

The face-to-face teaching will consist of 3 Saturday seminars, and one Friday evening seminar per semester. Students will be able to contact their tutors, access material and interact with other students online.

ACCREDITATION

To obtain an accredited Higher Certificate, you must successfully complete all 12 modules. The course is accredited by IT Sligo which has degree-awarding authority within the National Qualifications framework.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of modules comprises of a mix of assignments and in-class tests. Most assessment is in the form of continuous assessment.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

IT Sligo is committed to being an exciting place of learning and discovery for all of its students and strives to provide equal education opportunities for all, including students with disabilities. In order to ensure that appropriate services are co-ordinated in advance of the academic year, the College strongly encourages applicants with a disability to disclose information on their disability. The disclosure of a disability will in no way affect a student's application.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

You should have the Irish Leaving Certificate or an equivalent qualification. You should also ideally have three years paid or voluntary work experience in an advocacy-related area.

You may be interviewed prior to admission to the course. You may already have undertaken preliminary training in advocacy such as The Citizens Information Board Information Providers Programme.

COMPUTER ACCESS

As this course is supported by email communication and online materials, computer access is essential, therefore you need to be connected to the internet.

FEES

€350 per module

CONTACTS

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APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 7 SEPTEMBER 2011



ADVOCACY... A PROCESS OF EMPOWERMENT

Higher Certificate in Arts, in Advocacy Studies (NQAI Level 6)

Advocates are...

People who help, facilitate, negotiate, defend... It is their job to be on the side of their client through enabling her/his voice to be heard.

The Department of Humanities has a long and successful tradition of learner-centred education and is committed to the provision of the highest quality programmes based on academic excellence and professional relevance. IT Sligo is very conscious of the need to prepare our students for the world of work. Therefore this course places significant emphasis on practice-based learning. A key strength of this course is the students themselves and the rich and diverse experiences they bring to the class-based discussions and project work.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

IT Sligo offers the only qualification of this type available in Ireland. The Higher Certificate [NQAI Level 6] is a twelve module course which can be completed in a minimum of two years but may be completed over a longer period.

It provides an essential foundation for work in the field. The course is provided via blended learning: a mixture of distance education, online support and face-to-face workshops delivered at centres in Sligo and Dublin.

Schedule of Modules

120 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

Year 1 modules

Semester 1 September – December

ADVO 101 Introduction to Advocacy

ADVO 102 Equality Studies

ADVO 103 Communications 1

Semester 2 January – May

ADVO 104 Principles of Law

ADVO 105 Disability Studies

ADVO 106 Information Management

Year 2 modules

Semester 3 September – December

ADVO 201 Advocacy 2

ADVO 202 Law 2

ADVO 203 Advocacy Placement

Semester 4 January – May

ADVO 204 Ethics

ADVO 205 Communications 2

ADVO 206 Social Administration

MODULE OVERVIEW

Semester 1

Introduction to Advocacy: this module introduces core ideas behind advocacy, including the different strands within present practices and its links with the disability movement and other excluded groups.

Equality Studies: this module introduces the concept of equality in its philosophical, legal and policy contexts. What does ‘equality’ mean and why should it be promoted in society?

Communications: this module introduces theories of interpersonal, group and organisational communication in order to realize advocacy goals.

Semester 2

Principles of Law: this module aims to provide an introduction to Irish law, as a foundation to further legal studies. The specific area of study is Family law.

Disability Studies: this module aims to provide knowledge of disability models and to explore rights and emancipatory processes with and for disabled people in Ireland.

Information Management: this module aims to decode the information universe, through addressing key issues such as quality, accessibility and confidentiality. It applies the concept of information to the organisation focusing on the effective use and management of knowledge.

Semester 3

Advocacy Studies 2: this module provides an in-depth analysis of advocacy. Key areas include assessing the most appropriate type of advocacy, developing a code of practice and managing an advocacy project.

Law 2: this module emphasises professional advocacy, thereby focusing on the mechanisms for enforcing legal rights alongside the role of advocacy within the context of such mechanisms.

Advocacy Placement: this module provides first-hand experience of working and observing in an advocacy role. The placement spans one day per week for six weeks, or an alternative and equivalent placement may be negotiated.

Semester 4

Ethics: this module introduces the study of ethics with a focus on moral compass, engaged –detached values, duty and virtue based ethics and utilitarianism.

Communications for Advocacy: this module focuses on the role of communication in effecting change.

Social Administration: this module introduces social policy and key aspects of social administration in Ireland.

LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

Each module requires 115 hours of learning over 15 weeks; 9 of these will be face-to-face hours, with the remainder made up of self-directed reading, research and on-line activities.