

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING (SPECIALIST MENTAL HEALTH NURSING PRACTICE)

Programme Learning Outcomes

Programme Learning Outcomes for Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing
(Specialist Mental Health Nursing Practice) (NFQ Level 9, Major Award)

On successful completion of this programme, students should be able to:

- Understand and critically evaluate the theories, concepts, and principles underpinning specialist mental health nursing practice in order to actively contribute to the development of person-centred, co-produced and recovery oriented services through critical reflection, innovation and leadership;
- Critically appraise, evaluate, and apply current research and best practice evidence when working with people experiencing mental health problems;
- Identify and critically evaluate ethical issues and work with service users, family, friends, carers, supporters and other health care professionals;
- Challenge and question values, beliefs and policies underpinning mental health care at individual, team and organisational level;
- Critically appraise and apply advanced biopsychosocial and recovery focused assessment strategies, which are appropriate and sensitive to the service user, family, friends, carers and supporters, their situation, and context whilst applying the principles and practice of therapeutic engagement;
- Demonstrate effective, advanced knowledge and skills in the use of a range of psychosocial and recovery focused interventions and evaluate their quality, safety and effectiveness, in partnership with service users, family, friends, carers, supporters and other health care professionals;
- Develop knowledge of and skills in implementing and managing change, leadership, research, audit, quality care and inter-agency working, in order to initiate nursing-related practice developments, which will lead to the provision of high quality care for people experiencing distress;
- Develop specialist clinical competence and practice, using a recovery approach, to ensure that the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of person-centred care and clinical decision-making is based on best practice and evidence and supported through clinical supervision and practice development;
- Act as a means of professional support, educator and role model for the facilitation of life long learning to ensure ongoing professional development in self and others.