

Department of Adult and
Community Education



Postgraduate Diploma in Arts Adult Guidance Counselling

(Level 9, MHA55)



Maynooth University

Introduction

The Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance Counselling) is designed to serve as a training course for people working with adults in a guidance counselling setting, providing information, advice guidance and placement services.

The emphasis of the course is on the development of the key communication and relationship skills and competencies that underpin the practice of Adult Guidance. The course also aims to work towards the development of an understanding of core concepts and ideas concerning marginalisation, exclusion and adult career development. The personal development and self awareness of the participants underpins the course.

Year 1

Modules: For a fuller description of the content, learning outcomes and assessment methods please go to the following link: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/courses/postgraduate-diploma-arts-adult-guidance-and-counselling>

Case Review and Professional

Development 1 ADG556A

Content to include

- To offer an opportunity to reflect on casework in the light of course material
- To provide an opportunity to integrate theory and practice

Learning outcomes to include

- Enhanced self-concept and self-awareness in terms of professional practice
- A familiarity with a supervisory model of professional development
- A capacity to apply reflexivity to practice in the light of core concepts and theories encountered on the course

Adult Guidance Counselling

Skills 1 ADG554A

Content to include

- Core communication and interpersonal approaches and skills.
- Models of guidance counselling.
- Reflective practice in professional development.

Learning outcomes to include

- The capacity to establish a professional relationship with clients in terms of contract setting and boundary setting.
- A capacity to engage in reflexivity around client issues.
- A capacity to reflect on own practice in the light of models of guidance.

Theoretical Perspectives in Adult Guidance Counselling ADG551A

Content to include

- The Psychology of Adult Development: Implications for Facilitating Change
- Work and Unemployment
- Sociological and Psychological Models of Vocational Development
- Principles of information storage and retrieval in Adult Guidance
- Theories and Approaches to Group Facilitation

Learning outcomes to include

- A capacity to apply psychological, counselling and vocational models to one's own experience and practice
- A critical understanding of issues relating to work and unemployment in the context of current labour market trends
- A critical exploration of the role of information and information technology in Career decision making
- A capacity to apply core concepts and theories of Group Facilitation Skills at an advanced level in the context of Adult Guidance practice

The Reflective Learner and Reflective Practice 1 ADG555A

Content to include

- Introduction to Adult Learning theories
- Presentation and Writing skills
- Reflective Practice and Experiential Learning

Learning outcomes to include

- Capacity to connect learning across modules
- Application of learning to current and to past learning biographies
- Identifying and engaging with learning goals for professional development

Year 2

Case Review and Professional Development 2 ADG556B

Content to include

- To give and receive feedback on professional practice
- To establish a professional support network
- To critically reflect on ethical practice

Learning outcomes to include

- A familiarity with a supervisory model of professional development
- A capacity to apply reflexivity to practice at an advanced level in the light of core concepts and theories encountered on the course
- Capacity to reflect on the emotional and psychological dynamics and demands of interacting in a group setting

Adult Guidance Counselling

Skills 2 ADG554B

Content to include

- Advanced core communication and interpersonal approaches and skills
- Advanced models of guidance and counselling.

Learning outcomes to include:

- The capacity to maintain a professional relationship
- Use of advanced communication skills underpinning the guidance process
- A capacity to critique oneself professionally and ethically.

Integrating Theory and Practice in Adult

Guidance Counselling ADG552

Content to include

- Experiential group work from a Psychodynamic Perspective
- Organisation Systems and Dynamics
- Key Psychometric tests and their application in Adult Guidance
- New and Emerging Issues in Adult Guidance
- Humanistic, Psychodynamic and Cognitive Behavioural Approaches to Counselling

Learning outcomes to include

- Capacity to reflect on the emotional and psychological dynamics and demands of interacting in a group setting
- A critical appreciation of organisation theory in Terms of structure, culture and development
- Knowledge of key psychometric texts and their application in Adult Guidance
- Capacity to apply models of best practice to working with marginalized groups in Adult Guidance
- Mastery of the key theories and approaches to Counselling

Research Methodologies in Adult

Guidance Counselling ADG553

Content to include

- Qualitative Research Methods
- Applied Research and Evaluation Techniques
- Reflexivity in Qualitative research design and implementation

Learning outcomes to include

- A critical appreciation of different models of qualitative research design and implementation in the field of Adult Guidance and Counselling
- An ability to design and implement an inquiry in the context of scholarly practitioner research approaches
- Production of a Research Dissertation that contributes to the development of adult guidance practice

The Reflective Learner and

Reflective Practice 2 ADG555B

Content to include

- Advanced Adult Learning theories Journaling
- as Reflexive learning method Presentation,
- Writing and Research skills Reflective
- Practice and Experiential Learning

Learning outcomes to include

- Capacity to take responsibility for oneself as a learner
- Identifying and engaging with learning goals for professional development
- Capacity to reflect on the development of professional and maintenance of their professional identity in lifelong learning

Course Content

The course will seek to develop a critical awareness for participants of their professional role by:

- Developing their knowledge of the theoretical field of Adult Guidance and Counselling
- Facilitating the exploration of issues of marginalisation and exclusion as they relate to employment and unemployment;
- Enabling participants to develop key skills and competencies involved in working with clients

Admission Requirement

- Applicants must have a degree, professional diploma or equivalent qualification
- Applicants will be expected to have a minimum of two years' experience working with adults in a developmental setting and seeing a minimum of 6 clients on a regular basis
- Applicants should have participated in training courses or workshops in the area of guidance, counselling and self awareness
- Interview with Staff in the Department

Assessment Methods

Participants are required to have a minimum attendance of 80%. A range of assessment methods will be used on the course as follows:

- Skills Application: Twice a year participants are required to submit a taped interview together with a written commentary. Participants' skills will be monitored on an ongoing basis
- Portfolio: A portfolio of home based learning activities
- Essay/Research: Two essays over the course and a research project
- Self and Peer Assessment: A learning statement at the end of each year
- Case Presentation: Two Case Studies presented to peers

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Course Duration

The Postgraduate Diploma is delivered part-time over two years and in an open learning format, incorporating e-learning material, and workshops. The workshops will be provided over 2 x 3 days and 6 x 2 day sessions each year and one summer week- long psychometric testing workshop in Year 1. Participants will be required to attend one workshop per month. Workshops will take place on Thursday/Friday, 9.30am – 5.00pm

Course Hours

Home Based Learning: 212 hours

Workshops: 216 hours

Total: 428 hours

Fees

The course fee for 2020 has yet to be determined. Please contact the fees office for current fees. There will be an additional charge of €350 in Year 1 for psychometric testing

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-fees-grants/postgraduate>

Further Details

- Closing date for applications: 30th April 2020
- Interviews will be held in May 2020
- Applications online www.pac.ie using PAC code MHA55
- As part of the on-line PAC application, please submit the supplementary questions electronically. Please also submit two academic references and official transcripts to PAC
- If you would like to discuss your application and/or to speak with a graduate of the programme please contact Maggie Noone at 01 708 3752 or email adultguidancecourses@mu.ie

Please note: Graduates from this programme are eligible for membership of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors.