

I would like to take this opportunity to thank FPSA for the funding they gave me which enabled me to study for the MSc in Forensic Psychology at Cardiff Metropolitan University. The application process for the funding was very clear and easily understood, and the communication between the FPSA and myself excellent. I can't believe these last two years have gone so quickly, however I am thrilled to state that I have studied & completed seven modules:

- Psychological Assessments & Interventions (20 credits)
- Research & Design (30 credits)
- Forensic Mental Health (20 credits)
- Theories of Crime (10 credits)
- Legal Psychology (10 credits)
- Professional Practice (20 credits)
- Psychological Vulnerabilities (10 credits)

Forensic psychology is a field that deals with both psychology and the law & is very relevant to my role as a Forensic Clinical Nurse Specialist in the All Wales Forensic Adolescent Service (FACTS). It is the practice and application of psychological research relevant to crime, policing, the courts, the criminal and civil justice system, offenders, prison, secure settings, offender management, health and academic settings. This study has enhanced & developed my clinical skills, enabled me to link theory to practice in relation to evidence based research & contributed enormously to my further development. Throughout the MSc there was a continuous emphasis on research and evidence based practice and a necessity to develop a critical evaluative stance to any evidence or theory.

The MSc has given me the opportunity to consider my current working practices, particularly in relation to risk assessments, as a result I have reflected on my own practice in order to become more ethically and clinically effective. I have been fortunate enough to be given training on Expert Witness techniques as part of the MSc and found this invaluable in relation to being cross examined in the court room. I would say that this course of study has empowered me to

become more mindful in relation to my own professional practice and contributed enormously to my own personal and professional development.

The other most crucial skill I have learnt is how to research properly utilising quantitative and qualitative designs. Reading a research paper and being able to interpret it understand it and present it properly to the rest of my team or to other agencies and professionals I work with. I am currently in the middle of my dissertation which will be finished by October 2015. My dissertation proposal (10 credits) has been completed and has passed, I got a distinction!

It is on Psychiatric Triage: *factors used in decision making about level of security and the added value of DUNDRUM-1*. The Dangerous Understanding, Recovery and Urgency Model (The DUNDRUM Quartet; Kennedy, et al., 2013) is a recently developed and revised structured professional judgment tool developed as an aid to clinical decision making, and includes a scale designed to assist psychiatric triage. I would never have had the skills to tackle this had I not completed the seven modules. I have thoroughly enjoyed the MSc Forensic Psychology and have benefitted from it enormously.

I am happy to be contacted by anyone who may be interested in this course of study or in any of the modules I studied. I can be contacted on my e mail address:

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I will always be so grateful to the FPSA for giving me this opportunity. Thank you so very much.

Tracey-Lee Davies May 12th 2015