



**University
of Worcester**

**West Mercia
Rape & Sexual Abuse
Support Centre**


POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE FOR INDEPENDENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE ADVISORS

About the Course

The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor role (ISVA) was commissioned by Baroness Scotland through the Home Office Violent Crime Unit in 2005. ISVA's have since provided essential, appropriate and timely information, support and advice to victims of sexual violence and helped them engage effectively with the Criminal Justice System. ISVAs now play a vital role in service provision for those who have experienced sexual violence and the government have pledged their commitment to increase the number of ISVA's over the next four years to 2014/15.

This Postgraduate Certificate in Advocacy for Victims of Sexual Violence allows existing and potential ISVAs and any other worker involved in advocacy work with those who have experienced sexual violence; professional recognition and status via a professional postgraduate qualification

This course has been developed and will be taught by leading academics who specialise in sexual violence and practitioners from the sexual violence sector.

Course Aim

This one year 3 module course is designed to enhance participant's knowledge of the different forms of sexual violence, the theoretical perspectives on causation and the impact of it - but particularly to aid the development of the skills necessary to undertake the ISVA role effectively and professionally in line with Skills for Justice National Occupational Standards

Course Objectives

1. To provide a knowledge background of the key theoretical perspectives on sexual violence and service delivery including complex ethical issues
2. To provide a stimulating environment for collective discussion and debate in order to increase participants understanding and knowledge of sexual violence and the skills for working with survivors
3. To equip students with a sound knowledge and understanding of the role and responsibilities of the ISVA and the skills required to become effective practitioners in line with National Occupational Standards (NOS)
4. To enable students to develop the practical and analytical skills necessary for them to apply theoretical frameworks and National Occupational Standards (NOS) to practice and thus become problem solving professionals
5. To ensure ISVAs support 'victims' of sexual violence appropriately and effectively
6. To advance understanding of the impact of undertaking this course on professional development through reflective practice.

Who should apply?

This course is for existing ISVAs and sexual violence advocates who wish to gain recognition of their role via a professional qualification at an appropriate level that gives professional status. The course is also suitable for and any person who wishes to gain this professional qualification in order to work as a sexual violence advocate

Entry Requirements

Though this is a Postgraduate course, those wishing to apply do not have to have achieved education at degree level. This course is open to anyone who has:

- A first degree at second class honours or above in a related field **or**
- A professional qualification in a related field (i.e. health, social work, the criminal justice system etc.) **or**
- Is currently in practice in the field of sexual violence and be able to demonstrate an ability to study at postgraduate level
- Has an interest in becoming a sexual violence professional and be able to demonstrate an ability to study at postgraduate level

Applicants without a first degree (at second class honours or above), or a professional qualification in a specific field may be asked to undertake an informal assessment of written work.

Assessment

Assessment throughout the course will be both formal and informal via:

- Formative and Summative written work
- Presentation
- Tutor observation
- Peer observation
- Group and individual tutorials
- Professional reflection

Course Structure

The course structure is modular, consisting of 3 modules that are designed around the necessary knowledge and understanding required for the ISVA role as dictated by Skills for Justice National Occupational Standards. The modules are:

1. ISVA4001 An Introduction to the ISVA: Role, Responsibility and Risk
2. ISVA4002 Supporting 'victims' of Sexual Violence
3. ISVA4003 Professional Practice: Policy and Procedures

Each module is taught over 2 X 3 day blocks. Students must attend both blocks (total of 6 days).

MODULE CODLE	MODULE TITLE	DATES
ISVA4001	The ISVA: Role, Risk and Responsibility	September 25 th , 26 th & 27 th 2014 AND November 7 th , 8 th & 9 th 2014
ISVA4002	Supporting survivors of Sexual Violence	February 13 th , 14 th & 15 th 2015 AND March 27 th , 28 th & 29 th 2015
ISVA4003	Professional Practice	June 12 th , 13 th & 15 th 2015 AND July 24 th , 25 th & 26 th 2015

APPLICATIONS

For an application form or for more information, please contact the University of Worcester Programme lead for Domestic and Sexual Violence by telephone – 01905 855000 Ex 2355 or Email: r.jones@worc.ac.uk

Why study at Worcester?

- The course is taught by a team of internationally renowned and respected Lecturers/Researchers and practitioners
- It is the only Level 7 qualification for sexual violence advocates in the UK
- It is aligned to Skills for Justice National Occupational Standards
- The blended learning approach enables you to balance work, family and study
- It is designed to develop analytical skills and enhance professional practice
- The course was developed in collaboration with sexual violence sector employers
- A named academic tutor will guide and support you through your studies (invaluable help if you have not studied for a while)

For more information or to apply:

For an application form or for more information, please contact Ruth Jones

01905 855000 Ex 2355
r.jones@worc.ac.uk

Applications are being taken for academic year 2014-15

WHAT PAST STUDENTS HAVE SAID

"I really liked gaining some theoretical underpinning knowledge to the work I am doing"

"Meeting other ISVAs and sharing practice, knowledge, resources and gaining support was invaluable"

"Doing this course gave me the opportunity to come out of practice for a short while and take the time to re-visit practice"

"The course tutor was approachable and very supportive"

"It was really useful to looking at best practice models and this has helped me think about my practice".

"The course content has given me lots more knowledge about the background of sexual violence, I only work with the here and now regarding the law etc., so I found it very useful and interesting as it also related to cases I have".

"Having guest speakers from Forensics, the CPS and the police reinforced my knowledge of proceedings plus gave me confidence to put into practice within my role".

"This course is challenging and informative. It prepares you for the ISVA post effectively"