

New Professional Doctorate

The School of Law and Social Sciences in Glasgow Caledonian University has developed a new 4 year Doctoral programme aimed at professionals occupying, or aspiring to, senior positions in the fields of justice, legal services, social administration and government service. It is designed to provide professionals who wish to enhance their research skills and career prospects with an alternative route to existing Ph.D. programmes by enabling them to undertake a significant piece of original research on a topic of direct relevance to their occupations without taking a career break. The programme is also designed to appeal to employers wishing to increase the capacities of their senior staff to cope with the ever increasing demands for policy and practice informed by research and requirements for joint working.

It builds on an existing successful programme which has been offered to health professionals for the past four years. Students entering the programme will join a cohort of professionals from a variety of fields and initially undertake a set of modules specifically geared to enhancing professional skills and preparing them to undertake the thesis.

Stage One extends over the first two years of the programme and involves 20 days attendance (12 in year One, 8 in Year 2) with three taught courses (Research Methodology, Professional Development, and Project Development Design and Management) Stage Two involves the researching and writing of the thesis under supervision with 2 full days' attendance in each year.

The advantages of the Professional doctorate over the conventional PhD are that it is structured:

- to encourage cooperation, discussion and support between members of different professions.
- to meet the needs of the scholarly professional rather than the professional scholar.
- to enable students to work on a project of direct relevance to their professional occupations.

In other respects it is the direct equivalent of a doctorate by conventional means in respect of:

- the academic level and intellectual rigour of the study.
- the attachment of the student to an expert supervisory team put together to meet individual requirements. (Areas of research expertise include, Law, Criminology, Politics, Sociology, Social Policy. School research web site at www.gcal.ac.uk/lss/research)
- the expectation that that students will develop the capacity to undertake scholarly publication.

The total cost of the 4 year programme is £12,000 which is payable in annual instalments.

First entry to the programme will be in January 2010.

If you are interested in receiving further information or would like to discuss the programme please contact the Research Coordinator, Michelle Connolly (Michelle.Connolly@gcal.ac.uk or 0141 331 3276).