

# MA COMPARATIVE DRUG AND ALCOHOL STUDIES

This Masters is designed to provide students with opportunities to reflect on and debate topics in substance use and misuse from a multi-disciplinary, and cross-national perspective.

Part-time

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### Course Co-ordinators

Prof Betsy Thom, b.thom@mdx.ac.uk  
Dr. Karen Duke, k.duke@mdx.ac.uk  
Dr. Jenni Ward, j.r.ward@mdx.ac.uk

### Study Mode

2 years part-time

### Entry requirements

We welcome applications from graduates with a good honours degree, or equivalent qualification, in an appropriate subject. We also consider candidates with other relevant qualifications and work experience. People without formal qualifications need to demonstrate suitable work experience (minimum of 3 years) and the ability to study at postgraduate level.

### Starts

Students will start the programme in October 2012.



The use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco has become a major concern for most governments throughout the world. This has resulted in increasing international and European collaboration to devise policies and approaches to address problems related to substance use. There has also been a considerable expansion in research, data gathering and scientific publishing in many countries and various action plans and strategies have been produced.

This MA is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to investigate and analyse drugs and alcohol use/problem use/addiction and their responses from a multi-disciplinary and cross-national perspective.

The Masters is being run jointly by four universities: Middlesex University (England), Aarhus University (Denmark), Ljubljana University (Slovenia) and the University del Piemonte Orientale "A. Avogardo" (Italy). Students on the Masters will have access to a group of European teachers and students, thus will have opportunities to share research findings as well as experiences and personal knowledge about their own countries. They will also have opportunities to study in partner universities or undertake placements in Europe and International Agencies, should they wish to do so.

### Programme of study and context

The Masters is studied part-time over two years, and some of the modules can be studied singly as continuing professional development (CPD). The programme is taught primarily through distance learning methods complemented by some face-to-face intensive tuition. The 'Introduction to drug and alcohol studies' module is delivered as a 4 ½ day face-to-face intensive study block at one of the partner institutions. Students will be required to attend and travel and/or accommodation expenses are self-funded. The programme is made up of the following core and option modules:

### Modules

#### Core:

- Introduction to drug and alcohol studies: This face-to-face intensive study week introduces students to the lecturers in the partner universities and to an international group of students. It provides an introduction to the main concepts, theories, issues and themes which will be addressed in the programme.
- Substance use and addiction theories: Using a life-course approach, students will develop skills in the interpretation of different steps in the course of substance use and addiction through an examination of drug use patterns and addiction theories.
- Drug and alcohol policies: Students will develop a critical approach to analysing how policies are formulated, implemented and evaluated at international, European, national and local levels.
- Research methods for drug and alcohol studies: This module develops skills in research design, qualitative and quantitative research methods and undertaking a research project.

OR

- Evidence-based practice applied to prevention and treatment: This module aims to enable students to take decisions on the bases of scientific evidence to tackle the different aspects of substance use and addiction.
- Dissertation: This module provides students with the opportunity to develop a detailed and advanced understanding of a particular aspect of drug and/or alcohol policy and practice.

### Options:

- Drugs and crime: Students will develop skills in applying criminological theories and concepts to the study of drugs, drug use and drugs control and in critically analysing the relationship between drugs and crime.
  - Harm reduction with drug users: Students will examine the concept of harm reduction in the drugs and alcohol field and identify ways in which harm reduction approaches work in practice.
  - User perspectives on drug and alcohol treatment: Students will critically assess and reflect upon employing a user perspective in drug and alcohol services and academic research.
  - Cultural and social aspects of drug and alcohol use: Students will examine differences and similarities among societies and historical periods in alcohol and drug use patterns through a number of sources including research and historical documents, but also images offered by literature, art and music.
  - Internship: This option provides students with an opportunity to work in an organisation/workplace which offers experience relevant to their professional career aspirations.
- OR
- Work Based Learning (WBL): Students already employed in relevant organisations are allowed to make explicit links between university and workplace activities. Relevant areas of knowledge will be developed by students through a reflective review of learning in their normal everyday work setting.

### Enhancing career pathways

The MA will be a valuable asset in developing and furthering a career in the drug and alcohol field either in the UK or abroad. There are a number of career options in research, public or government services, voluntary organisations, and non-governmental organisations. Students will be able to develop careers in research and practice within the field of drug and alcohol practice, education and research, both nationally and within the wider international context.

The MA provides opportunities for career development for those interested in pursuing links with European and international agencies, by offering work-based learning approaches, and organising work in the field in relevant agencies and in providing possible progression to PhD level studies.

### Contact

UK/EU Admissions Enquiries  
Middlesex University  
Hendon Campus  
The Burroughs, NW4 4BT  
Tel: +44 (0)20 8411 5555  
email: [admissions@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@mdx.ac.uk)

