

# Access, Transfer and Progression Arrangements for the BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability)



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Note: The Open Training College recognises its duty of care in recruiting students to courses which prepare them to work with people in receipt of health and social care services, and as such applies the following rigorous procedures for access, transfer and progression onto these courses.

## Access

*The process by which learners may commence a programme of education and training having received recognition for knowledge, skill and competence required (NQAI, 2003)*

### Entry Requirements:

All applicants must:

- Be age 23 years at time of application OR have successfully completed the Leaving Certificate/FETAC Level 5 Certificate.
- Be employed in a service for people with disabilities for at least 10 hours per week and have held such employment for at least one year prior to application.
- (In specific circumstances applications will be considered from those working in a similar voluntary capacity)
- Attend an interview with academic staff. (Applicants Day)

## Transfer

*The process by which learners may transfer from one programme of education and training to another programme having received recognition for knowledge, skill and competence required (NQAI, 2003)*

Applicants wishing to transfer from a previous programme of education, where that programme may be of a lower level, must provide evidence of the content of that programme and their achievement in the associated assessments.

For Advanced Entry (i.e. transfer from a previous programme of education to an advanced stage of the BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability)) the following criteria apply

- Applicants must have achieved an overall grade of at least 50% in a cognate\* qualification at at least minor or major level 6 (minimum of 60 credits) on the NFQ (or equivalent for international qualifications or ab initio programmes), completed within the last 10 years.
- Applicants must discuss their previous qualification(s) with the Course Director who will advise them of their eligibility to apply for Advanced Entry.
- Following agreement with the Course Director the applicant must complete an Advanced Entry Application Form; provide transcripts of their previous educational achievements and an academic reference from their previous institution.
- Applicants then attend an interview with the Course Director.
- If successful in the AE application and interview the applicant will be invited to complete a programme of bridging studies which will consist of a workshop, online module and assessment.
- A grade of 60% or higher will be required for the applicant to proceed into an advanced stage of the programme. If this grade is not achieved the applicant will be given the option to enter the programme at the first stage or to re-apply and participate in the bridging studies programme in the following academic year.

### Notes on Advanced Entry:

- Due to the specialist nature of the BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability) advanced entry is permitted only to the Higher Certificate stage of the programme. Advanced entry into the third and final Degree stage of the programme is not permitted.
- Applicants for Advanced Entry who hold international qualifications must follow the procedures for international applicants.
- The regular application fee will apply for Advanced Entry applications and a fee will also apply for the Bridging Studies Programme.

## Progression

*The process by which learners may transfer from one programme of education and training to another programme, where each programme is of a higher level than the preceding programme (NQAI, 2003)*

### Progression from previous OTC qualifications to the BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability)

- Applicants who have completed the cognate\* OTC qualifications listed below within the last 10 years, and have achieved an overall grade of at least 60% in that qualification, will be facilitated to access the final Degree stage of the programme.
- Applicants who did not achieve 60% in their programme, or who completed their qualification more than 10 years ago will be facilitated to apply for Advanced Entry (as described above). A mark of 60% in the bridging assignment will be required for these applicants to enter into the final Degree stage of the programme. Those who achieve between 50 and 60% will be offered a place at the Higher Certificate stage and those who achieve between 40 and 50% will be offered a place in Year One.
- The OTC qualifications considered cognate for progression to the BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability) are:
  - Diploma in Supported Employment
  - National Certificate in Vocational Rehabilitation
  - National Diploma in Rehabilitation
  - National Diploma in Applied Social Studies

### Progression from previous qualifications from another institution to the BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability)

- Applicants wishing to progress from a previous qualification from another institution to this programme are directed to the Advanced Entry process described above, in which their achievements on their previous programmes will be considered in their application.
- Applicants with qualifications from an educational institution outside Ireland are directed to the procedures for International Applicants.

\* A cognate qualification is one that is similar in nature, content and quality to the programme being applied for. This will be assessed by a review of the content and learning outcomes of previous qualifications.