



New taught professional Doctorate launched at NUIM

Doctor of Social Science (DSocSc)

Offered by the Department of Applied Social Studies (DAPPSS)

Entry September 2012

Introduction

The Department of Applied Social Studies is delighted to announce the start of a new taught professional Doctoral programme from September 2012. The four-year DSocSc will build on the successful professional programmes of education and training in youth work and community work. It will contribute to the Department's mission to "contribute to human rights, social justice and equality nationally and internationally".

The doctoral programme is designed to provide advanced professional and research skills to qualified, experienced practitioners in lead roles in youth work, community work, rights and social change focused organisations

The DsocSc programme aims to:

1. further progress the commitment of the Department and the University to combining the highest levels of academic achievement with excellence in professional education by educating flexible, innovative and skilled practitioners who can contribute to development of theory and practice in youth work, community work and the realisation of rights for marginalised groups.
2. enable experienced practitioners to undertake original, rigorous research in youth work, community work and rights based contexts that contributes to the development of their disciplines.

Outcomes:

At the end of the DSocSc students should be able to:

1. demonstrate critical analysis and understanding of complex issues in theory, policy and practice
2. synthesise theory and practice in a 'unity of praxis'
3. demonstrate advanced professional research and evaluation skills

4. take leadership in working towards realising rights in a variety of organisational and policy contexts
5. undertake, present and defend a rigorous doctoral thesis that contributes to the development of their discipline.

The programme is underpinned by a number of commitments:

- Firstly, is the commitment to intellectual rigour and critical analysis in all aspects of the programme, from initial engagement in taught modules to the production of a substantial individual research project
- Secondly, a commitment to realising rights in theory and practice is embedded in all aspects of the programme and across all modules.
- Thirdly, in addition to individual practitioner development, a commitment to the development of theory and practice in the disciplines of youth work and community work and associated professions.
- Fourthly, a commitment to the creation of a challenging and participative learning environment embedded in principles of reflexivity, mutuality, and collegiality

Programme Structure and Content

The programme is designated full-time over four years. It combines block modules, of 3/5 days on campus every 6-8 weeks, with self-directed learning off campus with some on-line components.

Students complete 360 credits (ECTS) over four years, of which 180 are assigned to coursework in the first two years. The remaining 180 relate to a substantial doctoral thesis undertaken in years three and four. Course work comprises a number of written assignments and presentations. The research thesis is in the region of 40-50,000 words.

Modules in years one and two include:

- Social science, the social professions and the foundations of social research (15 credits)
- Critical Debates in Practice (15 credits)
- Participatory and Feminist Analysis and Research (15 credits)
- Social Research Debates & Processes (15 credits)
- Research Design (15 credits)
- Governance, Organisations, Leadership and Change (15 credits)
- Realising Rights: Social Policy Debates & Issues (15 credits)
- Professional Practice: Perspectives on Development, Gender, Diversity and Conflict & Mediation Studies (15 credits)

Modules in years three and four are designed to support the research process and enable students to complete their thesis. They will be agreed with the thesis supervisor and programme director and may vary somewhat for each student.

Admission Requirements

All candidates should hold at least an MA or equivalent level 9 academic qualification, ideally in a social science discipline. They should have a minimum of five years post-qualifying professional experience in youth work, community work, social policy or related social professions. Particular preference is given to candidates with professional qualifications in youth work and community work and allied social professions.

Applications from professionally qualified youth workers and community workers will be particularly encouraged as will those from candidates qualified in allied social professions working in community based organisations.

Application Procedure

Applications are only accepted through the Post-graduate Application Centre (PAC). Prospective students should make applications through PAC (<http://www.pac.ie/nuim>) using course code MHB06.

Applicants must supply references (professional and academic), a personal statement and a sample of recent writing (report, article, etc). All suitable candidates will be interviewed. It is not necessary to have a research project in mind when applying though students will identify a substantive topic by the end of the first year.

Further information on Graduate Studies is available on the Graduate Studies website:

<http://graduatestudies.nuim.ie/prospectivepostgrads>

Fees

The fee for 2012-13 has not been set as yet, though it is expected that it will be broadly in line with other PhD programmes, currently, €5097 full-time for 2011-12. An increase is expected for 2012-13. International and Non-EU students' fees differ from the above.

Further information on fees available from the Fees Office, Tel. 01 708 4747/ 3875/3795 e-mail: fees.office@nuim.ie

International/Non EU students are facilitated with relevant information via the International office <http://international.nuim.ie/>

Closing Date

Closing Date for receipt of completed applications is May 31st 2012 but applications are welcome before then. Early applications will ensure early response.

If you would like to talk informally to a member of staff about the programme, please contact:
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Celebrating 30 years (1981 – 2011) of community work and youth work professional education in NUIM.