with existing Campus library will ensure high quality and good access to literature.

The SRCUC will be comprised in a stronger academic environment and new opportunities for collaboration are created with, in addition to STH, also the Karolinska Institutet and Södertörn University. Since June 2014, SRCUC and STH have a joint professorship in Technology and Health.