

University Of Chester and the International Institute for Restorative Practices - working in cooperation to offer Higher Education (HE) level Accreditation in Restorative Justice and Practices

Participants on courses run through the programmes of the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) in the U.K. have the added option of registering with the University of Chester (UofC) to work towards a Higher Education award. UofC are one of the leaders in work based and work related studies and support students who are employed by the Police Service, Local Government, Civil Service, Prison Service, NHS and numerous other organisations.

IIRP is working with the Centre for Work Related Studies at UofC who operate the Work Based and Integrative Studies Programme (WBIS) which enables participants to gain academic recognition for their learning achievements.

This typically involves participants reflecting on what they have learnt and how they use their skills in the course of their work. Participants can build up towards awards such as a Certificate or Diploma of Higher Education, BA Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or Masters Degree. Participants can negotiate the title of their award to reflect its content, for example, Certificate of Higher Education in Work Based and Integrative Studies (Restorative Justice).

Up to 50% of an award can be claimed through accreditation for prior learning, for example participants can reflect on relevant experience and support this with evidence such as files, reports, policies, lesson plans or other items that they have produced in their work. Restorative Justice practitioners might claim academic credit for their practical experience. Trainers may claim credit for their training expertise.

In addition, after participants have completed their IIRP training they can use the WBIS Programme's project modules to enhance their development and employability. There are a wide choice of other modules that participants may choose to compliment their IIRP courses and workplace experience. Tutor support is available in person and / or by distance.

The WBIS framework is unique in that it offers a flexible process for:

- Wrapping a Higher Education award around the National Occupational Standards being developed for Restorative Justice
- Upgrading from GNVQ's to Higher Education qualifications
- As a vehicle for maintaining national quality standards, such as Restorative Practitioner Trainer Training.

WBIS is primarily work based, offering practice based assessment, which means that the knowledge and experiences of practitioners are every bit as important as theory. Many employers choose to use WBIS as part of their staff development and to support their aspiration to become Learning Organisations.

University of Chester:  University of
www.chester.ac.uk Chester

Centre for Work Related Studies:
www.chester.ac.uk/cwrs

**Contact the IIRP UK
Office (as below) for
further details.**