

Masters in Health Services Research/Diploma in Health Services Research

Part-time Masters two years; Full-time Masters one year | Part-time Diploma two years; Full-time Diploma one year |
Places available—limited | Closing date for applications: 21 June, 2006 | Commences: 4 September, 2006

The Health Services Research programme aims to provide students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the concepts and methods used in studying health services.



Programme description

Health Services Research seeks to improve the quality and organisation of health services. It includes research activities designed to improve the planning, organisation, delivery or evaluation of health services. By studying the provision and use of health services and identifying and quantifying health needs, it complements basic science and clinical research that increase knowledge of the causes and treatment of ill health and disease in individuals.

This course is appropriate for students from a range of backgrounds who wish to develop a career in health services research; health service professionals who wish to develop a research and evaluation function; health service clinical and management staff who want to broaden their research skills.

Programme aims and objectives

This programme aims to provide students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the concepts and methods used in studying health services. It includes a research component to enable students to develop appropriate methodological skills.

ECTS Weighting:

Masters programme—90 ECTS.
Diploma programme—60 ECTS.

Programme fee and funding

Academic year 2006–2007: Masters.
E.U. students: €2,770.

Academic year 2006–2007: Diploma.
E.U. students: €2,525.

(Fees for non-E.U. students will be posted online: www.nuigalway.ie/postgrad/fees.)

Minimum entry requirements

Candidates for admission to the Diploma programme should hold an appropriate primary degree or appropriate technical qualifications and work experience. For the Masters degree a Second Class Honours primary degree in science, social science or a related subject, or a degree in medicine, is required.

Selection criteria

Places are allocated based on the outcome of an assessment of the application forms submitted. Consideration is given to academic record, relevant professional experience, and

Programme Content (Subject to Change)

| Course title (ten core modules for Diploma) | ECTS | Examined |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------|
| Introduction to Health Services Research Methods | 10 | December |
| Health & Public Policy | 5 | April |
| Data Management & Statistical Analysis in Health Services Research | 5 | April |
| Health Informatics | 5 | April |
| Health Services | 5 | April |
| Advanced Biostatistics | 5 | April |
| Quality in Healthcare | 5 | April |
| Health Economics | 5 | April |
| Research Protocol | 10 | April |
| Health Services Research Issues | 5 | April |
| Dissertation (Masters programme only) | 30 | Submit September |

aptitude for the course. Applicants, at the discretion of the selection committee, may be invited to attend for personal interview.

Examination arrangements

Assessment shall be by means of written papers, continuous assessment, and an oral examination. Master students must complete the taught programme to Second Class Honours standard and must submit a dissertation not less than four months from completion of the taught course.

Career opportunities

There is a recognised shortage of people with relevant skills for health services research in the context of increasing emphasis on quality and the increase in evaluation of health service activities. Employment prospects should increase with the emphasis on quality and evaluation in healthcare, both in Ireland

Programme Director

Dr. Diarmuid O'Donovan,
Department of Health Promotion,
NUI Galway.

Tel.: 00 353 91 49 30 92
Fax: 00 353 91 49 45 47
E-mail: diarmuid.odonovan@nuigalway.ie

and abroad. The Irish national strategy for health research *Making Knowledge Work for Health* published in June 2001 identifies the need for appropriately trained people.

