



TITLE: What is Professional Practice?

What is the course about?

This course will enhance knowledge and understanding of effective team and interprofessional working, examining personal and professional development, offering a critical insight into the evidence-base surrounding professional practice. The use of the word professional means a commitment to a certain way of life. We examine how being professional requires specialized knowledge and often long and intensive preparation including instruction in skills and methods as well as in the scientific, historical, or scholarly principles underlying such skills and methods. Professionalism is characterised by high standards of achievement, conduct and commitment. Professionalism means being what you say you are – not what you are told to appear to be. Therefore values and standards are crucial to professional practice.

A professional is not merely skilful. The knowledge and understanding that underpins judgement on how and when to act is a critical component of professionalism and this course highlights what it means to be professional in the current economic and social climate. As a young person entering the professional world it can often seem daunting and this course will support participants in effectively managing this difficult transition. This course explores how both the macro-environment in which the person functions (work, national norms, etc.) and the micro-environment, (personal differences, family, gender difference, etc.) influence professionalism. Being professional means accepting obligations and conducting oneself in an ethical manner.

Objectives of the Course:

- To explore what it means to be professional across a wide range of contexts
- To highlight the values and standards that underpin professional
- To use experiential and creative activities to develop both an individual and collective understanding of the concepts of professionalism
- To support young learners in successfully making the transition between higher education and the workplace.
- To promote an understanding that professionalism is something to be developed over time
- To blend together all aspects of being a young professional