

Access, Transfer and Progression Arrangements for the BA (Hons) 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:

- Hold a cognate* qualification (preferably in Social Care or Social Studies), accredited at at least Level 7 (180 credits) on the NFO (or equivalent for international qualifications or ab initio programmes), completed within the last 10 years, in which they have achieved an overall grade of at least 50%.
- 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 of the programme.

* 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.

With reference to the BA (Hons) in Applied Social Studies (Disability), qualifications in the area of Social Care and Social Studies are considered directly relevant. However qualifications in the areas of Teaching, Psychology, Intellectual Disability Nursing and Social Science will also be considered. Such applicants will be considered on an individual, case-by-case basis.

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 the BA (Hons) 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 major level 7 on the NFO (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 and a copy of their CV.
- 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 in the bridging studies assessment will be required for the applicant to proceed into the programme. If this grade is not achieved the applicant will be invited to re-apply and participate in the bridging studies programme in the following academic year, or may be offered a place in the second year of the Ordinary Degree programme.

Notes on Advanced Entry:

- 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 50% in that qualification, will be facilitated to access the programme directly.
- Applicants who did not achieve 50% 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 programme. Those who do not achieve the required 60% will be invited to re-apply in the following academic year.
- The OTC qualifications considered cognate for progression to the BA (Hons) in Applied Social Studies (Disability) are
 - National Diploma in Applied Social Studies
 - BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability)

Progression from previous qualifications from another institution to the BA (Hons) 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.