



Post Graduate Certificate in Family Group Conference Coordination

Leading towards a Post Graduate Certificate

Accredited by the University of Chester

Application Guide



PG Cert in Coordinating Family Group Conferences

Accredited by the University of Chester

Leading towards PG Certificate and MA Awards in Family Group Conferencing

Aims

Currently there are no national standards that FGC co-ordinators are assessed against. This national certificate sets clear learning outcomes that enable new and existing co-ordinators to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of child welfare FGCs in practice as well as principle. It's voluntary whether or not a co-ordinator or project participates

Benefits

The advantages of the recognised award are that:

- It should help drive consistent, improved standards across FGC projects
- Enable co-ordinators to build on their skills and their academic qualifications - the award counts as 60 points towards a Masters Degree.
- Enable co-ordinators to move between projects by demonstrating their quality
- Enable projects to demonstrate to other stakeholders that their co-ordinators practice is of a recognised standard
- We are also working with Chester to enable the award to be recognised within the post-qualifying framework for social workers.

Why a Masters Level Qualification?

The certificate will be assessed at the master's level (M level) in accordance with the national qualifications framework.

The national qualifications framework sets out the level at which a qualification can be recognised in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. This qualification is equivalent to level 7 of the national qualifications framework, which specifies that the student has: -

Highly developed and complex levels of knowledge, enabling the student to develop original responses to complicated and unpredictable problems and situations

Is appropriate for senior professionals and managers

We feel that this accurately reflects the skill and competence required in the complex task of convening FGC's. The rigorous requirements to be evidence based and to draw on international research and practice

A two-part award

The University of Chester can now kite mark external trainers to offer training that has credit value in relation to the range of qualifications it offers.

In May 2008 Family Rights Group was accepted by the University of Chester as responsible for accrediting the first half of the postgraduate award (Part 1 of the certificate). The University will accredit and mark the second half (Part 2 of the certificate).

In doing this Family Rights Group satisfied the University that its systems and structures were sufficiently robust to be accredited by the University.

This partnership arrangement between the University and Family Rights Group will not affect what is required of the student. There remain two routes to achieve the award reflecting the different needs of new and experienced coordinators. In this respect the content, learning outcomes and assessment measures remain the same.

Summary of Options

The programme sets out two routes to achieve the award, based upon the clear learning outcomes.

Modular Route

A route for new practitioners:

New co-ordinators will have to complete three modules to achieve the award:

Module 1:

The first module includes the 3-day FGC co-ordinator training with a requirement for the student to produce work that demonstrates an understanding of the FGC model.

Module 2:

The second module is work-based and requires the student to observe 2 FGCs and provide evidence of learning¹

Module 3:

¹ Modules 1 and 2 of the Modular route are assessed by the Family Rights Group

The third module is again work-based and requires the student to directly run an FGC and provide portfolio evidence of their learning.²

APEL Route

A route for the experienced practitioner (with a claim for previous experiential learning.)

In order to be eligible existing co-ordinators will need to have completed at least 10 FGCs.

Part 1:³

Accreditation of Prior learning (30 credits)

Detailed Employer Reference

Demonstrating & Furthering FGC Values (Essay or Storyboard)

Part 2:⁴

Developing Practice (30 credits)

Learning Portfolio (Essay or Storyboard)

SWOT Analysis of Facilitation Style

Reflective Learning Incident

Costs

For new co-ordinators the cost is:

£450 3 day training course⁵

£950 Associate tutor costs (doesn't apply to projects employing their own associate tutors)

£100 Admin cost to FRG (£250 for projects employing their own associate tutors)

£590 Student fees to university

£2090

For existing co-ordinators the cost is:

£500 Associate tutor costs (doesn't apply to projects employing their own associate tutors)

£100 Contribution to FRG cost incl admin (£250 for projects employing their own associate tutors)

£590 Student fees to university

£1190

² Module 3 of the modular route is assessed by the University of Chester

³ Part 1 of the APEL route is assessed by the Family Rights Group.

⁴ Part 2 of the APEL route is assessed by the University of Chester

⁵ Figure based upon price of place on FRG 3 day training course

Some FGC projects may cover all or part of the cost, dependent upon the co-ordinator's employment status and contract.

What next?

How do I register for the certificate?

Applicants for either route will in the first instance need to complete the application to the Family Rights Group. (Application form on website) It's at this stage we will organise an associate tutor if you need one. Payment to the Family Rights Group will need to be made at this point.

On successful completion students will receive a certificate from the family Rights Group to demonstrate that they have completed Part 1 of the certificate. They will then be given a registration pack and invited to register with the university for Part 2 of the award.

In accordance with the pack information the payment to the university will need to be made as part of the registration process.

How can I find out more?

Information about the programme is available from the FRG web site. Anyone interested in finding out more about this proposal please contact Sharesnape@frg.org.uk at the Family Rights Group.

For more information check out the Family Rights Group website frg.org.uk or try:
<http://www.frg.org.uk/pdfs/070604%20briefing%20on%20accreditation.pdf>

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**REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY
GROUP CONFERENCE COORDINATION**

