Faculty of Health, Life Sciences & Social Science

MSc Level Education and Practice Development



Postgraduate Certificate In Advanced Practice in Intellectual Disabilities

Edinburgh Napier University is one of the leaders in the development and delivery of education for health, social care and independent sector practitioners. Recently an option for busy and motivated individuals with an interest in Intellectual Disabilities has been developed. A series of 20-credit modules leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Practice in Intellectual Disabilities is now available. Upon successful completion of three 20-credit modules students are awarded a Postgraduate Certificate through the flexibly managed programme that is offered within the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Care.. Students who chose to study on the flexibly managed programme may be able to use academic credit that has already been awarded to contribute to their post graduate qualification. Upon completion of a post graduate certificate individuals can continue to study toward a Postgraduate Diploma or MSc in the area of Intellectual Disabilities.

Who should undertake the modules and Postgraduate Certificate?

Carers and practitioners from health, social care and the independent sector who support people with intellectual disabilities as part of their current or future provision can undertake the programme as part of their Continuing Professional Development and career progression. Professional Development is central to all practice and these innovative modules are ideal to enable the promotion of ordinary lives and inclusion and improve health and wellbeing of people with intellectual disabilities.

The aims of the modules and Postgraduate Certificate

A range of flexible learning theory modules have been brought together that enables reflection on practice as a means to improve and facilitate the care and support of people with intellectual disabilities. The modules support the development of knowledge, person-centred care and practice and the promotion of inclusion and enable ordinary lives in partnership with clients, their carers and the community through evidence based practice. The modules will therefore actively contribute to your personal growth and development and lifelong learning.

An overview of the Postgraduate modules

Promoting Inclusion: Enabling access to healthcare for adults, children and older people with intellectual disabilities

What you will learn

 You will learn to identify and apply the best evidence to identify the personal, social, environmental and physical barriers to accessing healthcare for people with intellectual disabilities

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Improving health and wellbeing with people with intellectual disabilities

You will develop your knowledge and understanding about the evidence of the high and often unmet health needs is now well established and the policy and practice direction focuses on challenging this. The module will enable you to develop your knowledge of the different health profile of people with intellectual disabilities and enhance your skills in developing, delivering and evaluating health improvement activities.

Counselling and Motivational Interviewing

 You will learn about a range of counselling and motivational interviewing applicable to brief interventions. This will increase your awareness of the principles and practice of counselling and motivational interviewing in order to develop skills and knowledge to enable behavioural change.

Safeguarding vulnerable individuals and families

 You will learn about the growing awareness of the nature of vulnerability across the lifespan. Your learning will be underpinned throughout with evidence from research and child and adult abuse inquiries, reflect current legislative and policy frameworks. You will also explore the tensions between the rehabilitation of perpetrators back into the community and the need for public protection.

Work based learning portfolio

 You will support your own learning by engagement in experiences and activities relevant to the workplace that enables the development of a portfolio designed to stimulate professional development, judgement, critical reflective practice underpinned by professional knowledge, skills and attitudes that acts as a focus for continuous development.

Finding out more about education opportunities at Edinburgh Napier University is easy. Please contact Dr Michael Brown, Lecturer on +44 (0)131 455 5364 m.brown@napier.ac.uk for more information about the opportunities.