

Department of Adult and  
Community Education

# Postgraduate Diploma in Arts Adult Guidance Counselling

(Level 9, MHA55)

Maynooth University



**Maynooth  
University**

National University  
of Ireland Maynooth

# 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 vocational and educational information, advice, guidance counselling 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 Counselling. The course also aims to work towards the development of an understanding of core concepts and ideas concerning marginalisation, exclusion and adult career development. Underpinning the course is a belief in the power of the learning group as a site for mindful transformative learning. Participation on the course will therefore entail reflexive and dialogical exploration of one's own career, educational and personal development narratives.

## 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**

This module offers an opportunity to reflect on casework in a small group setting in the light of core concepts and theories encountered on the course

### **Adult Guidance Counselling Skills 1 ADG554AA**

This module focusses on the core communication and interpersonal approaches and skills that underpin adult guidance counselling. The module will develop participants' capacity to

establish a professional relationship with clients in terms of contract and boundary setting.

### **Theoretical Perspectives in Adult Guidance Counselling ADG551A**

- The Psychology of Adult Development:
- Sociological and Psychological Models of Vocational Development
- Career Development and Behaviour
- Information Technology in Adult Guidance
- Theories and Approaches to Group Facilitation

### **The Reflective Learner and Reflective Practice 1 ADG555A**

This module provides an opportunity for participants to engage mindfully and reflexively with their own experience of learning on the course in the light of the theoretical models encountered on the course.

## **Year 2**

### **Case Review and Professional Development 2 ADG556B**

This module builds on and deepens the supervisory model from year 1 to strengthen participants' capacity to develop professional practice in adult guidance counselling.

### **Adult Guidance and Counselling Skills 2 ADG554B**

This module provides an advanced engagement with models of guidance counselling including a capacity to critique oneself ethically and professionally.

### **Integrating Theory and Practice in Adult Guidance Counselling ADG552**

Content to include

- Experiential group work
- Organisation Systems and Dynamics
- Key Psychometric tests and their application in Adult Guidance
- New and Emerging Issues in Adult Guidance
- Theoretical models of Counselling

### **Research Methodologies in Adult Guidance Counselling AD02C**

This module introduces participants to methods of practitioner research such as narrative inquiry, autoethnography, action research and other models that are congruent with a Transformative learning approach to adult guidance.

### **The Reflective Learner and Reflective Practice 2 ADG555B**

This module offers an opportunity for participants to engage reflexively with their own learning on the course and to deepen their capacities to take responsibility for the development of their own professional identity and practice



## 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, workshops or sessions 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 recorded 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
- A learning statement at the end of each year
- Case Presentation: Two Case Studies presented to peers

## Course Durations

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 1 × 3 days and 7 × 2 day sessions each year and one summer week-long psychometric testing workshop. Participants will be required to attend one workshop per month. Workshops will take place on Thursday/Friday, 9.30am – 5.00pm

## Fees

Please contact the fees office for current fees.

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

There will be an additional charge of €350 in Year 1 module for a psychometric testing module.

## Further Details

- Closing date for applications: End of May
- Interviews will be held in June
- Applications online <https://v2.pac.ie/institute/2>
- Use PAC code PG Diploma 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](mailto:adultguidancecourses@mu.ie)

### Please note:

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

Tel: +353 1 708 3752

[adultguidancecourses@mu.ie](mailto:adultguidancecourses@mu.ie)

[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/adult-and-community-education](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/adult-and-community-education)