



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

WE'RE TAKING ON TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES.

ARE YOU?



Our academics use their research to fight disease, help people live longer and healthier lives and protect the planet. They ask how we can shape the world we live in by reflecting on the past, understanding the present and planning for the future.

Join us. Together we can make a remarkable impact on the world.

**POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN LAW:
MENTAL HEALTH**
(Approved Clinician Preparatory Programme)



This recently enhanced and newly designed Programme of blended learning runs multiple times each year offering an online educational approach with opportunities for learners to also attend classroom based teaching and learning sessions. It has been tailored to provide a systematic academic and work-based means to enable eligible professionals to prepare for the Approved Clinician (AC) role (Mental Health Act 1983) and to produce evidence of the relevant competencies for Approved Clinicians.

The Programme has been designed with reference to the applicable Mental Health legislation and guidance including the DOH Guidance for seeking AC status via the portfolio route (DoH, 2017).

This Programme will be of particular relevance to the following professionals:

- **Medical practitioners without a certificate of specialist registration**
- **Psychologists**
- **Mental Health / Learning disability nurses**
- **Occupational therapists**
- **Social workers**

“I found the course absolutely invaluable in helping me to develop my understanding of the legal framework of the MHA and other legislation which ACs must pay attention to (including the Mental Capacity Act and the Human Rights Act) and to support me to start to conceptualise and describe my skills in the ways necessary to demonstrate the required competence of an Approved Clinician.”

Esther Wilcox, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in ‘365 Days Later – Experiences of my first year working as an Approved Clinician’ Bulletin of the Faculty for People with Intellectual Disabilities, Vol. 17, No. 3, December 2019.



NEW Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Law: Mental Health (Approved Clinician Preparatory Programme)

This blended learning programme has been devised to provide comprehensive preparation for the AC role. It combines teaching on the core elements of the AC competency framework, delivered by lawyers and ACs, with the opportunity to develop reflective practice and to obtain a Northumbria University qualification. Learning is supported by a Technology Enhanced Learning Programme.

This is an established work-based qualification which enables groups of learners or individuals to undertake a flexible programme of study, over one or two years, whilst continuing to work in their chosen profession, tailoring the programme to suit their own Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs, whilst at the same time it enables learners to form learning sets with fellow learners; to identify their personal learning needs; to develop reflection and draw upon the skills and expertise acquired in the workplace and through CPD.

What do I have to do for a Professional Practice in Law Award

- A Learning Contract helps you identify your personal development needs and plan a programme of study. For the AC role this Learning Contract will be aligned to the Guidance on becoming an AC and incorporate a summary of your current experiences as relevant to that role.
- Six days of Academic Recognition enables reflection on your own CPD in an area of law applicable to your area of professional practice.
- Attending interactive, tutor led CPD sessions of learning and teaching
- A Work-based Project that will have a real impact on your professional practice or your organisation to include the production of a statutory tribunal report relating to your involvement in the care of a detained patient and a reflective account of how you have compiled the report.

For the avoidance of doubt, although the Programme focuses on enabling learners to demonstrate competencies for approval for the AC role, the approval process is a matter for the relevant approving authority in accordance with the relevant regulations and is an entirely distinct process to this Preparatory Programme.

CPD interactive teaching and learning sessions will include the following content:

The Legal Context

Consideration of the overall legal framework and the application of key legal concepts relevant to the AC role.

Assessment

Assessment in the context of the AC role, including assessment of capacity and assessments relevant to the basis for detention.

Clinical Leadership & Report Writing and Communication

- a) Clinical Leadership issues, the AC role as a function, the policy framework and systemic influence.
- b) A practical workshop considering sample reports and report writing within the legal framework of the Tribunal, Managers' Hearings and the MoJ.

Equity & Diversity and Preparing the Portfolio

- a) The legal principles and practical application of equality and diversity within the context of the AC role.
- b) Preparation of a portfolio for AC role approval and professional guidance

A feature of this programme is its flexibility and blended approach of CPD sessions.

When face-to-face teaching is not possible for safety reasons it will be delivered remotely over a series of half-days.



Year Two: Optional 12 months of 'Bolt-On' support.

Learners who are awarded the Professional Practice in Law Award will be eligible for a further 12 months of support the aim of which is to aid them to gain AC approval within that time period. Each learner will be offered a University Mentor (UM) who will encourage them to self assess their progress and to identify and plan professional development opportunities as required to evidence the necessary AC competencies. The UMs attached to the programme are experienced ACs from a range of professional backgrounds and located across England. Learners will take personal responsibility for arranging meetings with their UM at times that are mutually convenient to them. Tripartite meetings between learner, UM and work-based mentor are also encouraged.

During this second year learners will be invited to attend additional CPD events and workshops (dates to follow) where speakers will include experienced and recently approved ACs; lawyers; medics and tribunal members.

Learners will also have the opportunity to engage in the highly recommended Simulated Tribunal Training where their skills in giving oral evidence and in Tribunal report writing will be honed.

This additional Bolt-On support is available to learners to access for as long as they need it up to a maximum of 12 months. There are no University coursework requirements in this period with the focus on portfolio development.

Facilitators include:

Carole Burrell, Solicitor & Associate Professor in Law; Professor John Taylor, Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Approved Clinician; Angela Macfarlane, Assistant Professor in Law; Kaitlin Whelan, Solicitor & Associate Lecturer in Law; and Dr Louise Braham, Consultant Clinical and Forensic Psychologist & Approved Clinician.

Teaching Dates (Year One):

For the September 2023 cohort teaching will take place between 9.00am and 12.30pm on the following dates, with all sessions available online:

22, 29 September 2023

6, 11, 13, 18, 20 October 2023

1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 29 November 2023

1, 6, 8, 13 December 2023

"My experience has been entirely positive, and I would recommend the programme to any trainee Multi Professional AC. Since being enrolled, and with the support and guidance from my University Mentor, I have been able to protect the time required to produce and submit the portfolio. Prior to the programme, I was struggling to gain the relevant experience required to meet the eight competencies and I was feeling stuck, despondent and directionless.

Since completing the Bolt On Programme I have been approved by the London panel and am now a Multi-Professional Approved Clinician. I was not required by the panel to make any amendments to the portfolio, which I understand is unusual and I strongly believe that is related to the high quality of training, support and guidance I received whilst on the Programme."

Dr Jacqueline Bryant, Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Approved Clinician.
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO APPLY:

Bookings <https://goo.gl/GzAvzZ>

Contact Carole Burrell, email: carole.burrell@northumbria.ac.uk