



nottingham graduate school for social and policy research

Short Course Programme in Policy and Research

Introduction

In the current environment of evidence-based policy making, the need for public service organisations to undertake research in order to both inform policy decisions and evaluate the impact of their policy programmes, is becoming paramount.

The short course programme at the Nottingham Graduate School for Social and Policy Research has been specifically designed to enable staff operating within a wide range of public service organisations to:

- Understand the nature and implications of the evidence-based policy making agenda;
- Develop an appreciation of the connections between research and the policy process;
- Design and undertake research projects to inform policy decisions;
- Undertake programme evaluations.

The units are designed for individuals operating at all organisational levels who are involved in commissioning, undertaking or utilising evaluation research to inform policy decisions within their organisations.

Content and structure of short course programme

The short course programme is divided into a series of eight units that may be taken individually or collectively. The units are organised into three thematic strands:

- Policy context of research;
- Integrating policy and research;
- Undertaking programme evaluations.

(see outline structure of programme overleaf)

Format and delivery of courses

The programme of short courses will be delivered between October and March. Each unit is delivered on the City site of the university in the centre of Nottingham, in the form of a one-day course that runs between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

The courses are structured around a combination of presentations and workshops that are designed to introduce participants to the key themes of the unit, and to enable them to relate these to their own organisational context.

Cost of short courses

The fee per participant for a single unit is £150. Discounted fees for all the units in a thematic strand, or all the units in the programme are available on request.

Availability of other short courses

As well as providing the programme of short courses outlined in this leaflet, the facility for commissioning tailor-made programmes to suit the needs of specific public service organisations is also available. If you would like to speak to someone about:

- commissioning a specific short course;
- adapting the programme of short courses to meet the specific needs of your organisation;
- the delivery of the existing programme on an in-house basis;

please refer to our contact details overleaf.

Structure and content of short course programme in policy and research		
Policy Context Of Research	Integrating Policy And Research	Undertaking Programme Evaluations
<p>Unit 1: Understanding the evidence-based policy making agenda</p> <p>This unit is designed to provide participants with an insight into how the current evidence-based learning agenda is informing policy decisions, and the implications that this has for the role of research (and researchers) in policy making.</p>	<p>Unit 4: Designing research projects to inform policy decisions</p> <p>This unit explores issues surrounding the design of research projects that deliver research findings that are capable of informing decision making within organisations.</p>	<p>Unit 6: Research tools for evaluation</p> <p>This unit is designed to enhance awareness of contemporary quantitative and qualitative methodologies and techniques employed by public service agencies in the evaluation of the delivery and impact of policy programmes.</p>
<p>Unit 2: Using evidence-based policy making in informing policy decisions</p> <p>This unit explores the nature of evidence, and the knowledge that it provides in informing policy makers about the nature of policy problems and the impact of policy programmes.</p>	<p>Unit 5: Using consultation to inform policy decisions ADVANCED UNIT</p> <p>Consulting service users and other service providers is becoming a dominant component within the evaluation process. This unit enables participants to integrate consultation exercises into policy decision processes and management/delivery frameworks.</p>	<p>Unit 7: Using surveys to inform policy decisions</p> <p>This unit is designed to develop an understanding of survey design that will enable participants to develop and implement surveys that effectively inform decision making within an organisational and policy making context.</p>
<p>Unit 3: Evaluation and the policy process ADVANCED UNIT</p> <p>This unit seeks to explore evaluation as a political activity within the policy process, and examines the nature and role of policy advocacy in the framing of evaluation programmes.</p>		<p>Unit 8: Using focus groups as a means of obtaining feedback from service users</p> <p>This unit explores the potential for using focus groups as a mechanism for enhancing citizen participation in the formulation and implementation of policy programmes and initiatives.</p>

Further details

For further information, please:

write to: Short Courses Enquiries
The Nottingham Graduate School for Social and Policy Research
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
The Nottingham Trent University
Burton Street
Nottingham NG1 4BU

email: gsr@ntu.ac.uk

telephone: +44 (0)115 848 2500 or +44 (0)115 848 5554

fax: +44 (0)115 848 6808

Further details about the range of postgraduate opportunities and professional development courses offered by the nottingham graduate school for social and policy research can be found at:

www.gsr.ntu.ac.uk