

AMI 3-6 Assistants Certificate Course

International Certificate Course for assistants in Montessori Primary Classrooms.

The course is also suitable and beneficial to school administrators and parents.

Goal of the Course: The intention of the Assistants Course is to help interested adults become able assistants in a Montessori Children's House. The task of the Assistant is to support and help the teacher maintain equilibrium within the class, to observe, to learn when and how to intervene and not interfere, to acquire the ability to allow the children to become more and more independent, to gain knowledge of Montessori's understanding of Freedom and Discipline, to acquire the ability to support the development of the child by assisting the teacher.

Trainer: Elina Rautasalo, Czech Republic

Duration: Approximately 60 hours of lectures and independent work. 9 additional hours of obligatory observations. Specific instructions on how to observe will be given during the Course, taking into account the restrictions which may be imposed by Covid 19.

Daily Schedule: The course hours are given in Central European Time. For a detailed course schedule check out the Course Schedule document.

Course language:

- English, with interpretation of the spoken word to Czech and other languages announced on the website. Students need to have an adequate level of understanding of English, Czech other languages of the course, to succeed in the course.
- Written coursework, the written assignments, can be done in English, Czech and other announced languages.
- If there is interest, the possibility of interpretation into other languages, other than already announced, can be consulted with the Course Director.

Obligatory reading:

Students need to order the following **obligatory books** as soon as they register for the course: The Absorbent Mind and Secret of Childhood by Maria Montessori.

Further recommended books are: The Child in the Family and Education for a New World by Maria Montessori.

Few selected quotes from these texts will be handed out during the course.

Requirements for Certification:

- Submission of three papers (500 words) on topics set by the Trainer during the period of the Course.
- 9 hours of observation.
- Submission of observation notes and observation report.
- Submission of handmade materials.
- Submission of any other work as given by the Trainer.
- Minimum of 90% attendance.

The Course Content:

- I. Introduction to Montessori

- II. The Role of the Directress
- III. The Role of the Assistant
- IV. Overview of the Planes of Development
- V. The Child's Mind from 0-6 years, Sensitive Periods
- VI. Order: The importance of Order and Precision, Order in the development of personality
- VII. Movement 0-6: Development of Movement and its significance for the child
- VIII. Language: Development of, also taking into account the following elements:
 - Preparation of the adult, Use of language in general
 - Vocabulary: correct, precise, rich, scientifically exact
 - How to listen to children, How to elicit language
- IX. Independence: development, physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual, interdependence
- X. Prepared environment: Home and Casa dei Bambini (the physical and the intangible)
- XI. Freedom and Discipline: Concept from MM point of view, growth of Discipline as inner development
- XII. Social Development

- XIII. Observation and its relevance (technique and recording of)
- XIV. Music and Art
- XV. Maintaining the environment (indoor and outdoor)

Further content: Reading of MM texts and discussion. Practice of basic movements: walking, carrying trays, chairs, materials. Opening and closing doors, drawers, as models for the children in a Montessori Prepared Environment. Essential grace and courtesy - greeting children, giving appropriate assistance in the cloakroom. Introduction of techniques for making, mending and maintaining materials.

Price: 800 Eur / 20 000 Kč. Payment is made as part of the electronic registration to the course.

Equal Opportunity Policy. MIP is committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all people who work and study at the Institute. If you have any special learning needs, and need any accommodation to help you or special support, please let us know during your application process.

How to apply: Enrollment criteria: adequate level of English, Czech and other approved languages of the course, to enable efficient study in the course, ability to study at a higher academic level, positive motivation to study and willingness to positively and constructively cooperate with the Course Director and the training center staff, filled out online application form and payment of the first part of the fee. Further, computer availability and good access to the Internet for the whole time of the course and a quiet place to study. When we receive your application package, we will review it and let you know the result of the enrollment process. Every student who fulfills the enrollment criteria will be accepted to the course.

Online format:

- This course is not being recorded. 90% attendance in live online sessions is required. It is not possible to view recordings of lectures later.
- There will be live lectures given by trainers on “Zoom” platform.
- Course work and course communication will be done on platform “Schoology”.
- The course requires general ability to use computers and the internet and willingness to learn to use Zoom and Schoology platforms.
- Students will receive technical support during the period of time when the course is given.
- The course will not be recorded and sessions will not be available for later viewing.