

Best Interests Assessor

Introduction

Have you got what it takes to champion the rights of people who may be deemed unable to make decisions for themselves?

This course is approved by the Secretary of State for Health to provide qualifying training for the role of Best Interests Assessor (BIA) as part of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) and the Mental Capacity Act (2005).

- To be eligible to undertake the course you must belong to one of the following professions: Registered Social Workers, Nurses, Occupational Therapists and chartered or registered psychologists and not be removed from the register.
- You must also have at least two years post qualification experience with a working knowledge of the Mental Capacity Act (2005)

As a qualified BIA, you will be independent and professionally accountable for your assessments, which can transform people's lives in hospital and care homes by maximising their liberty and best interests.

Overview and Aims

The module will provide an in depth understanding of the legal, ethical and practical work of a BIA with an emphasis on practice based learning alongside taught input.

Module content

- The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS): legal concepts and developments in case law
- Assessing Mental Capacity and Best Interests
- Risk Assessment and making proportionate and evidence based decisions about harm
- Promoting Human Rights and the role of Independent Advocacy and Formal Representatives
- Organisational frameworks - the roles of Supervisory Bodies, the Court of Protection and working with other Professionals involved in the DoLS process
- Collaborating with qualified Best Interests Assessors to gain practical experience of conducting DoLS assessments

Teaching and assessment methods

The module comprises of five university taught days together with practice based learning: shadowing qualified BIAs to complete satisfactory DOL/BIA Assessments. Anyone considering applying for the course who is not sponsored by an employer, is advised to contact the module leader beforehand to discuss how they will arrange these shadowing experiences .

The assessment methods include writing two assignments and two reports on supported DOL/BIA assessments that you have participated in, along with a reflective commentary. It is suggested that five study days are taken to complete these.

Fees

The modular fee for academic year 2018/19 is £765.

Applications

For application forms or further information, please contact SOC.CPD@ntu.ac.uk

Contact details

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www.ntu.ac.uk/aswp

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