

Appendix 1

Case Study 1: TCD Diploma in Addiction Studies – Course Aims¹

The Diploma in Addiction Studies is a level 7 special purpose award, characteristically taken by people already in service, which leads to enhanced professional competencies and specialised knowledge across a variety of areas. It attracts 60 ECTS. The successful completion of the course enables students to achieve the following learning objectives and outcomes:

Through a series of modules focusing on Theory and Practice of Addiction Counselling, Addiction Policy, Addiction Research, Contemporary Issues – Disciplines and Addiction Practice and Fieldwork Placement the course enables students to achieve the following learning objectives and outcomes: -

- (a) To examine in depth the theoretical and practical aspects of problem drug use and problem drinking;
- (b) To develop critical awareness at a theoretical level in a range of addiction counselling models and approaches;
- (c) To acquire skills and competency in practical training in a range of addiction counselling models and approaches;
- (d) To acquire breadth of knowledge in the theory and practice of ethics, underlying principles, practice issues, knowledge and critical awareness of counselling, group work, outreach and client engagement;
- (e) To develop skills and competency working in different environmental and agency contexts and with diverse client groups;
- (f) To show clear, critical assessment and planning and demonstrate competent intervention and management of caseload;
- (g) To acquire broadened in-depth knowledge base, both theoretical and practical, about contemporary issues pertaining to addiction and addiction counselling practice (HIV,

¹ Taken from the Diploma in Addiction Studies Course Handbook (2009 – 2010)

Homelessness, Hepatitis C, Child Welfare and Protection, Addiction and Youth Justice, Street drinking, anti-discriminatory practice, prostitution, low threshold work, outreach work);

- (h) To acquire broadened basic knowledge base of disciplines relating to addiction – sociology, criminology, psychology, microbiology, pharmacology, family law and criminal law;
- (i) To develop a critical awareness of evaluative research;
- (j) To develop basic skills and competency at both a theoretical and practical level through a small qualitative or quantitative research project;
- (k) To examine public policy in relation to alcohol and drug problems with a detailed focus on how Irish and international public policy has evolved to acquire broadened knowledge base about the social, political, cultural and historical impacts on the development of public policy;
- (l) To develop a critical awareness of alcohol and drug policy and service provision;
- (m) To acquire skills and competencies in the effective and convincing planning, preparation and presentation of material in public.