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on computer disk or audio tape**

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Disability Equality Training

Post Graduate Certificate: Disability Equality Practitioner

Academically accredited by
Anglia Ruskin University

Professionally recognised
by ECDP



Disability Equality Practitioner:

“A professionally and academically accredited disabled person, whom adheres to a Social Model perspective and who’s work positively contributes to the disability movement.”

A. Preston-Flack, 2006

Introduction

For many years ECDP has recognised the need to formally distinguish it’s trainers as ‘experts’ in the field of disability equality. In order to reflect the professionalism of Disability Equality Trainers and acclaim the vital role their work plays, ECDP sought to gain academic accreditation at Post Graduate (PG) level. In July 2006 this was achieved.

ECDP’s Train the Trainers (TTT) course now forms part of an accredited PG Certificate – ‘Disability Equality Practitioner’. Once a full trainer the training course with ECDP has been completed participants have the opportunity to put the credits achieved towards a full PG Certificate.

Studying at Post Graduate Level

Whilst already having studied at degree level would assist students with entry requirements of the course; not having done so will not automatically exclude you as a potential student. Those not in possession of a first degree will be assisted by both partner organisations (Anglia Ruskin & ECDP) with the completion of a ‘Non Graduate Entry Form’.

Programme Length

The PG Certificate is expected to take one academic year for students to complete.

Structure

The course involves two 30 credit modules; module one focusing on the practitioner element and module two focusing on disability equality.



Some of the first cohort of students pictured at today’s course launch

Ten disabled people, who have received financial assistance for their studies from ECDP, will form today’s first cohort and upon successful course completion, scheduled for January 2008, they will be awarded by ARU with their post-graduate certificates.

Research will be undertaken by students at ARU and all seminars will be taught at ECDP in their fully accessible conference and training suite at Ivan Peck House, Chelmsford; which has been granted outsource status.

This outsource status is unique and will mean that ECDP can also provide student support and meet individual students’ access requirements. Many of the first cohort of trainers faced barriers to their own education in the past and this course should address some of those previous inequalities.

Just to emphasise the real importance of this course, Amanda Preston-Flack further adds, “The escalating need for qualified Disability Equality experts is apparent as a resultant factor of local government initiatives and emerging legislation such as the recent Disability Equality Duty of the Disability Discrimination Act.

It is therefore a huge achievement for the Coalition to be at the forefront of an academic development of this nature. We are very excited about the prospect and pleased to have acquired such prestigious recognition for our trainers”.

Future Plans

The longer term goal is to role the course out to more disabled and non disabled people. Efforts will be made to continue to make sure the course is accessible and to look into offering the course as a distance learning package; so others nationally can follow.

It will be some time however, before a proper nationally recognised standard can be established.



Post-Graduate Disability Equality Practitioners Course launched today at ECDP, Chelmsford, Essex

Essex Coalition of Disabled People (ECDP) in conjunction with Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) has today (8th February 2007) launched what is thought to be **the UK's (and maybe the world's) first Post Graduate Course Disability Equality Practitioner Course** at ECDP's Accessible Conference Training Suite in Chelmsford, Essex.

Amanda Preston-Flack, ECDP's Training Development Manager explains how the course came about, "For many years Essex Coalition of Disabled People has been at the forefront of delivering bespoke Disability Equality Training through its network of over 30 dedicated Disability Equality Trainers to the Public/Private Sector and Voluntary and Community Groups.

We wanted to enable our trainers to receive professional recognition for the quality Disability Equality Training they provide. We decided to commission Anglia Ruskin University to develop a post-graduate disability equality training and consultancy award."

Andy Stevens PhD, Principal Lecturer in the Institute of Health & Social Care, Anglia Ruskin University who will be leading the studies says, "This is not a disability studies programme, but rather the first stage of a process to allow the skills of disabled people engaged in advising companies on disability issues in employment and service delivery to be recognised at their proper professional level."

He goes on to say, "The course will be based on sound theoretical knowledge of disability research and change management and will support the disabled students on this course to develop professional credibility in the field of disability equality."

Location

Study will primarily take place at ECDP's building: Ivan Peck House. Students will also be encouraged to utilise Anglia Ruskin's facilities.

Disabled Students Allowance

This provision was introduced by the Government in 1990. The intention was to create a semblance of equality for disabled people with non disabled people. Those considering progressing onto the PG Certificate may wish to consider an application to this fund in order to assist with the purchasing of equipment and meeting of access requirements. Again, both parties (ECDP and Anglia Ruskin) will work with those students wishing to make an application.

Becoming a Student

Those enrolling on this course will become full students of Anglia Ruskin University and as such have full access to student facilities and services. These include:

- ◆Library
- ◆Sports and social facilities
- ◆Student services
- ◆Academic support

Accreditation

Completion of the PG Certificate will provide you with academic accreditation, and as such academic recognition as a Disability Equality Practitioner. Once students have achieved this standard, they will then be eligible to work with the Coalition to acquire professional recognition of their work and contributions to the disability movement.

What can students do with their qualifications?

Some may choose to work for ECDP in order to gain professional recognition of their work. Others may work for another similar organisation. Some might choose to go it alone; becoming completely independent Disability Equality Practitioners. Their work might involve advising statutory, private and/or voluntary organisations on relevant policy or perhaps even training other disabled people on their rights and entitlements. As a post graduate they may choose to progress their study to complete a Masters degree. As a Disability Equality Practitioner the possibilities are endless.

Course Outline

The programme of study includes:

Module 1 Experiential Learning

This module will introduce a variety of social theories of disability, that can be used to critically interpret disabled people's experiences as an experiential learning experience. These can then be used within practical training and consultancy at a higher professional level. The module will use group tutorial teaching and patch-work text structure of small papers which allow students to build up their writing skills for written assignments at a master's level.

Module 2 Disability Equality Practice

This module incorporates the ECDP Train The Trainer course, which will have to be completed prior to starting the rest of the module. The supplementary teaching on the module will involve theories of change management, diversity issues within organisational structures. Student assignments involve a presentation and a consultancy report related to a selected organisational brief. This assignment will demonstrate skills relevant to independent disability consultancy

Both modules will be supported by an online learning environment and access to research articles and other materials and access to the university library as essential study resources. Supported student independent study is an essential element of the course

Process for those interested in the course

Contact ECDP Training Department to highlight your interest (You are likely to be asked to provide information about yourself)

Discussions between yourself, the Coalition & University

You will be sent the following paperwork

Student Application Form (Both a written reference and copies of qualification certificates are required)

Disabled Students Allowance Form (Proof of identity and medical evidence is asked for here)

You will receive a student interview confirmation letter

Student Allowance interview assessment (1.5hrs – 2hrs)

Complete forms and return to ECDP.

Forms are checked, stamped & sent on to the relevant parties

Student interview takes place (you may be accepted subject to a satisfactory non-graduate entry)

Non- Graduate entry coaching takes place (this is another form where by students who do not possess a first degree must demonstrate their knowledge and skills by evidencing previous work and / or written statements)

Formally accepted

Induction

Study Commences!!!

ECDP aims to secure funding to aid a certain number of students each year. For further information on potential funding please contact ECDP Training on 01245 392301 or email Training@ecdpc.org.uk