



International advanced training as school and kindergarten doctor for Waldorf and Rudolf Steiner settings

The job description for the school and kindergarten doctor comprises of developmental diagnosis, support for additional learning needs and therapy for children from infancy to the end of school. Fundamental knowledge of illness-prevention and salutogenesis are also expected. Furthermore, the willingness to learn about the foundations of the Waldorf curriculum and to collaborate with teaching staff are essential to this role.

The training is rooted in the annual conference for school and kindergarten doctors provided by the Medical Section, which takes place at the Goetheanum every end of October.

Corresponding anthroposophic medical trainings and multi-day conferences taking place world-wide in cooperation with the Medical Section, provide supplementary or alternative pathways to the annual conference at the Goetheanum.

The three-year curriculum

The individual subject areas and teaching contents of the curriculum described below provide an outline of the scope of the tasks involved in school and kindergarten medical practice. They are studied at the annual advanced training events mentioned above. Supplementary online and in-person training courses are additionally available.

Supplementary advanced training opportunities

- Advanced training programme for school health professionals in twelve modules (online and in-person; ends in June 2026)
- Topical training days covering frequent diagnoses
- Regional school doctors meetings
- Learning support teachers' conference at the Goetheanum
- Specialist conference for school eurythmy therapy
- Further events organised by the Medical and Pedagogical Sections at the Goetheanum and our international medical associations
- Advanced training in anthroposophical paediatrics
- Introductory courses in anthroposophic medicine

The collaboration with a mentor occurs over at least three years. Kindergarten and school doctors with at least five years of professional experience can serve as mentors (see below).

Job description and key topics of the advanced training

Kindergarten and early childhood education

Development and education in the first seven years

Study of the human being, the impact of early childhood education, prevention of physical and mental disorders

Diagnosis

Class observations, assessments (e.g. of language, motor skills, social development, milestones/boundaries)

Working with teachers and parents

Child conference, development of therapeutic concepts, health advice and education on topics such as media, development, disease predisposition, vaccinations, infection control, school readiness assessments

School

Development and education of the schoolchild

Study of the human being and physiology of the curriculum, salutogenesis and research on the topic of resilience.

The school doctor in the classroom

Study of the human being, health education, first aid, media competency, relationship and sex education, parenting skills, addiction prevention, etc.

Working with teaching staff

Class observations, child conferences, learning support plans, questions of inclusion, joint assessment of transitions: kindergarten, lower, middle and upper school, working with school eurythmy therapists, art therapists and learning support teachers as well as with class and subject teachers, participation in education conferences, own conference contributions, counselling and, if necessary, mediation in the parent-teacher-pupil triangle.

Diagnosis and counselling

School enrolment examination, diagnosis of constitution and constitutional elements, examinations of developmental status, e.g. in Year 2, 4 and 8, individual examinations of particular pupils, specific developmental disorders in school skills, shortened attention span, abnormalities in social behaviour, individual discussions and counselling for upper school pupils, drug and online addiction, mental disorders (e.g. school anxiety, puberty crises, exam anxiety).

Working with parents

Consultations, therapeutic learning support concepts, parenting support, home medicine cabinet, disease prevention and salutogenesis, healthy lifestyle, sleep, nutrition, exercise, dental health, addiction prevention, media education, child protection.

Job description

Different models of kindergarten and school medical practice, medical ethics and inner schooling path, public relations, research.

Criteria for certification as school and kindergarten doctor

- Three years of independent responsibility working as a doctor in a kindergarten or school, or in comparable work with children and teachers, supported by a mentor.
- Three independently prepared case reports. Case reports may comprise:
 1. Class observation during a therapeutic intervention or learning support lesson;

2. Perception of the child in movement, e.g. in eurythmy therapy, eurythmy, sport, free play;
 3. An examination by the school doctor, diagnosis of the human constitutional elements or constitution;
 4. A consultation with the teacher or parents;
 5. Aspects of curricular physiology.
- Participation in at least three conferences for school and kindergarten doctors at the Goetheanum in Dornach or in comparable conferences or advanced training events in non-European countries.

In this case, additional advanced training modules are required, alternatively corresponding evidence must be provided that the necessary content has been worked on in regional workshops or in independent study.

Those who are not yet certified as antroposophical doctors can also include the training to become a school and kindergarten doctor in this certification. The certificate as an anthroposophical doctor can be awarded either by national medical associations that implement advanced training accredited by the Medical Section, or by the Medical Section itself within the framework of international advanced training courses in anthroposophic medicine.

Mentoring

Qualifications as mentor: a minimum of five years of practical experience, verified by the respective institution, at a Waldorf educational institution; certification as a school and kindergarten doctor; knowledge and experience in individual self-development / anthroposophical schooling path; experience in parent counselling and mediation discussions; basic knowledge of paediatrics and general medicine.

Way of working with the mentor

- The way or working together will be individually discussed, it may also occur in small groups (e.g. case discussions).
- The candidate, together with the mentor, will prepare a personal advanced training concept based on the candidate's already existing basic knowledge and experience.
- Recommendations of training opportunities for observations / joint consultations and literature.
- At least three years of regular consultations in kindergarten and school, support in implementing what has been learnt in the candidate's own experience, as well as in preparing the case reports.
- Concluding interview with the Section leadership and/or the training leadership.

Certification can be gained by applying to the Medical Section at the Goetheanum in coordination with the mentor. The cost of the certificate is EUR 300 (if already internationally certified as an anthroposophical doctor or if a national medical certificate has been obtained that meets the Benchmarks for Training in Anthroposophic Medicine, the fee is reduced to EUR 90).

A list of mentors can be found on the website of the Medical Section (<https://medsektion.goetheanum.ch/schulgesundheits/weiterbildung-schulaerzte-2>).

*Medical Section at the Goetheanum,
International School Doctor Initiative Group,
January 2026*

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