Dissertation

The dissertation is a requirement of the M.Sc. in Disability Studies award. It is the final piece of work and the culmination of a course of study for students. The dissertation offers an opportunity to further investigate a topic area within the discipline of Disability Studies and to develop and manage research skills in an area of interest to the student.

Students are assigned a supervisor who guides them through the definition of the research goal statement, assists them in implementing best practice in their research methodology and meets regularly with them during the course of the research to assess progress. Furthermore, a series of dissertation seminars is also scheduled as a means to provide a common forum for students to discuss topics and share resources.

The aim of the dissertation is to develop students’ research and writing abilities via a substantial piece of independent work. Further, it aims for learners to demonstrate proficiency in the design of a research paper, application of appropriate research methods or approaches, collection and analysis of data and/or relevant literature, and application of area-specific theories and concepts. Students are expected to formulate their own research question (with the guidance of their supervisors and module leader), to gather and select material to answer their question, and set out their findings in an appropriate academic style in a manuscript of 15,000 to 20,000 words.

Dissertation Topics 2010-2015

These are some of the topics our students have explored in their dissertations:

- Effect of life events on stress levels and depressive symptoms among older adults with intellectual disabilities in Ireland (secondary analysis of the IDS-TILDA database)
- Evaluation of individualised support of people with intellectual disability and people with mental health problems living in the community (secondary analysis of the Evaluation of Individualised Support to people with disabilities transitioning to personalized living arrangements in the community data)
- Perspectives of people with intellectual disabilities and staff on mental capacity legislation in Ireland
- Third Level Education Options for People with Intellectual Disability
- Evaluation of Person-Centred Planning
- Needs of Ageing Population of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities
- Christy Brown’s Depiction of Disability in his Literary Works
- Physical Deviance in Wilde’s Dorian Grey
- Maternal Experience of Education and Care for Children with Intellectual Disabilities
- Multimedia as a Method of Enhanced Learning for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- Food and Eating Issues among Young People with an Intellectual Disability
- Special Needs Assistant and the Effect of Budgetary Cutbacks on Their Work in Primary Schools
• European Policies on Disability and Development Cooperation
• Quality of Life in Adults with Disabilities
• Services Cutbacks and Quality of Life
• Inclusive Education
• Ethnic Minority Parents Living in Ireland who Have Children with Disabilities