

**POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE FOR  
INDEPENDENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE ADVISORS**

**NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR 2015-16**

**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.

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 (NOS).

**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/advisor

### **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:

- Those currently in practice in the field of sexual violence
- Those with an interest in becoming a sexual violence professional

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.

### **Why Postgraduate Level?**

The NCSPVA believe that ISVAs should be qualified to a professional level which gives them professional recognition and status.

### **Worried that you won't be able to work to Postgraduate Level?**

We recognise that students may have been out of education for some time and concerned about writing in academic format. As a result, we offer support throughout the process as well as providing plenty of opportunity for feedback during the semester.

See the end of this flyer for what past students have said

### **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 (NOS). 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). The dates for 2015-16 are:

<b>MODULE CODLE</b>	<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>DATES</b>
ISVA4001	The ISVA: Role, Risk and Responsibility	September 24 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> 2015 <b>AND</b> November 12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> 2015
ISVA4002	Supporting survivors of Sexual Violence	February 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> 2016 <b>AND</b> March 17 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> 2016
ISVA4003	Professional Practice	April 14 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>AND</b> May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> 2016

### **Applications**

For an application form or for more information, please contact the NCSPVA Director by Email: [r.jones@worc.ac.uk](mailto: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)

### **Course Fees**

The fee for 2015-16 is £1,635

***Current or ex-University of Worcester students will have a 10% discount in fees. (Applicants with any gap in study of more than two years are advised to talk to the University finance office to confirm their eligibility to receive the discount).***

### **Payment Options**

Payment can be made in full, per module or via monthly instalments to the University of Worcester. Students wishing to pay by monthly instalments are advised to notify Finance when registering for the course.

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### ***Employer funding***

Many employers pay for their staff to attend these courses. Prospective students should discuss this with their employer.

#### ***Government Professional and Career Development Loan (PCDL)***

A PCDL is a bank loan to help learners pay for learning that leads to work or career development. Learners can apply for any amount between £300 and £10,000. This can be used to pay course fees and/or other course costs including books, childcare and travel. It is up to the learner to decide how much money they need to borrow. It should be noted though that a learner can only borrow 100% of the course fee if they have been registered as unemployed for at least three months prior to their learning. If a learner has not been registered as unemployed for at least three months, they will be able to borrow 80% of the course fee. Learner applying for a PCDL must be:

- Aged 18 years old or over at the point of application

- Been ordinarily resident† in the UK for at least three years prior to the start of the learning programme
- Intending to work in the UK, the EU or the EEA (European Economic Area) when the course finishes

If you would like to apply for a PCDL you should call the National Careers Service on **0800 100 900** to request an application pack and complete the relevant application form with one of the participating banks. Learners should submit the completed application form to their chosen bank, which will process the form to determine the learner's eligibility for the loan.

Please note that the University of Worcester's code for this loan is 4364. You will need this for the application form.

### ***West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Scholarships***

The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner has generously given the NCSPVA 2 fully funded scholarships for this course for the last two years. Students may enquire if the scholarship is available for 2015-16 but should note that applicants must be living or working in the West Mercia region.

### ***Charities and trusts***

Charities and trusts sometimes provide grants. Find out more at your local library in these publications:

- the Educational Grants Directory
- the Charities Digest
- the Grants Register
- the Directory of Grant Making Trusts

See [Trust Funds](#)

You can also use the [Family Action grant search](#).

### ***The Disabled Students Allowance***

The Disabled Students' Allowance is also available for postgraduate students. For information on eligibility see the Department for Business Innovation and Skills publication Bridging the Gap 2014/2015. You can also download a copy from Student Finance England at [www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/further-information](http://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/further-information) or telephone 0300 100 0607 for a copy.

### ***University of Worcester - Eligible Access to Learning Fund***

The University of Worcester now has an Access to Learning Fund which is a non-repayable grant administered by The University of Worcester to help eligible students who are experiencing financial difficulties.

You must already be a student and have paid part of your fees but can prove that you are having difficulty paying the remainder or finding it hard to find childcare or travel expenses. The amount awarded ranges from £100 to £3,500 but awards above £2,000 are rare. In particular help is given to:

Further information on sources of postgraduate funding can be found at [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk).

## **Application & Further Information**

For an application form or for more information, please contact the NCSPVA Director Ruth Jones OBE [r.jones@worc.ac.uk](mailto:r.jones@worc.ac.uk)

### 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"*

*"I really liked the different learning and teaching techniques – group discussion, paired work, critique, role play etc."*

*"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".*

*"I liked the teaching styles of the tutors, the organisation of the course and the help that is provided"*

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