

Diaconia Gozo
Institute for Pastoral Ministry

Award in
Inclusion and Integration of
Vulnerable People in the Community

Informative note

Course Description

The course aims to provide participants with general knowledge in the area of integration and social inclusion of vulnerable persons. An interdisciplinary approach, considering psychological, social, theological, and legislative disciplines, will facilitate the learners to understand the problem of vulnerability and social exclusion in our society from different perspectives and be able to offer basic skills to students who work with vulnerable persons.

Target group

The course is particularly relevant for persons who interact with vulnerable persons within pastoral settings. It does not seek to replace other pedagogical or technical preparation courses but it seeks to complement these programmes and provide additional knowledge, skills and competences for voluntary workers.

Health care workers can also benefit from this course to offer a holistic attention to service users.

Credits

5 ECTS

Course level

MQF Level 4

Learning outcomes

The learner will be able to:

- a) listen and understand, interpret verbal and non-verbal cues, and develop empathy skills with persons in vulnerable situations
- b) obtain basic knowledge about vulnerability, inclusion and integration of vulnerable persons in the community
- c) have access to literature on topics of study to foster further understanding.

The learner will also be able to:

- a) foster genuine and selfless interest in persons living in vulnerable situations
- b) develop a non-judgmental approach to vulnerable situations and persons
- c) create networking within a pastoral setting
- d) acquire basic skills in dealing with challenging social problems and situations
- e) obtain knowledge of professional settings and organisations where vulnerable persons can be referred to.

General Pedagogical methods used for this programme

Generally, the method of teaching will consider the seminar format. Candidates will be offered further readings to enhance their knowledge about the topic. Active participation in class discussions and group work will be included.

Candidates will be required to practice 20 hours in a supervised setting dealing with vulnerable situations and present their learning outcomes in class.

General Assessment method

Written assignment as a reflective journal and class presentation.

Course outline and duration

| Date | Topic | Lecturer |
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| 02.10.21 | Understanding vulnerability and social exclusion | Prof. JosAnn Cutajar B.Ed.(Hons)(Melit.), M.A.(Lond.), M.A.(Sussex), Ph.D.(Tor.) |
| 16.10.21 | Poverty and social exclusion in Malta: the role of the Church and the Christian community in social care | Anthony Gatt B. PSY (Hons)(Melit.), M. Couns. (UBC) Albert Debono B.A. (Hons) YCS (Melit.), M. YCS. (Melit.) |
| 30.10.21 | The concept of Christian charity – <i>caritas</i> | Fr Giovanni Curmi M.A. Youth Ministry (Melit.) |
| 13.11.21 | The Social Teaching of the Church: major themes | Fr Emmanuel Saliba LScSoc (PUST) |
| 27.11.21 | Trauma and vulnerability: a psychological perspective | Dr Marlene Cauchi D.Couns.Psy. |
| 11.12.21 | The phenomenon of migration in the Mediterranean: Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers | Dr Katrine Camilleri LLD – Director JRS Malta |
| 08.01.22 | Ministry to the sick and the elderly in hospitals, institutions and family settings | Fr Anthony Bajada SThL (PUL) |
| 22.01.22 | Disability and the gift of diversity: Personal, family and social dynamics | Georgette Bajada Dip Residential Care, Dip inclusive education, B.Com., M.A. in disability studies. |
| 05.02.22 | Mental health challenges and support systems | Dr Chantelle Azzopardi MD, CCST (Psych) |
| 19.02.22 | The road to inner freedom: Overcoming addictions | Noel Xerri Chief Executive Officer, Oasi Foundation |
| 05.03.22 | Knowledge, values and skills in social care ministry | Dr Patricia Bonello BA (Gen) Psychology & Social Studies (Melit); BA (Hons) Psychology (Melit); Master of Social Work (Monash); Doctor of Social Sciences (Cork); Diploma in Gestalt Psychotherapy; Diploma in Spiritual Accompaniment |

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| 26.03.22 | Volunteering within the framework of current legislation (Maltese and EU) | Dr Stanley Joe Portelli LL.D |
| 09.04.22 | Existing professional services and support | Lorraine Borg B.A. (Hons) Social Work, P.G.C.E. Personal and Social Development, M.A. Healthcare Management and Leadership |
| | Presentation of Award | |

Entry Requirements

Every application will be considered on its individual merits.

The requirements are:

- School Leaving Certificate or a higher degree
- Proficiency in English and Maltese
- Expressed interest in working with vulnerable persons
- Reference letter

Certification

After successful completion of the course, participants are awarded a Certificate issued by the Institute of Pastoral Ministry (Lic. 2019-006) authorized by the Malta Further & Higher Education Authority.

Venue

Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Victoria, Gozo

Time

15:00 – 19:00 hrs

Course fee

€130

