

# Bachelor of Arts (Ordinary) in Applied Social Studies (Disability)



The Bachelor of Arts in Applied Social Studies (Disability) is a HETAC accredited programme that is placed on the National Framework of Qualifications at Level 7. The course has been designed and written to provide cutting edge social care skills for staff working in services for people with disability, to assist them in the provision of an excellent person centred service. Following a full Programmatic Review in 2009, new modules have been included in this programme which include:

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| Professional Practice and Ethics                                | Empowerment and Advocacy                     |
| Exploring Disability: A Sociological and Historical Perspective | Strategies for Supporting Independent Living |
| Social Policy and Legislation I                                 | Supporting People Labelled as Challenging    |
| Social Policy and Legislation II                                | Supporting People with Mental Health Needs   |

The programme is made up of 3 years –

**Year 1**, the Applied Social Studies (Disability) is a foundation year that allows the participant to explore the value base needed to function in an ethical, professional, person centred manner. In addition, the participant is provided with the opportunity to develop the fundamental skills and information necessary for working in services; while being supported to acquire the academic and writing skills required to be successful on a Degree programme.

**Year 2**, introduces key areas and skills that are increasingly more complex and challenging. These areas include the development of the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to successfully provide person centred supports for service users within a quality driven environment. The participant continues to develop further academic and writing skills in line with a major level six programme.

**Year 3**, the Bachelor of Arts (Ordinary) in Applied Social Studies (Disability) (NFQ Major Level 7 award) provides participants with an opportunity to further enhance their academic skills including critical analysis, research and effective thinking. In addition, the participant has an opportunity to develop higher social care skills that focuses on practitionership issues in supporting individuals in an ever changing, complex environment.

## Year 1: Applied Social Studies (Disability)

### Modules:

- Exploring Disability. A Sociological and Historical Perspective.
- Social Policy and Legislation I
- Professional Practice and Ethics
- Effective Communication and People Skills
- Focus on the Individual: Person Centred Planning

## Year 2: Higher Certificate in Applied Social Studies (Disability)\*

### Modules:

- Total Quality Management
- Empowerment and Advocacy
- Community Networking
- Learning Theories and Teaching Strategies
- Strategies for Supporting Independent Living

## Year 3: Bachelor of Arts (Ordinary) in Applied Social Studies (Disability)

### Modules:

- Research Methods
- Exploration of Self, Relationships and Sexuality
- Social Policy and Legislation II
- Life Stages, Development and Transition

## Electives (Students choose 2 from 4):

- Supporting People within the Autistic Spectrum
- Supporting People in Mainstream Work
- Supporting People Labelled as Challenging
- Supporting People with Mental Health Needs

## Course Details:

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|---|---|
| • HETAC Approved Level 7  | • Email / Electronic/ Telephone Tutorials   |
| • Extensive E-Learning and Open Learning materials                          | • Study supports including online library database/ Study Skills module           |
| • Multi modal assessment by assignment, e-learning, project and examination | • Module Workshops/Seminars supports are now delivered inDublin, Cork and Galway. |

Course Fees: €2,980 per year. €2,384 per year when availing of tax relief, a saving of almost €600 per year. The College supports students with an annual fees instalment plan. Terms and Conditions apply.

To apply complete **all** sections on the application form and return to:

Applications  
The Open Training College  
Prospect Hall  
Willowfield Park  
Goatstown  
Dublin 14  
Ireland

Tel: (+353-1) 2988544  
Fax: (+353-1) 2987004  
Email: info.otc@smh.ie

Every effort will be made to run courses as advertised but the College reserves the right to amend courses as necessary and to postpone or cancel courses at its discretion.

\*subject to final accreditation process

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Get further information on line by visiting our website [www.opentrainingcollege.com](http://www.opentrainingcollege.com)

# 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.