

Higher Diploma in Bereavement Studies

Course Profile

The Irish Hospice Foundation
Morrison chambers
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Modules

This is a part-time modular course. Successful completion will result in the Higher Diploma in Bereavement Studies. The overall programme is comprised of modules as follows:

Module 1: Theories and models of grief, bereavement and mourning:

This module develops the academic and theoretical evidence for practice in bereavement care; from psychoanalytic theory through to 'continuing bonds' models of bereavement. The module will include sociological and anthropological frameworks for examining bereavement.

Module 2: Counselling skills for bereavement and loss:

This module explores the theory and practice of counselling and listening skills relative to bereavement

Module 3: Research interpretation- bereavement research:

This module introduces the concepts of research methodology and design, evidence based concepts, the ethics of researching bereaved individuals and the systematic evaluation of research-based publications on bereavement.

Module 4: Perspectives on Grief:

This module examines the dynamics of bereavement and loss at different times in the life cycle and relative to individual circumstances - e.g. issues of gender, culture, ethics, learning disability, grief and the family, spirituality, sexuality. It will include components on the sociology and anthropology of grief, mourning, ritual and bereavement.

Module 5: Systems of bereavement support:

This module identifies and examines various structures and systems on the continuum of bereavement support. It will examine and analyse particular models from health, hospice, social and voluntary sectors.

Module 6: Self care and caring for carers:

This module examines models of occupational stress, and organisational and individual systems for coping with bereavement related work stress. Personal development, process issues and personal growth will also be a part of this module.

Aims and objectives of the Programme

The programme aims to support the development of a bereavement support infrastructure in Ireland which is sensitive to Irish culture, to the range of grief reactions experienced by individuals and which acknowledges the fundamentally normal context of loss. An informed approach to bereavement will impact on quality of life and contribute to health and well being.

Specific educational objectives

- To provide students with theoretical understanding, skills, practice and knowledge of grief and grief support structures which may be applied in health, community and work organizations and in the voluntary sector.
- To develop core competencies in application of grief theory and in application of counselling skills in the context of loss and bereavement
- To develop an understanding of different perspectives on loss and bereavement; including loss through the life cycle, family bereavement, cultural issues, gender issues, ethical issues
- To examine methods of bereavement support and learn about the systematic development of bereavement supports
- To examine systems of staff support for organisations where staff habitually come into contact with loss and bereavement
- To reflect on personal development and personal growth through the educational experience
- To develop competencies in searching and critically analysing bereavement research.

Programme details

Location

All classes, tutorials and seminars will be held at the training rooms of the Irish Hospice Foundation, 4th Floor, Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street Dublin 2. The Irish Hospice Foundation also houses the Therese Brady library a specialist library for a niche collection of bereavement books, journals and resources.

Time Commitment

The Higher Diploma runs from March 2004 to March 2005. The starting date is **Wednesday March 24th**. There are no sessions in June, July and August. Classes, tutorials and seminars are held every **Wednesday from 4pm to 8.30pm**. There are six Saturday sessions over the twelve-month period. Participants are expected to attend all sessions and to devote time to the self-directed learning and assignments associated with the programme.

Staffing

The programme will be directed by the professional staff of the Irish Hospice Foundation with core modules and inputs being imported from the academic, hospice, and community sectors in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Assessments

A continuous model of assessment will be employed. Participants will complete one major project (a critical review of a bereavement topic based on literature) and four assignments (essay, book review, case study and presentation). At the end of the programme there will be one three-hour examination.

Eligibility

Degree or equivalent professional qualification. Applicants should have a minimum of five years post-qualification experience in a relevant social, community or healthcare setting. Experience may include formal bereavement support responsibilities *or* encountering bereaved individuals or families as a routine part of your work.

Participants

Participants on the course will reflect a range of disciplines from clinical and non-clinical backgrounds – e.g. nurses, social workers, teachers, and community, voluntary and statutory personnel.

Fees

A fee of €2,500 applies. This may be paid in two instalments, €1,250 per semester. A non-refundable booking fee of €200 must accompany your acceptance of the place offered on the course and arrive with us no later than March 10th. The first instalment (less the booking fee) is due by April 21st. Cheques should be made payable to The Irish Hospice Foundation.

Application Procedure

To receive your application write to:

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