



ICHAS

Irish College of Humanities & Applied Sciences

Module Aims – MA in Addiction Studies

Understanding Addiction

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to critically evaluate the conceptual understanding of addiction as well as the personal, familial and societal implications of addiction. Learners will focus on theoretical explanations, epidemiological considerations as well as personal and familial consequences, specifically examining Harm and Harm reduction as well as recovery approaches over the period of the Module and will be required to appraise the evidence base for a range of explanatory theories.

Skills & Competencies in Addiction Counselling

The aim of this module is to support learners to acquire the attributes and skills necessary to work with clients using Addiction Counselling skills & competencies. Learners will focus on integrating theoretical aspects of addiction counselling and psychotherapeutic approaches within supported experiential learning contexts over the period of the Module and will be required to appraise the evidence base for a range of therapeutic approaches in the field of addiction counselling.

Contemporary Evidence Based Interventions in Addiction Recovery

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to critically evaluate the conceptual understanding of evidence informed approaches with particular reference to cognitive behavioural approaches as well as the use of Motivational Interviewing in addiction and addiction treatment. Learners will focus on theoretical explanations, as well as intervention considerations over the period of the Module and will be required to appraise the evidence base for a range of explanatory theories.

Research Methodologies & Design

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to critically evaluate the differing approaches and methods used for the generation of evidence. The module will expose learners to a range of research paradigms and approaches. It will support learners to distinguish between a range of research designs and will pay particular attention to ethical research practice, placing particular emphasis on the rights of research participants. It will support students to critique existing research and as a consequence to design and present research findings to a publishable standard.

Community Reinforcement Approach & Family Aspects of Addiction

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to critically evaluate both Family aspects of Addiction as well as the distinctive philosophical ethos of the Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) as a treatment intervention in addiction contexts. Learners will focus on understanding of both family dynamics in addiction contexts as well as the theoretical basis for Community Reinforcement

Approach (CRA) over the period of the Module and will be required to appraise the evidence base for its use and effectiveness while learning the skills of CRA.

Comorbidity & Trauma Informed Care

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to explore and critically evaluate the concept of co-morbidity and the influence of trauma in the lived experience of addiction. Learners will examine a range of conditions which commonly co-occur with addiction, including polydrug use, and a range of psychiatric and mental health disorders as well as examine the influence of trauma and treatment modalities associated with co-morbid disorders and trauma experience associated with addiction.

Dissertation

As a capstone module, the aim is to facilitate students to complete a research project, drawing on their own learning within the programme and enabling them to focus on an area of specialism that is of particular interest and relevance to their own practice. The Dissertation module (30 ECTS) will be a culmination of the research-based practice/independent practice and in the form of an Academic research project.

Elective 1 (Students Choose one of the following)

The Recovery Model in Addiction

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to explore and critically evaluate a range of recovery models within addiction treatment approaches. Learners will examine a range of contemporary recovery models and will be facilitated to benchmark emerging recovery models against traditional treatment approaches.

Knowing Self

The Module will focus on the development of in-depth 'personal' knowledge through structured forms of psychotherapeutic engagement. This module will offer an experientially orientation introduction to personal psychotherapeutic experience.

Elective 2 (Students Choose one of the following)

Professional Placement

The aim of this module is to support learners to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitude to work within applied settings at a higher order level using a defined structure to enhance ongoing performance. The field of Addiction Counselling has dimensions that extend beyond the acquisition of theoretic knowledge alone and the professional placement affords the opportunity for learning to take place in appropriate professional contexts. This module aims to extend the professional experience of learners through exposure to varied addiction counselling approaches and philosophies and allow them the opportunity to experience a range of service provision models. This experience will allow learners to reflect critically on issues relating to quality and delivery of Practice.

The module will further explore the concepts of professionalism, ethical Practice and continuing professional development, enabling learners to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes for dealing with issues both personal and professional.

Behavioural & Process Addictions

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to explore and critically evaluate the evolving concepts of Behavioural and Process Addictions. Learners will examine a range of common manifestations of behavioural addictions and dependence. Likewise, the module will support learners to appreciate a range of therapeutic interventions and their efficacy.

Substance Use Disorders and The Recovery Model

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to explore and critically evaluate the nature of substance use disorders. Learners will focus on epidemiological aspects of the substance use continuum and policy responses over the period of the Module and will be required to appraise the evidence base for Public Health initiatives to minimize, reduce or eradicate unhealthy use of substances as well as respond to misuse disorders at a community and societal level.

Gambling Addiction & the Recovery Model

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to explore and critically evaluate the evidence supporting Gambling addiction. Learners will examine a range of Recovery orientated interventions and treatment approaches associated with Gambling Addiction as well as the relationship between Gambling and comorbid conditions and trauma experience.

Neuropharmacological Aspects of Substance Use Disorders

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to explore and critically evaluate pharmacological aspects of addictive substances as well as pharmacological agents used in the treatment of substance dependence. Learners will examine a range of pharmacological interventions across the dependence spectrum, ranging from withdrawal to replacement and maintenance contexts. They will also focus on the indications for use of particular pharmacological interventions in the case of dependence on depressants, stimulants, hallucinogenic substances, or psychotherapeutic agents. Learners will also attend to the needs of those with comorbid health disorders as well as examine the use of pharmacological interventions as part of integrated treatment plans.