PgDip/MSc Addiction Psychology & Counselling

About the course

The MSc is accredited by the Federation of Drug and Alcohol Professionals and is a well-established route to counselling accreditation, via the National Counselling Accreditation Certificate (NCAC), which leads to placement on the United Kingdom Register of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (UKRCP). It is also the major route to counselling accreditation for those who wish subsequently to specialise in addictions counselling.

The course has developed close links with leading treatment providers, e.g. drug and alcohol teams in the public and charitable sectors, residential and day care treatment providers in the private sector, thereby facilitating the clinical placement of our students. This has also ensured that the course, whilst remaining intellectually stimulating and academically well informed, has a firm foundation in practical application. As a consequence our students are normally able to secure the required professional placements during the course and appropriate employment in addiction services operated by the public, private or independent sectors.

The PgDip Addiction Psychology and Counselling meets the required training component for professional accreditation by the FDAP, with consequent entry on the United Kingdom Register of Counsellors (UKRC). This course will:

- equip students to assess psychological models of counselling approaches
- help equip students for entry into supervised professional practice as addiction counsellors
- provide the training component required for counsellor accreditation by relevant professional bodies e.g. Federation of Drug and Alcohol Professionals (FDAP)

Career opportunities

There is a rapidly increasing demand for addiction counsellors in health and social services and a variety of community settings. Students may apply to the Alcohol Education Research Council (AERC) for financial support to cover the cost of fees. Employers are also frequently prepared to give financial support to those counsellors, nurses, social and community workers and others whose employment involves working with those who are experiencing problems associated with addiction.

Entry Requirements

Applicants will normally have a professional, employment or voluntary work interest in addiction but will not necessarily be graduates. However, graduates with an interest in the psychology of addiction and seeking a career in counselling, will be particularly interested in this programme. Some work experience in health, community and social services settings is normally required, and it is expected that in Year 1 students will seek experience in appropriate work settings related to addiction. In Year 2 students must have a counselling placement sufficient to provide 100 hours supervised practice before entering the final year.
Suggested Reading list


First Semester Teaching days*

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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Lecture (from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30pm)</td>
<td>Professional practice in addiction counselling (seminar from 12.30-1.45pm)</td>
<td>Theoretical foundations of addiction and counselling psychology (lectures)</td>
<td>Theoretical foundations of addiction and counselling psychology (lectures)</td>
<td>Professional practice in addiction counselling (lectures and seminars)</td>
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In Year 2 teaching takes place on Wednesdays from 11.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. Each student is also required to attend six tutorials a year at 10.30 a.m. on the day of the course, conducted by their personal and/or professional tutor. Dissertation supervision in Year 3 will be by individual appointment.

Course Contact(s)

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*Times/days are based on 2012/13 academic year timetable. For indicative purposes only.