

Continuing Professional Development/ MSc/PgDip/PgCert Community Care

This multidisciplinary programme has been delivered over the past fifteen years and the recently reviewed course allows participants greater flexibility of access and exit points. It is designed to meet the needs of those working in any aspect of community care with all the major user groups, whether in the statutory, voluntary or private sectors, in direct contact with users, or as managers and policy-makers.

It is assumed that course participants will have some understanding of the community care framework but want to develop their knowledge base in light of the continuing evolution of policy and practice.



About the Course

The course aims to provide a student-centred education designed to encourage application to practice. The content is relevant, up-to-date and located against the backdrop of increasingly 'integrated' ways of working. Past participants have commented very positively on how useful the application of the course material is to community care practice.

The interdisciplinary nature of the course is emphasised in the teaching approach and in the course design which draws on a variety of relevant disciplines and specialties, such as social work, social policy, health, and the social and behavioural sciences. One of the aims of the course is to explore the role of these professional demarcations and their value bases in light of the 'integrated working' agenda.

Central to the course rationale is breadth of coverage across different disciplines, depth of knowledge in particular aspects of community care, application of a range of skills and the synthesis of information towards originality of approach in problem-solving.

The course can be completed to Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert), Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Master's (MSc) levels. Single modules can be undertaken as part of continuing professional development.

Both general and specialist modules are offered to meet different educational and professional development needs.

Course Structure

Modules are delivered one day per week across the academic year (usually Wednesday). Students will also require to allocate time for private study.

Singles modules have a credit-value of 15 points; double modules have a credit-value of 30 points.

Postgraduate Certificate

Students are required to complete four modules, from a limited menu, amounting to 60 credit points.

Postgraduate Diploma

Students are required to complete eight modules amounting to 120 credit points.

MSc

Students are required to complete the Postgraduate Diploma and then undertake a 15,000 word dissertation under supervision.

Continuing Professional Development

Subject to availability, each of the modules can be undertaken individually on the basis of Continuing Professional Development.

Core Modules

- Principles of Community Care
- Values and Ethics in Community Care
- Research Methods in Community Care
- Practice of Community Care (double module)

Option Modules

- Interprofessional Working in Community Care
- Community Care and Older People
- Community Care and People with Mental Health Problems
- Community Care and People with Learning Disabilities

Teaching and Assessment

Students are encouraged to acquire cross-disciplinary skills, including the collection and collation of information, the critical evaluation of research evidence, the understanding of arguments, the capacity for independent thought and study, and the communication of ideas and information.

Assessment is usually based on coursework.

Entry Requirements

Candidates will ideally have a degree or professional qualification in a field such as health, social work, social policy or housing and be currently in, or have recently had, relevant employment in a Community Care field.

Other academic backgrounds will be considered on an individual basis.

Candidates without a degree (or equivalent qualifications) are invited to discuss an application on the basis of prior learning and work experience.

Preparatory Reading

Bytheway B et al (eds) (2001) *Understanding Care, Welfare and Community*, London: Routledge ISBN 041525860X

Malin N, Wilmot S & Manthorpe G (2002) *Key Concepts and Debates in Health and Social Policy*, Buckingham: Open University Press

Means, R Richards, S & Smith, R (2008) *Community Care*, 4th edition, Basingstoke: Palgrave ISBN 9780230006744

McDonald, A (2006) *Understanding Community Care* (2nd edition), Basingstoke: Palgrave ISBN 1403912181

Sharkey P (2006) *The Essentials of Community Care: A Guide for Practitioners*, 2nd Edition, Basingstoke: Macmillan ISBN 140394203X

Symonds A and Kelly A, (eds) (1998) *The Social Construction of Community Care*, Basingstoke: Macmillan ISBN 0333662989

The Faculty of Education has a long and proud history in the field of teacher education and, more recently, in the training of professionals in the arts, community education, physical education, sport and outdoor education, social work and speech and language therapy.

The Faculty is committed to evaluating and reviewing its provision of continuing professional development in order to meet the needs of local authorities, institutions and establishments, and individuals.

More students train to be teachers at the Faculty than anywhere else in Scotland, and it is one of only two centres in Scotland for the training of speech and language therapists.

The Faculty is the largest provider in the country of graduates to the community education service and, mainly as a result of its location within Scotland's largest city, offers social workers an exceptional range of experience.

Staff in each of the Faculty's six Departments are involved in delivering courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level. They also undertake research and supervise students undertaking higher degrees by research.

Another major activity is the provision of award-bearing and short courses for qualified teachers and other professionals.

How to Apply

Download the postgraduate application form at:
www.strath.ac.uk/prospectus/postgraduateapplications

Apply online at:
<http://applicants.strath.ac.uk>

You can also request an application form from:

Registry – Education
University of Strathclyde
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