

Post-Experience Certificate in Continuing Professional Development In Social Work (PQ1)

For students entering in 2005

Awarding institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching institution:	The University of Reading
Faculty:	Economic & Social Sciences
Relevant QAA subject benchmark group:	Social Work
Programme length:	9 months
Programme Director:	Ann Quinn
Board of Studies:	for Post-experience certificate
Accreditation:	GSCC (Thames Valley PQ Consortium)

Summary of programme aims

For qualified Social Workers, evidence of continuing professional development is a requirement of professional registration. In addition, social workers who wish to proceed to obtain further professional qualifications need to demonstrate that they have improved and extended the level of competence acquired at the point of qualification. This general requirement is translated into two core requirements to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of their practice using a relevant knowledge range, including an understanding of legal and policy contexts and appropriate research.
- Demonstrate an explicit adherence to the values of social work and to the provision of ethically sound practice.

These expectations are reflected in the content and assessed learning outcomes of two 20 credit modules that make up the programme.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

Programme content

The programme consists of two 20 credit, level 3 modules entitled 'Evaluating the Effectiveness of Social Work Practice' and 'Social Work Values in Action'.

			<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
1	HC3SW11	<i>Evaluating the Effectiveness of Social Work Practice</i>	20	H
2	HC3SW12	<i>Social Work Values in Action</i>	20	H

Summary of teaching and assessment

These will be delivered through a mixture of University-based and work-based learning and appraised through a case study, a critical career review, reflective accounts of practice and a report of a direct observation of the candidate's practice with service users. The programme will be delivered and assessed over a nine month period.

Agencies will be required to countersign a Learning Contract for each candidate which includes a commitment to allow time to attend the University, study days and work based learning to a total of 400 hours.

Each module will have its own assessment tasks and there will be a portfolio, which integrates the learning from the modules with the candidate's practice.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have a professional qualification in Social Work plus 18 months of post-qualification experience.

Admissions Tutor: Ann Quinn

Support for students and their learning

The emphasis of this programme is on work based learning. Teaching is designed to provide students with a framework for analysis and evaluation that can be applied to their current and recent professional practice. This is reflected in the assessment tasks, which involve commentary on a range of practice experiences.

Candidates will be supported through individual and group tutorials. Practice Assessors will assist candidates with negotiating a learning contract with their line manager. Where appropriate, the Practice Assessor will also directly observe the student's practice although this function may also be performed by the candidate's line manager or a qualified practice teacher. An overall assessment of the candidate's professional competence will be provided by the Practice Assessor and the Line Manager who will also verify their work .

Career prospects

This Programme opens the door for students to progress to a range of post-qualifying programmes, including the Post Graduate Certificate in Child Care Social Work, the MA in Advanced Social Work Studies and the Berkshire Practice Teaching Programme, all of which are offered at the University.

Educational aims of the programme

The Programme is designed to enable students to improve and extend the knowledge, values and skills that they acquired when they qualified as a professional social worker and to facilitate student centred learning and develop Life Long Learning Skills.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand a competency based approach to professional education.2. Apply adult learning principles to their own professional development.3. Understand the GSCC codes of practice for Social Care Workers and employees.4. Appreciate the growing significance of service user and carer involvement in social work training, policy development and monitoring.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Students will gain an understanding of these areas through lectures, seminars, independent study and work based learning.</p> <p>Assessment Assessment is entirely by course work as the over-riding assessment requirement is to use theory, values and research to evaluate social work practice.</p>
--	---

Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Critically analyse and reflect on their own experience in terms of knowledge, values and skills.6. Apply an evidence based approach to the evaluation of their own practice.7. Gather information and evidence from a wide range of sources, including practice.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies The lecture and seminars are designed to promote evaluative and critical thinking and encourage independence of thought. Awareness of values in action will be stimulated by workshops designed to help students identify evidence of this in their own practice.</p> <p>Assessment The individual assessment tasks are integrated into a portfolio that allows an holistic assessment of the candidate's professional competence to be made.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Demonstrate self-awareness.9. Research models for the involvement of service users in the evaluation of social work practice and policies.10. Provide evidence of their professional effectiveness	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Students will be required to present their own work to fellow students and tutors. These presentations will be translated into commentaries on account of their own practice.</p> <p>Assessment The six pieces of evidence of competence will all require self-awareness and an understanding of what evidence of effectiveness means in this context. The assignment related to service user involvement will assess research skills.</p>

D. Transferable skills – able to:

11. Communicate in writing
12. Plan their career
13. Give oral presentations
14. Work in Groups
15. Develop Life Long Learning Skills

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Group work, problem solving and team work exercises will be used throughout the Programme.

Assessment

All assignments test candidates written skills. The variety of tasks and formats mean that a range of skills will be tested.

Oral presentations will be tested in workshop settings but not formally assessed.

Career planning relates to the Career Review assessment task.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.