



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Professional Certificate in Women and Substance Use

(Online, 4 months part time)

This postgraduate online course, developed by UCD in partnership with Urrus, Ballymun Youth Action Project, seeks to provide key workers, social care workers, addiction counsellors and those in related policy and health fields with the knowledge and expertise to respond to the complexity of women and substance use. Given the emerging debates in relation to women's substance use, this course provides an educational response to the complex issues of substance use, trauma histories, domestic violence, sex working, maternal roles and impact on family and children, with a focus on both the national and international contexts.

Women's problematic substance use is explored in the context of the inter-related and sometimes unique factors that may impact on women's substance use trajectories, with a particular focus on effective intervention, and innovation in practice and policy responses. Utilising a range of digital technology, this course is delivered online over a 10 week period allowing you to fit your study alongside work, family or other life commitments.

Why study at UCD?



Tradition

Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence



Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



Global community

Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD



Global careers

Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa for Non-EU students



Safety

Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

The Community Drugs Programme

The Community Drugs Programme within the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, has a long standing history of delivering undergraduate and graduate education to a range of students in partnership with key community agencies. The UCD Community Drugs Programme and Urrus, Ballymun Youth Action Project, have worked in partnership to design and deliver this course, with the aim of combining practice and policy development expertise to provide a highly accessible online learning experience on a critical societal issue.

Course Content and Structure

This Professional Certificate comprises of one 10 credit module SPOL 40850 Women and Substance Use which is delivered online to promote accessibility and flexibility within the learning environment. Online tutorials are combined with recorded lectures and tailored tasks and exercises to engage students and develop in-depth critical analysis. Students are encouraged to utilise their own lived and work experience, as well as collaborate with others in generating ideas and discussing concepts, theory and intervention.

The programme draws on a range of expertise in relation to policy, theory and intervention and seeks to include and integrate lessons and understanding from relevant community agencies, as well as emerging research and evidence. This approach aims to both ensure content relevance to a range of professional fields and utilize this breadth of expertise within the learning environment through tasks that allow for collaboration and discussion between students.





A new innovative online programme in Ireland

This new programme enhances the School's existing portfolio of postgraduate taught offers, including our MSc in Equality Studies, MSocSc in Social Work and MA in Gender Studies that are widely recognised in Ireland and internationally. Our School also contributes to the Master of Public Policy, which is hosted by the College of Social Sciences and Law, and also to the MSc in Child Protection and Welfare shared with the Schools of Medicine and Nursing and Midwifery.



Course Director Profile

Sarah Morton, Course Director

Dr Sarah Morton is Director of the Community Partnership Drugs Programme in the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice in University College Dublin. She holds a Ph.D from the Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice, University of Bath.

Dr Morton has extensive experience in policy, practice and outcome evaluation in relation to addressing complex social issues including drug and alcohol use. In recent years, she has focused on the interplay of violence and substance use and on innovation in substance use interventions for individuals, families and communities. She has published widely on these topics and currently teaches at undergraduate and postgraduate level on substance use policy and practice, counselling and intervention skills and domestic and sexual violence.

Related Programmes

Masters in Public Policy (Community, Drugs and Health stream)

MSc in Equality Studies

MSocSc in Social Work

MA in Gender Studies

MSc in Child Protection and Welfare

Diploma in Community Drug and Alcohol Work

Professional Certificate in Social Justice

Career Opportunities

Graduates typically work in social care, nursing, social work, substance use, and related health fields as well as in social policy and research. This qualification should enhance the skills and expertise of existing or potential key workers, care workers, team leaders and social and health care managers.



Fees

Fee information at www.ucd.ie/fees

Entry Requirements

- Applicants should have a minimum of an honours degree or international equivalent at bachelors level. Relevant professional or voluntary experience may be considered as part of the application process.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

Contact Us

EU Students

www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice
martina.reidy@ucd.ie
 +353 1 716 8502

International Students

www.ucd.ie/international
internationaladmissions@ucd.ie

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