

CERTIFICATE IN DRUGS COUNSELLING THEORY & INTERVENTION SKILLS (Dublin & Cork)

Course Description

Merchants Quay Ireland and University College Dublin are pleased to offer a Certificate in Drugs Counselling Theory and Intervention Skills. This course which is offered at a HETAC level 7 certificate has been running successfully for the past twelve years. It delivers a broad introduction to the issues of drug use and addiction and seeks to empower participants to respond more effectively in their client work through development of their knowledge and skills base. The course runs over one academic year (September - May) and includes class room teaching, tutorial support and placements in specialist drug services.

Course Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of the psychoactive nature of particular drugs and their implications for use, misuse and abuse.
- To understand and critique treatment models and their efficacy in service provision/delivery.
- To learn and critically evaluate primary health care and harm minimization approaches both in relation to legal and non-legal substances.
- To learn key counselling skills and strategies in order to enable students to intervene effectively in terms of assessments, referrals, one-to-one work, and holistics.
- To give students an opportunity to experience a drug service and provide opportunities to link theory and practice.
- To introduce students to some of the wider macro issues around problem drug use particularly in relation to community development and social policy.

Learning Outcomes:

- To understand how psychoactive drugs work particularly in relation to effects, routes of transmission, tolerance, and withdrawals.
- To enable students to critically evaluate drug treatment models and their efficacy.
- To be able to think about and implement primary health care and harm minimization interventions and strategies.
- To have developed proficiency in the area of individual counselling interventions and be able to reflect on the acquisition of skills and strategies.
- To observe and reflect on therapeutic interventions in clinical settings.
- To have gained an appreciation of community development and social policy and their role in both local and national strategies.

Awarding body

This certificate is awarded by the National University of Ireland (University College Dublin).

Course Accreditation

This course is accepted by the Irish Association of Alcohol and Addiction Counsellors (I.A.A.A.C.) as part fulfilment of the educational requirements for accreditation.

Course Duration

This course duration is 84 hours (part-time) over one academic year of three semesters and 35 hours work placement/work experience in a drugs agency setting.

The Dublin-based certificate is typically held on a Friday morning 10am to 1pm each week over the academic year. The Cork-based certificate is typically held on a Thursday afternoon 1.30pm to 4.30 pm each week over the academic year.

Course Fee

The course fee is €2472.00.

Course Application Procedure

Course application forms should be returned to Merchants Quay Ireland with a €30 processing fee. Closing date for receipt of applications for Dublin Certificate is Friday May 6th 2011*. Successful applicants will be required to attend an interview in May 2011. Closing date for applications for the Cork Certificate is Thursday June 2nd 2011*. Successful applicants will be required to attend for interview in June 2011. Places will be offered to candidates subject to successful interview. The course will commence in September 2011.

Practical Experience

The Course Committee will require students to complete a 35 hour placement with a drugs agency which will be facilitated by Merchants Quay.

Course Venue

Merchants Quay Ireland,
25 Cork St,
Dublin 8.
Tel: 01-5240936

University College
Dublin,
Belfield Campus,
Dublin 4.

Cork School of
Music,
Union Quay,
Cork.

Course Coordinator Cork: Edel Quinn 01 5240931.

Course Coordinator Dublin: Peter Kelly 01 5240936.

* These dates were previously advertised as Thursday April 29th 2011 and Friday May 27th 2011 respectively but are now those shown above.

MODULE ONE

Theories and Models of Addiction

This module will include inputs on pharmacology, safer injecting practice, signs and effects of drugs use, primary health care and harm reduction, as well as presenting students with a broad based infrastructure on both the subjective and objective effects of problem drug/alcohol use.

Aims

The aim of this module is to introduce the student to a more focused approach to the common phenomenon of substance use. By teasing out some of our hidden beliefs and assumptions about drugs the student takes the first step on the road to understanding the complexities of drug use and the possibilities of planning new approaches to tackling substance use.

This module will include topics such

- “ A guide to pharmacology and the study of the nervous system
- “ The main substances used, patterns of use and their effects
- “ Drugs and pleasure and the nature of enjoyment
- “ Addiction and subjectivity
- “ Theories of addiction and related models of addiction.

MODULE TWO

Intervention Skills for Working with Drug Users

This module includes the development of counselling skills and the knowledge required to undertake assessments and make effective and appropriate referrals. Groupwork and Holistic interventions will also be explored. The module will also examine drug related harms particularly in relation to blood born viruses such as Hepatitis and HIV.

Aims

The aim of this module is to develop student awareness of the factors which influence drug users to change their behaviour and to rehearse appropriate intervention methods. In addition, students will develop skills in assessing drug related problems and skills to think about and enhance treatment outcomes.

This module will include topics such as:

- “ An introduction to individual interventions and reflective practice and developing discrepancy within drug counselling
- “ An introduction to the concept of the 'Wheel of Change' for working with drug users
- “ Motivational Interviewing techniques and Cognitive Behavioural approaches.
- “ Group-work perspectives and drug use
- “ Drug use and self-soothing techniques
- “ Understanding blood born viruses and drug use

MODULE THREE

Policy and Prevention

This module includes content on the nature and development of social policy regarding illicit drug use, and community responses to addiction/dependency. The module also includes a short work placement in a drugs agency.

Aims

To introduce students to the principles of modern community development with a particular emphasis on community based responses to problem drug use. To develop students critical awareness of the role of social policy in responding to problem drug use. To explore interventions with active drug users in a clinical setting and examine the strengths and deficits of service provision and delivery.

This module will include topics such as:

- “ Models of community responses to addiction
- “ The implications of differing models for social policy responses, nationally and locally
- “ The development of helping services, both specialist and generic

Who is the course for?

Anyone who has a serious interest in the area of substance use and who interacts in either a paid or voluntary capacity with people who may have drug or alcohol related problems. The purpose of the course is to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to respond more positively and effectively to issues of addiction and dependency. The course aims to offer students a foundation in treatment strategies, interventions and approaches.

The course has been running successfully for the past 12 years and many of our graduates have continued on to the MQI/UCD Diploma in drugs counselling theory and intervention skills

The profile of students who have undertaken the course includes people from community organisations, youth groups and clubs, information and training workers, teachers and career guidance counsellors, gardai, probation officers, prison officers, drugs workers, counsellors, health service personnel, human resource officers, clergy and others who might interact with substance users. Tutors and lecturers on the course are all experienced educators in their respective disciplines which include health, social science, law, pharmacology, addiction and other relevant subjects.

Eligibility

The course is a partnership between Merchants Quay Ireland and University College Dublin (Dept of Social Policy/Social Work) and allows access for those who may not meet the normal academic requirements for entry to university. The certificate course is also offered as a specialism for graduate or post graduate students of social work, psychotherapy, mental health youth work, who wish to further their skills in the addiction field and are being presented with addiction/dependency issues in the course of their work.

How do I apply?

Admission is by way of submission of the course application form, which you will find at the back of this brochure. All applications require a €30 processing fee which should be remitted with your application form. Prospective students are then called to interview with the course committee who will decide on the individual merits of each applicant.

Teaching Methodologies

The course is designed in such a way as to

- facilitate learners to achieve learning outcomes
- maintain a learner centred ethos
- provide opportunities for action and reflection in a balanced way
- encourage critical reflection.

This requires the use of a range of teaching methodologies including:

- lecturing
- small group work
- use of role-play, and demonstrations
- case studies
- practical placement experience
- group discussions
- practical exercises.

Collective learning is both valued and built into the course and learners have planned opportunities to present work.

Study skills are provided to all students and there is a tutor support system in place.

Disclaimer

All course details may be subject to future change.

Other Courses Available at Merchants Quay Ireland

In addition to the course outlined in this document, Merchants Quay Ireland offers training tailored to the specific needs of various organisations and agencies whose workers interact with drug users and the issues surrounding drug use. Please contact Edel 01 5240931 for further information.

**CERTIFICATE IN DRUGS COUNSELLING THEORY & INTERVENTION SKILLS
APPLICATION FORM**

Please complete this application form and return it to the address below.

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL (HOME) _____ TEL (WORK) _____

ORGANISATION (IF ANY) _____

ORG ADDRESS _____

Why would you like to do this course? (fifty words max)

Please state your present or previous involvement in voluntary work, community work, professional/work involvement or other interest that involves substance use. (Please use a separate sheet if necessary).

Please list any previous academic or other qualifications you hold (if any).

Please give the name and address of two people as references in relation to this application.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

A non-refundable fee of €30 should be returned with this form.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Return to: **MQI Training Department, c/o Merchants Quay, 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8.**

For more details contact:

Peter Kelly, Course Co-ordinator Dublin, 01 5240936 peter.kelly@mqi.ie or

Edel Quinn, Course Co-ordinator Cork, 01 5240931 edelm.quinn@mqi.ie.

Further information is available on www.mqi.ie