



Postgraduate Diploma Chief Social Work Officer

Starting in autumn 2015 Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU), working in partnership with the University of Dundee (UoD), will offer a Postgraduate Diploma Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO).

This accredited 120 credit award at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level 11 is aimed specifically at those currently in the role of Chief Social Work Officer or who aspire to the role. It has been approved by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

Developed in close consultation with CSWOs and other key stakeholders, this award is tailored to the learning needs of CSWOs and will offer candidates:

- a flexible, work-based, part time programme, encouraging a synthesis of current knowledge and skills with exciting new learning
- the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Programme delivery

Underpinned by the Standard for Chief Social Work Officers (SSSC, 2015) and an individualised learning contract, candidates will be supported by a member of academic staff from either UoD or GCU and a workplace mentor. In addition, using blended learning approaches, there will be opportunities for candidates to share learning with other candidates. The programme will be delivered flexibly, using a mixture of classroom teaching and the use of virtual learning environments (VLEs).

The first intake for the newly developed CSWO qualification will start in September/October 2015. This cohort will complete the qualification by May 2017.

There will be further intakes for the CSWO qualification in autumn 2016 and 2017.

Programme content

There are two core modules that together total 60 M level (SCQF level 11) credits:

- re-orientation to learning
- structured professional discussion.

The other 60 credits are negotiable and can include any of the following:

- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- modules from a range currently offered by either GCU or UoD
- work-based learning.

The exact mix will be negotiated via a learning contract.

Beyond the Postgraduate Diploma, there is the option to proceed to a Masters at either GCU or UoD via the completion of a project or dissertation.

Finance

There will be 12 places in the first cohort for CSWOs and aspiring CSWOs. The university fee for the CSWO award is £3000. Scottish Government will provide limited assistance to employers of 50% of this fee via a grant disbursed by the SSSC. This grant will be available only to those currently employed as CSWOs and currently only to those starting the programme in autumn 2015. Employers are expected to meet all other costs.

For initial informal discussion contact:

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