Drug and Alcohol Studies

Applied Social Science

Drug and Alcohol Studies

1. Awarding institution University of Stirling
2. Teaching institution University of Stirling
3. Programme accredited by N/A
4. Final award University Certificate
5. Programme Title Drug and Alcohol Studies
6. UCAS code N/A
7. Subject benchmark statement N/A
8. Date of PS preparation/revision Sep 2003

9. Criteria for admission

Applicants must be experienced worker in the field of alcohol/drug misuse or related fields. Formal educational qualifications are not requirement but applicants must be able to demonstrate an ability to study at Honours level. The Course Director may ask for a written assignment as part of the selection process.

10. Educational aims of the programme

The Certificate aims to address training, resource management and development needs for those working in the field of drug and alcohol misuse, thereby promoting improvements in practice and service delivery.

11. Intended learning outcomes

(Knowledge and understanding/Skills and other attributes/Professional practical skills/Transferable/key skills)

This course is made up of two modules with three modules per module.

On completion of each module, students will be able to understand and analyse:

- The pharmacology of alcohol and other drug use
- Dependence theories and their application
- Socio-cultural factors in drug/alcohol use
- The current network of treatment services
- The impact of race, gender and popular culture on drug taking (Module 1)

- The relationship between policy and practice
- The policy background of the current network of treatment services
• Current legislation as it applies to Scotland
• Drug issues within the global perspective (Module 2)

• The physical and psychological risks of long-term substance use
• The socio-cultural factors involved in drug-related ill-health
• Current thinking on issues of co-morbidity
• Issues associated with loss and bereavement (Module 3)

• The theoretical constructs underlying the more widely used interventions
• The appropriateness of these techniques in a variety of settings
• The dynamics of group settings
• The role of advice and information giving
• The foremost theories of behavioural change
• The role of education and prevention (Module 4)

• The basis of needs analysis surveying
• Client satisfaction and performance indication
• Simple business planning
• The basis construction of contracts and service specifications
• The basis of organisational evaluation
• Introductory research skills (Module 5)

• The relationship between policy and practice
• The process of implementing a research/evaluation initiative (Module 6)

12. Teaching, learning and assessment strategies

Work is assessed on the basis of its structure and presentation, the use of theory, incorporation of relevant research and clarity of argument/discussion.

Each module is assessed as follows:

• Module 1 (DA01) 1 x 1,500 – 2,000 word essay
• 1 x 1,500 – 2,000 word literature review
• Module 2 (DA02) Extended Essay (5,000 words)

13. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The level of the award is level 10 of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

The programme is part time, incorporating 52 days study over one or two years. It is delivered in on-line format.

There are two modules, with successful completion of module 1 a pre-requisite for module 2.
The two modules are:

- Module 1 – Policy and Practice including drugs and society; drugs and addiction (the role of British policy); and drugs and health
- Module 2 – Understanding Drug Treatment including a critical appraisal of treatment

14. Regulation of assessment

Assessment is graded on a scale from 1A to 5, with 3C being the pass grade (equivalent to 50% etc).

The Certificate may be awarded with Distinction.

15. Support for students and their learning

The programme is designed for mature students and teaching methods encourage student participation and peer group learning. Students are encouraged to use on-line tutorial areas for general discussions and on-line collaborative exercises promote shared learning. All students receive individual tutorials from their tutor by e-mail and a mid-course review tutorial to discuss progress.

Students receive custom-made learning materials, usually electronically. A limited number of key texts are identified at an early stage, to enable students in distant locations to acquire them and an On-line Library is provided to assist students without easy access to traditional library facilities.

Students are encouraged to provide feedback throughout the course and formally (by questionnaire) at the end of each module. This ensures that the course remains relevant to practice and sensitive to students’ experience of teaching and assessment.

The University has a wide range of support facilities, including:

- Academic advice through the advisory system, which assigns each student to an Adviser of Studies, who provides guidance on the student’s choice of modules and on the requirements of degree programmes
- Library and Information Technology Support: http://www.stir.ac.uk/infoserv/students/
- Student Information and Support Service: http://www.stir.ac.uk/siss/
- Careers Advisory Service: http://www.careers.stir.ac.uk/
- Students’ Association (SUSA): http://www.susaonline.org.uk
- Support for Students with Disabilities: http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/
- Learning Support at Departmental and University Level

The University is committed to accessibility and transparency in its provision of information for students. It is currently investing heavily in a three year Student System Project (2001–
2004) to provide better and more accessible information for students online. Students can now access their grade record, online progress reports, module enrolment and other registration data through the portal which is accessed from the University home page.