

PG Certificate in Person Centred Dementia Studies FAQs

1. What is the closing date?

For 2020-21 Semester 1 it is 20th July 2020

For Modules running in 2020-21 Semester 2 (including the Post Graduate Award) it is 30th November 2020.

2. When does the course start?

Induction week in 2020-21 Semester 1 commences on 14th September 2020, term starts on 21st September 2020.

Induction weeks in 2020-21 Semester 2 are 4th January 2021 and 11th January 2021. Terms starts on 18th January 2021.

3. How much does it cost for 2020-21?

For UK EU citizens: £590 (x15 credits); £1180 (x30 credits); £2,360 (full PG Certificate*)

We encourage and welcome applications from all over the world. Fees for students outside of the UK and EU are slightly higher:

For International Students: £856 (x15 credits); 1712 (x 30 credits); £3424 (full PG Certificate*)

*(*Note fees are revised annually so if your course spans two academic years fees will vary)*

4. Are there scholarships available for the courses?

Scholarships are unavailable in relation to part-time study (i.e. these awards). However, we do have students who fund their studies either via their employer or through independent grants/charitable funds or bursaries that are available, outside of the University These include support from professional bodies, such as the Royal College of Nursing, Occupational Therapy etc. so it's worthwhile having a conversation with your employer's learning and development department about that as we recognise this is a real issue but the fact that we've got modules that can be taken individually can help. There are also some online and search databases where you can put in key search terms and get regular e-mail updates. We suggest you speak to your employer to learn how to get on those databases and set your search terms but by all means, contact us and we can provide suggested links.

5. Do I have to pay my fees all upfront?

Home/EU Post graduate students, with or without a post graduate loan with student finance, are classified as self-funding students. Therefore, at registration they can either opt to pay their fees in full or pay in 6 monthly instalments from October to March.

International postgraduate students would have to either pay in full at registration or 50% prior to registration and 50% by the end of January.

6. Do I need a degree to apply?

If you don't have a degree, you can still apply. You do need to provide a personal statement that details your experience and in particular the level that you operate at, for example, if you are required to write policies or guidance documents or similar, as part of your role.

We would then ask you to complete a short essay. We would provide you with the information that you need to write this. We assess this to check that you will be able to work at the required level, (with support).

If you don't have a degree and would like to test your abilities at level 7, it is possible to register to complete a single module and transfer to/apply for the PG cert at a later date.

7. Can people from outside health and social care apply?

Yes, enabling people and their families to live well requires a whole society response, and we encourage applications from settings such as advocacy, housing/ accommodation, sports, leisure and business.

8. What sort of assignments are there?

There are a range of assignments (including essays, reports and presentations. There are no exams). Every Module tends to have two summative assignments, interspersed through the duration of the Module.

9. Can you study individual modules on a standalone basis

All modules can also be taken on an individual and standalone basis. They may also be eligible for recognition of prior learning at other universities.

10. Is VIPS the only mandatory module for the Certificate?

Yes, only the VIPS module is mandatory

11. Can you do the VIPS approach module if you are not in a dementia work setting

The Person-Centred leadership module utilises the VIPS definition of the person-centred approach to those living with dementia. This is rooted in the original work of the late Tom Kitwood. It goes much further than a work-based approach in that it emphasises the promotion of personhood in dementia. The first part of the module examines the theory underpinning this perspective. Whilst the care fit for VIPS website utilised in the second part of the module is designed specifically to be useful to those supporting people affected by dementia as part of their work – care-homes, hospital, housing, support at home, community support – the framework can be applied to any situation. The universality of the centrality of the person in dementia is something that is touched on a lot throughout this module.

12. Is there any specific order that modules could/should be taken or is it just pick and mix?

No, not really. The Modules start in mid-September and mid-January. We would suggest you start with the module that most interests you because that'll get you into the habit of studying. If you are looking to gain the Postgraduate Certificate, at some point, you have to take the mandatory Person-Centred Care -VIPS approach module but you don't have to do it first.

13. Are seminars/lectures during the daytime

Lectures and seminars usually have a few options to attend. There are generally 2 or 3 seminar options each time, including at least one outside of normal working hours. If you need further information, please get in touch

14. Does the 10 - 12 hours per week include the lectures / seminars and online exercises?

Yes, it absolutely does. It is quite difficult when designing an online course to try to work out how long it will take people to do the reading and to do the watching, the lectures, and to enter into the discussion board, and join in the collaborate seminars. However, we consider that we have been quite generous with the time that we think it would take people to do all these so you shouldn't be spending 20 hours on it. If you are intending to join the course we suggest that you either make sure when your study time is, whether it's two evenings a week or whether it's all day on a Sunday or whatever, but you'll need to block out time. People do best do if they block out the time they are a student and for that time engage with the materials.

15. Do all assignments need to be handed in at the same time? Are the assignments spread out in the modules to enable people to study whilst working?

No, all the assignments won't need to be handed in at the same time. We will set specific times, dates, for those assignments to be handed in. In most cases this will only be two or three times throughout the module. For example, for the Expert Practice Module/Award which started this January, assignments will be due in October, November and January 2021. As module leads we will be co-ordinating handing in dates so that if you happen to be doing two modules, you wouldn't necessarily be handing in assignments in at the same time.

16. In your experience are students' employers/ organisations are usually supportive of them implementing things they've learnt in the modules in the workplace? e.g. the FITS programme or doing a quality improvement project? In other words, is employer 'buy in' important/essential?

Generally, yes - although, these experiences can vary. Of course, facing challenges and barriers is par for the course and so all the modules will explore how to respond to these. It's also important to note that all of the assignments and module leaders will be able to support you even if making changes feels a struggle! People's experiences vary because organizations vary. I think what I would say is the facing barriers and facing challenges is par for the course whenever you're trying to improve practice or change practice. All modules are very based in practice and aim to help you make those changes. All module leads have strong practice backgrounds and the modules are very much built to support you to deal with the challenges and barriers that people face. I think it's also important to note that even if you were to face incredible

difficulties with making any practical changes, based on your learning, there are still ways that you can complete your assignments because it wouldn't be fair not to be able to show your learning, and get credit for that learning, simply because there were barriers outside of your control.

So, employee buy in is always helpful, but it is not essential. And we do have a number of students who fund themselves, either because they are between job or because they can't get their employer onboard in time but most manage to make some kind of change.

17. For potential learners working in healthcare (e.g. nursing) is there a minimum band/pay level they should be on? For example, would a band 5 nurse with a first degree be eligible?

We've set this at the postgraduate level. One of our concerns is that we want people to find doing the course a positive experience. If you already have a first degree, wherever you are, wherever you're working you have already demonstrated that you can work this level. It gives us confidence that you will be able to engage with the course materials at a post-graduate level.

However, we know a lot of people who work in health and social care will never have got a degree.

So what we ask with those potential students, is that you do us a piece of writing, before you come on the course, about 500 words to be sure that you're going to be able to cope with that level of assignments and assessment. Experience to date indicates that virtually, everybody can. Also, the beauty about distance learning courses is that we've got lots of really good online resources. A lot of people are anxious about their ability to do academic writing, even if they've got a first degree. If you're worried about being able to keep up from the academic writing side make sure that you put a few hours extra reading at the beginning of the course to explore some of that material, and you'll be fine.

18. I don't have a job at the moment due to a move, can I still apply?

Yes - we already have a number of students who fund themselves, either because they are between jobs or because they can't get their employer onboard in time

19. Does the Post grad cert help add credits to a Master's degree in the future?

Yes, the intention is that in the future additional modules will be added, so that this can become a full Masters program. We are currently looking at what some of those additional modules might be like – so we're having discussions currently about what these modules should be. For example, we are discussing potential additional modules around arts and creativity, around sports, around rehabilitation. This will also be part of ongoing discussions with students taking the Certificate. However, for the moment, we've got enough there for people to have a good range of choice and work towards the Certificate and if you were to join that we would obviously be able to keep you in the loop about developments.

20. Would other universities recognise the qualifications and does the University of Worcester recognise other universities credits?

Basically, every University in principle accepts credit from other universities at a similar level. However, every university has a process that they have to go through so we can't speak on behalf of a different universities, but, in principle, if you have 30 credits from x University at Level 7, it is worthwhile asking if the they would accept that these as accredited prior learning.

We do have a process for accrediting prior learning so if you have previous qualifications at Level 7, and you are thinking about applying, you should have a conversation with the Course lead, Chris Russell c.russell@worc.ac.uk who can explain the process but you can't transfer more than 30 credits, i.e.

if you have almost completed an entire Masters at a different University, and then just look to top up

21. Does the online learning platform require you to have specific system requirements at home? I have a Mac and have found that there are sometimes incompatibility issues.

Many students do study at the University with a MAC but they generally have MS Office for MAC installed rather than the pages suite of software as the university does tend to use Word, Excel and PowerPoint as standard software. A good internet connection and the ability to install the Chrome browser are also very important.