

Fitness to Practise Statement

1. Programme Name(s):

- MA in Guidance Counselling & Lifespan Development
- Grad. Diploma in Guidance Counselling & Lifespan Development (exit award of above, both including the same placement modules)

2. Course Director(s): Dr Petra Elftorp

3. Professional Fitness to Practise Requirements

The practice placement is a core part of the MA in Guidance Counselling & Lifespan Development programme at the University of Limerick. It involves a collaborative partnership between the University and the participating schools and guidance services.

Student guidance counsellors should be aware of the Code of Ethics for guidance counsellors, published by the Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC), and are expected to act at all times in accordance with this Code, which makes explicit the core values underpinning the profession in Ireland.

Student guidance counsellors must be competent in their abilities to effectively deliver all aspects of guidance activities. They should also display the ability to critically reflect on their skills, competencies and development needs.

4. Professional Competencies

| Competency | Description/justification of how the competency applies to the programme(s) listed above (add bullets as required) |
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| a) Protection of the service user | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The student guidance counsellor must be aware of and act at all times in accordance with the IGC Code of Ethics for Guidance Counsellors• The student guidance counsellor must recognise the rights of learners and clients with whom they are working. At all times they will show a high regard for the personal safety, welfare and intellectual progress of students / clients.• The student guidance counsellor must be able to practise in a non-discriminatory and impartial manner• The student guidance counsellor must understand the importance of and be able to maintain confidentiality• The student guidance counsellor must understand the importance of and be able to obtain informed consent |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student guidance counsellor must be able to exercise a professional duty of care and act in the best interests of students/clients at all times • The student guidance counsellor must be able to work in partnership with other professionals, support staff, students/clients and their relatives and carers (where appropriate) • The student guidance counsellor must be aware of applicable health and safety legislation and any relevant safety policies and procedures in force in the workplace, such as incident reporting; and be able to act in accordance with these |
| b) Communication skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student guidance counsellor must be able to communicate appropriately and effectively at all times with students/clients, management, mentor, other staff and the UL placement Tutor. • The student guidance counsellor should seek advice from the mentor, principal/manager and staff, calling on their experience to make the placement as useful and productive as possible. • The student guidance counsellor must be able to demonstrate effective and appropriate skills in communicating information and guidance to colleagues and clients • The student guidance counsellor should ensure that their communication is inclusive and impartial. |
| c) Working within the scope of practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student guidance counsellor must recognise their limitations in qualifications, experience, expertise and competence and operate within these limits, and refer students/clients when necessary. • The student guidance counsellor must not misrepresent their qualifications, experience or expertise in any way or exaggerate or mislead students/clients. |
| d) Confidentiality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student guidance counsellor should treat any personal student/client data and issues with confidentiality, as per the IGC Code of Ethics. • Should any incident arise regarding child protection, the student guidance counsellor should contact the Designated Liaison Person. |
| e) Managing risks and reporting concerns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student guidance counsellor must pay attention to safety regulations in the school/guidance service. The safety of students/clients must be ensured at all times – for example, in relation to the working area, group work, equipment, activities, progression and individual differences. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student guidance counsellor should report any concerns they have to the relevant person in charge and follow school/service policy in relation to health and safety matters. |
| f) Honesty and trustworthiness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In their work practices, the student guidance counsellor must 'honour and promote the fundamental rights, moral and cultural values, dignity and worth of clients. They respect clients' rights to privacy, confidentiality, self-determination and autonomy, consistent with the law.' (IGC Code of Ethics) |
| g) Behaviour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout their placement, the student guidance counsellor is required to behave in a professional manner, such as adhering to appropriate standards of punctuality. |
| h) Keeping appropriate records | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student guidance counsellor is expected to keep appropriate records, where required, and to follow school/service procedure in terms of completing incident reports and storing records. • The student guidance counsellor must not disclose the identity of any individual student/client in their placement portfolio. |
| i) Include any additional competencies (i.e. profession-specific) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student guidance counsellor needs to be in possession of sound professional judgement and be aware of and responsive to the impact of his/her actions on self and on others. • The student guidance counsellor should engage professionally with all stakeholders in schools/guidance services. • The student guidance counsellor should display an openness to continuous reflexive exploration of self and practice, and a willingness to commit to ongoing personal and professional development. • The student guidance counsellor should display an appreciation of difference and diversity. |

5. Health Requirements

Professional settings and practice will generally require the student to maintain a level of good health to ensure the student and service users are not adversely affected by any health condition that may arise. As part of a general health protection, the University and/or the external placement provider may require students to undergo health screening or other forms of health assessment.

Students undertaking programmes with a vaccine and/or health requirement will be required to comply with the vaccination and/or health requirements of the University, as may be updated from time to time.

In addition, students undertaking programmes with an external placement will be required to comply with the vaccination and/or health requirements of the external placement provider, as may be updated from time to time.

All requirements are listed in the Table below.

Any restriction and supporting justification on students with disabilities enrolling on this programme and seeking to avail of accommodations provide by Disability Support Services should also be listed below in the table below.

| <i>Vaccination and/or health requirements of the University in relation to this programme of study</i> | <i>Vaccination and/or health requirements of the external placement provider in relation to this programme of study</i> | <i>Restriction and supporting justification on students with disabilities enrolling on this programme</i> |
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| None at present but may be updated from time to time. | None at present but may be updated from time to time. | None at present but may be updated from time to time. |

References

- Department of Education - Programme Recognition Framework: Guidance Counselling <https://assets.gov.ie/25003/f6b754be708443469ae7d569da311a81.pdf>
- IGC Code of Ethics <https://igc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/code-of-ethics.pdf>
- IGC Guidance counselling core competencies & professional practice <https://igc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Guidance-Counselling-Core-Competencies-Professional-Practice-1.pdf>

Signed: 

or _____

Course Director(s)

Associate Dean Academic Affairs