

EQF/MQF LEVEL 4

Award in Supporting Individuals with Disabilities

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course builds on existing knowledge and experience and is aimed at providing the student with advanced knowledge, skills and competences required to work and progress in the caring profession within the disability sector. The overall objectives of the Award are to engage students in learning that is relevant to their profession and to further develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes necessary for a successful career.

TARGET CANDIDATES

The Award is aimed at students who already possess a Level 3 qualification in health and social care or relevant experience and wish to develop their knowledge and skills at a higher level in order to progress in their career towards focussing on supporting individuals with disabilities and challenging behaviours.

DURATION 4 months

CREDIT VALUE 12 ECTS/ECVET

MODE OF TRAINING Lectures and workshops

ASSESSMENT Assignments, Case studies, Portfolio of evidence

AWARDING BODY Learning Works

LECTURERS

Mr Tonio Pace
Ms Sharon Balzan
Dr Rita Micallef
Mr Noel Borg
Ms Maria Balzan
Mr Tyron Silos
Dr Alexiei Sammut

COURSE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONTEXT OF SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (1 CREDIT)

The unit explores the meaning of disability and considers issues closely linked with disability support. These include an awareness of how the attitudes and beliefs of others affect individuals who have disabilities. The unit introduces themes of inclusion, human rights, advocacy, empowerment and active participation and also considers the central place of communication in working with individuals who have disabilities.

COMMUNICATION IN A DISABILITY SETTING (3 CREDITS)

This unit aims to enable the learner to use effective communication skills to develop and sustain relationships with service users, carers and colleagues. It also looks at how to support service users in building and managing their social networks because the strength of an individual's social network is a key factor in maintaining an individual's well-being and mental health. It provides the learner with the knowledge and skills that address personal interaction and the use of special methods and aids to promote communication.

MANAGING RISK, EMERGENCY AND CRISIS IN A DISABILITY SUPPORT SETTING (2 CREDITS)

This unit looks at the area of risk management by providing the learner with the knowledge and skills to effectively analyse and mitigate risk within the context of disability support. The unit also looks at the procedures and mechanisms available for the support of an individual with a disability in an emergency or crisis situation.

ETHICS IN A DISABILITY SUPPORT SETTING (1 CREDIT)

This unit introduces students to the ethical principles, and moral dilemmas within the context of supporting individuals with disabilities and how these are reflected in legislation. In parallel the unit will focus on the important themes related with ethical approach. These include dignity, quality of life and the rights of the individuals.

PRACTICAL CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A DISABILITY (4 CREDITS)

This unit introduces learners with the knowledge and skills required to reflect on, evaluate one's own professional practice with the intention to identify and develop best practices. This unit also looks at the importance of supervision, feedback and the formalisation of such practices.

BEST PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (1 CREDIT)

This unit is delivered through a series of interactive teaching sessions with an emphasis on group activities. Case studies and work examples will be discussed throughout the unit.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Learners need to satisfy the following criteria:

- Ages 18 +
- Be able to communicate both orally and written in the English Language
- Hold a clean Police Conduct Certificate.
- Hold a Level 3 qualification in Healthcare or equivalent or;
- Have at least 1 year practical work experience in a related position

For applicants who meet the criteria of admittance by experience only, a basic level of English which is demonstrated through the appropriate qualifications such as an 'O' level in English, a school leaving certificate with English indicated as a core subject or equivalent is needed.