



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

Department of Adult and Community Education

National University of Ireland, Maynooth

DIPLOMA IN ARTS (Adult Guidance and Counselling)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ARTS (Adult Guidance and Counselling)

Introduction:

The National University of Ireland Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance and Counselling)/Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance and Counselling) are designed to serve as training courses for people working with adults in a guidance/ counselling setting, providing information, advice and placement services. The NUI Diploma is a 60 credit undergraduate diploma.

Since its inception in 1997 the course has played a key role in the professionalisation of adult guidance in Ireland. The White Paper on Adult Education (2000) identified a growing need for trained and skilled personnel to develop Adult Guidance 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 sociology, marginalisation, exclusion and adult career development.

Emphasis is placed on the personal development and self awareness of the participants.

Admission Requirements:

Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance and Counselling)

- Applicants will be expected to have a minimum of three years' experience working with adults in a development setting;
- Applicants should have participated in training courses or workshops in the area of guidance, counselling and self awareness;
- Applicants must be seeing a minimum of 6 clients in a guidance context on a regular basis;
- Applicants must also be available for interview by the Department of Adult and Community Education.

Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Adult Guidance and Counselling)

In addition to the above requisites, the additional requirement for the Postgraduate Diploma is a degree, professional diploma or equivalent qualification.

Course Content:

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

- Developing participants' 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 the key skills and competencies involved in working with clients.

Introductory Module

Unit I	Course Guide Handbook
Unit II	Study Skills for Adults Returning to Learning
Unit III	Learning as a Way of Being

1. Psychology of Human Development

Unit I	Transition to Adulthood
Unit II	Developmental Stages in Adulthood
Unit III	Development and Change in the Context of Social Exclusion

2. Sociological perspectives on Work, Employment and Everyday Life

Unit I	Work, Employment and Everyday Life
Unit II	Work and Unemployment
Unit III	Historical Overview

3. Vocational Guidance

Unit I	Career Information and Information Technology
Unit II	Theory and Practice of Career Development and Behaviour
Unit III	Theory and Application of Psychometric Testing

4. Groupwork

Unit I	Group Facilitation: Skills & Styles
Unit II	Experiential Approaches to Group Dynamics and Process
Unit III	Theoretical Perspectives on Groupwork

5. Theory and Practice of Guidance and Counselling

Unit I	Applied Guidance Skills
Unit II	Applied Counselling Skills
Unit III	Theoretical Perspectives on Counselling

6. Research and Evaluation Methodologies

Unit I	Quantitative Approaches to Research
Unit II	Qualitative Approaches to Research
Unit III	Applied Research Techniques

7. Psychology of Work and Working Life

Unit I	Organisation Systems and Dynamics
Unit II	Human Resource Management
Unit III	Occupational Psychology

8. Professional Issues in Adult Guidance and Counselling

Unit I	Working with Difference
Unit II	Working with Disability

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 will be required to submit a taped interview together with a written commentary. This will be completed in the light of both the theoretical and practical aspects of the course. The case studies will assess the participants' capacity to demonstrate a competent use of skills. Participants' skills will also be monitored on an on-going basis in the skills module.
- **Portfolio:**
A portfolio of home based learning activities will be completed by each participant and will be assessed as a gauge of their understanding of the materials.
- **Essay/Research:**
Participants will be required to submit two essays throughout the course. One essay must be completed from the module Theory and Practice of Guidance and Counselling and one essay from a designated module. Participants must also complete a research project which will integrate perspectives from a broad range of modules.
- **Self- and Peer Assessment:**
Twice on the course participants will submit a Learning Statement on their personal development and learning progress.

- **Practicum:**
Students will be required to make presentations to their peers incorporating applied guidance skills and theories.

Course Duration:

The Diploma/Postgraduate Diploma extends over two academic years on a part-time basis and will be delivered in an open learning format, incorporating e-learning materials, and workshops. Please note that computer access is vital.

Course hours are as follows:

Home Based Learning:	212 Hours
Workshops:	216 Hours
Total:	428 Hours

The workshops will be provided over 2 x 3 day and 6 x 2 day sessions each year and one week-long psychometric testing workshop in Year 1. Participants will therefore be expected to be in a position to attend on average one workshop per month. Workshops will take place on Thursday/Friday.

Fees:

The course fee for 2010/2011 has yet to be determined. The current fee is €3,502 per year (for EU citizens). There will be an additional charge of €350 in Year 1 for psychometric testing.

Further Details:

Closing Date for applications: **28th April 2010.**

Interviews will be held on **18th, 19th and 20th May 2010.**

Applications through the online PAC System at www.pac.ie using **PAC Codes** MHA57 (Diploma) MHA55 (Postgraduate Diploma) Additional Application Form (2 pages) which includes:

- Personal Statement including motivation for application;
 - Detailed description of your experience in Adult Guidance;
 - Number of clients you work with per week
- should be forwarded to PAC by post including two academic references and official transcripts.

Further details are available from

Website: <http://adulthoodeducation.nuim.ie>

By Post: The Department of Adult and Community Education, National University of Ireland Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Tel: 353 1 708 3752
Fax: 353 1 708 4687
Email: adultguidancecourses@nuim.ie

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