Postgraduate/Post Qualification distance-learning courses, to be studied part-time by people working in supervisory or professional positions in services for adults with learning disabilities.
Adults with Learning Disabilities who have Significant and Complex Needs

What is the programme?
Distance learning courses, at Certificate, Diploma and Masters (MSc) level for people working in supervisory or professional positions in the care of adults with learning disabilities. The open learning materials are written in an interactive style and are designed to encourage students to use their own workplace experiences as a basis for new learning and development of research skills. The programme is intended to be studied as a part-time qualification, by staff providing services to people with learning disabilities.

What qualifications are required for entry
For the Postgraduate Certificate, you will normally require a degree, or a professional qualification, or substantial relevant work experience in a cognate discipline, together with at least three years’ practical experience in the field.

For the Postgraduate Diploma, a pass at acceptable level of the Postgraduate Certificate at the University of St Andrews or a Postgraduate Certificate qualification in the area of learning disabilities from a recognised UK Higher Education Institution, acceptable to the University of St Andrews.

For the postgraduate Masters (MSc), successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma at the University of St Andrews, with a pass at acceptable level or a Postgraduate Diploma qualification in the area of learning disabilities from a recognised UK Higher Education Institution, acceptable to the University of St Andrews.

What level of qualification will I be awarded?
You will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or Masters, depending on the level of study. These qualifications will be at SCQF level 11.
Will I be required to attend lectures at the University of St Andrews?
No, this is a distance learning programme with materials accessed online. You will be given internet access to University resources and support to study part-time.

You will be encouraged to attend introductory sessions in St Andrews at the beginning of the programme. If for any reason you are unable to attend these meetings, you will be sent the information in other formats, and it will be discussed by telephone. The majority of communication during your studies will be by email and through the online teaching and learning system.

Postgraduate Programmes at the School of Psychology

• Postgraduate Certificate in: Adult Support, Protection and Safeguarding (One Year)

• Postgraduate Certificate in: Adults with Learning Disabilities who have Significant and Complex Needs (One Year)

• Postgraduate Diploma in: Adults with Learning Disabilities who have Significant and Complex Needs (One Year)

• Postgraduate Masters in: Adults with Learning Disabilities who have Significant and Complex Needs (MSc) (One Year)

(See diagram at the top of pages 4 and 5)
Levels of Postgraduate Courses and their Relationships

Entry Qualifications for the Postgraduate Certificate

University degree.

OR

An appropriate professional qualification (e.g. Social Work, Teaching, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy).

OR

Substantial relevant work experience in a cognate discipline, together with at least three years’ practical experience in the field, including staff supervisory or management experience.

Postgraduate Certificate (one year)

Students choose 4 from 6 modules

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Content

What is studied in the programme?

At Postgraduate Certificate level there is a choice of four modules from six as follows; each module is rated at 15 postgraduate credits.

- Challenging Behaviour
- Mental Health
- Offenders with Learning Disabilities/ Forensic Needs
- Older People with Learning Disabilities
- Vulnerability, Victimisation and Abuse
- Profound and Multiple Disabilities

At Postgraduate Diploma level there are six compulsory modules, as follows; each module is rated at 10 postgraduate credits.

- Intellectual disability research
- Data collection and sampling
- Quantitative data analysis: fixed designs
- Quantitative data analysis: flexible designs
- Writing a research report
- Undertaking a small scale study

At postgraduate Masters level assessment is by student dissertation based on a research project – 15,000 words. (60 postgraduate credits).
How long will it take to complete the programme?
Each part of the postgraduate programme (Certificate, Diploma, Masters) is to be completed within one calendar year, i.e. the Masters programme will take three years in total to complete, including completion of the Certificate and Diploma.

The rate of progress through individual modules will depend on each student’s aptitude, and the amount of time available for study. As a rough guide, we estimate that each module in the Postgraduate Certificate course will need around 150 hours of total study time, including completion of assessments, while each module in the Diploma course will need 100 hours of study time in total.

Is it possible to take individual modules?
It is possible to take individual modules, lasting three months, on the Postgraduate Certificate course only. Priority for places on the course will be given to people aiming to complete the whole Certificate programme, but it is possible to enrol for individual modules as stand-alone courses, or as a way of finding out whether the content and format of this distance learning programme is suitable for your purposes. It is not possible to take individual modules on the Postgraduate Diploma course.
What materials will be supplied, and what facilities will I need?
At Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma level, modules will be available online including research publications available as web-based resources. Password protected access to electronic databases will also be supplied. You will also have full electronic access to the University of St Andrews library resources and access to other UK university libraries.

You will need regular access to a computer with an internet connection, and a University of St Andrews email address will be supplied.

How much will it cost?

- For UK and EU students, the cost for the one year part-time Postgraduate Certificate programme will be £2060, i.e. £515 per module (four modules). Modules can be paid for one at a time.
- The cost for the one year part-time Postgraduate Diploma programme will be £2060 (six modules).
- The cost for the one year part-time Postgraduate Masters programme will be £2060.
- The cost for overseas students is available on request.

When does it start?
There will be two intakes of students per year, one in March and another in October.
School of Psychology at the University of St Andrews
The School of Psychology at St Andrews is a world-class department with a long and distinguished history. In every teaching review done by the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council, the School has been graded as ‘excellent’. In each one of the UK Research Assessment Exercises to date, the School has received the highest rating possible, an achievement held by only three other departments of Psychology in the UK, namely Cambridge, Oxford and York.

Fundamental Principles of the Postgraduate Programme
The paramount importance of a values and evidence based approach is introduced early and emphasised throughout the modules: implementation of any changes in practice should never be attempted without proper reference to the needs of service users, in the context of local legal guidelines and a team approach.

Further Information
Further information about this programme is available at: http://psy.st-andrews.ac.uk/teaching/dl_complex_needs.shtml

Online application can be made at: https://portal.st-andrews.ac.uk/postgrad-application/

If you have any questions please email: mc1@st-andrews.ac.uk
Psychology

Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters (MSc) Programme by distance learning: Adults with learning disabilities who have significant and complex needs

If you would like to know more please contact:

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