

SLCC

For Local Council Professionals

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Develop your career, support your council and strengthen your community



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UNIVERSITY
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PROSPECTUS 2024



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CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (LEVEL 4), THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Choose your qualification – students are able to achieve the Level 4 qualification without pressure to proceed to Levels 5 and 6.

How you study: The course is part-time and distance learning with two face-to-face events and one virtual event each year, and many opportunities to meet your tutors and fellow students online.

Start date: 1 February 2024

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY OVER TWO YEARS:

SLCC1012 Building Communities

(15 points)

Study a local community in depth and identify the community's social, environmental and economic assets. Discuss the principles, practices and benefits of community development for local democracy before considering how to build on these assets to strengthen community.

SLCC1001 Community Governance (15 points)

Focus on community leadership, community engagement and democratic processes. Consider the structures, functions and values of community governance, and the practices of stakeholders and policies affecting local communities.

SLCC1004 Community-led Planning (15 points)

Explore different techniques for community-led planning with emphasis on statutory neighbourhood plans and non-statutory plans. We suggest a range of tools for consultation, participation and collecting evidence.

SLCC1011 Local Council Finance (15 points)

Learn about the financial management of councils in England and Wales according to statutory proper practices. Consider the management of risks to public money and the statutory requirements for transparency.

SLCC1010 Local Council Law & Procedures (30 points)

Study the law, procedures, powers and duties for the management of town, community and parish councils in England and Wales. Find out how other councils operate.

The tuition fee for each qualification is £6,500* (£3,250 per year) normally paid in instalments over two years with an initial deposit of £375 (the deposit covers administration and registration process for starting the course) which will be deducted from the final invoice. *Fees usually increase annually. Unfortunately, student finance is not currently available for Level 4.

SLCC1006 Managing People (15 points)

Consider formal aspects of managing people such as employment law, recruitment and human resource policies. Explore ways of developing staff or councillors and reflect on the impact of personalities and the management of conflict.

OR

SLCC1007 Managing Projects (15 points)

Learn about project management for people working in local communities. You consider a practical project management lifecycle and tools for managing and evaluating the process.

SLCC1008 Organisational Governance (15 points)

Reflect on current practice to strengthen the governance of an organisation such as a community group, charity or local council. Investigate new ideas and recommend improvements.

SLCC1005 The Planning System (15 points)

Learn how the planning system in England and Wales impacts on local communities. Identify how the system works and examine power and influence in the system.

"I started Level 4 with trepidation in 2021 when unfortunately COVID-19 put an end to the face-to-face study days which reverted, like everything else, to on-line sessions. Despite this, the tutors were great, and help was only an email or phone call away. Year 2 soon came around and we were able to meet in person helping friendships develop and making learning easier (for me at least). My confidence has increased and I have developed as a clerk during the last two years. Level 5 was never originally in my plan, but I find myself a Year 1 student, embarking on the next phase!"

**Emma James PSLCC,
Clerk & RFO to Okehampton Town Council**

For more information please visit www.slcc.co.uk/community-governance

FOUNDATION DEGREE (LEVEL 5), LEADERS IN THE SECTOR QUALIFICATION

How you study: The course is part-time and distance learning with two face-to-face events and one virtual event each year, and many opportunities to meet your tutors and fellow students online.

Start date: 1 February 2024

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY OVER TWO YEARS:

SLCC2001 Communities in the Political System (30 points)

Strengthen your understanding of the place of local communities in the political system. Examine the concept of a liberal democracy and the nature of community-based localism. Learn theories explaining power in the political system to help you analyse power and influence affecting local communities.

*SLCC2008 Researching Sustainable Communities (30 points)

Examine the theory and practice of sustaining local communities including community development, local democracy and climate action. Develop investigative skills and practise participative democracy by carrying out research in a local community.

*SLCC2009 Professional Development (30 points)

Develop personal and professional skills including independent and critical thinking, negotiation skills and reflective practice. Link the review of a book relevant to community governance to an associated activity undertaken in a local community or workplace setting. A field visit of up to five days may be organised to facilitate studying in a new setting.

SLCC2004 The Manager's Role (30 points)

Investigate and evaluate the strategic role of a manager working with one or more local communities. Draw up a management plan for a local community project.

"I have just started Level 5, 6 years after completing Level 4. Why? Simply because the value I felt that both I and my council gained from the Cert HE was such that we would improve yet further if I complete the full course. Our wide scoping knowledge that we accumulate to effectively do our job, is underlined by exploring the relevant legislation. Alongside our problem solving and innovation challenged to develop those completely transferable skills to the real life setting of our communities, equipped to get the best out of ourselves, our teams and our communities. I'm glad I'm studying again and would recommend this course to every clerk."

Julie Holden, Clerk to East Grinstead Town Council

The tuition fee for each qualification is £6,500* (£3,250 per year) normally paid in instalments over two years with an initial deposit of £375 (the deposit covers administration and registration process for starting the course) which will be deducted from the final invoice. *Fees usually increase annually. Level 5 students can apply for student finance (if they have studied Level 4.)
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HONOURS DEGREE (LEVEL 6), LEADERS IN THE SECTOR QUALIFICATION

How you study: The course is part-time and distance learning with two face-to-face events and one virtual event each year, and many opportunities to meet your tutors and fellow students online.

Start date: 1 February 2024

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY OVER TWO YEARS:

SLCC3004 Community Governance

Research Project (30 points)

Examine a specific community governance topic that has an impact on the local community or the parish, town, community (local) council sector. Complete a major piece of research that shows originality within the local council sector.

SLCC3003 Management & leadership (30 points)

Obtain a practical experience of management and leadership. Work in a team to organise and manage a thought-provoking training seminar relevant to the work of parish, community and town (or local) councils. Present your interim findings from your research project.

SLCC3002 Delivering Public Services

(30 points)

Examine the detailed and complex knowledge and planning required for the effective delivery of public services for a local community. Explore the meaning, purpose, funding and perception of public services. Consider how to explain public services to a public audience.

SLCC3001 Power & Politics in Community Governance (30 points)

Examine the intricate political context that has an impact on local community governance and questions the effectiveness of the UK's representative democracy at all levels. Focus on the complex and varied relationships between different tiers of government. Explore the tensions between a centralist government and localism and between confrontational party politics, consensus and coalition.

"I would like to thank the tutors on the Community Governance course for their patience, constructive criticism, support, encouragement and much more. You have been brilliant in allowing me to grow, reflect on my role as parish clerk, gain in confidence and succeed. This has been an entirely positive experience of higher education."

Belina Boyer PSLCC, Clipstone Parish Council and Bleasby Parish Council

The tuition fee for each qualification is £6,500* (£3,250 per year) normally paid in instalments over two years with an initial deposit of £375 (the deposit covers administration and registration process for starting the course) which will be deducted from the final invoice. *Fees usually increase annually.

Level 6 students can apply for student finance (if they have studied Level 4 and 5.) Contact qualifications@slcc.co.uk for more information.

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MASTERS IN PUBLIC LEADERSHIP (LEVEL 7)

How you study: The course is part-time and distance learning with one in-person event per module and many opportunities to meet your tutors and fellow students online.

Start date: 1 April 2024 (student intake every two years)

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY OVER TWO YEARS:

POPP5056 Leading Change (30 points)

Leading Change delves into the complexities of organisational transformation in public service delivery. It evaluates the challenges arising from the evolving governance of the public sector, while investigating the drivers of change. Students explore steps in leading change, from proposals and implementation to delivery. They consider how to build the values, behaviours, and culture that drive innovation and change. Students critically reflect on the appropriateness of different models of leadership in a variety of contexts, questioning debates over transactional and transformational leaders, while investigating the demands of adaptive and pragmatic leadership.

POPP5057 Empowering Communities (30 points)

Empowering Communities evaluates the complexities of working with local communities, considering how to translate the principles of community empowerment into practice. Students explore theories of community leadership, sustainable communities, and empowerment. They explore overcoming inequalities and boundaries across communities; mobilising community assets; determining levels of engagement across different communities; undertaking effective communication; and enhancing democratic community governance. Students reflect critically on conditions for effective community participation, while evaluating the potential for empowerment.

POPP5058 Collaborative Innovation (30 points)

Collaborative Innovation provides the opportunity to evaluate collaborative governance. Harnessing multiple perspectives, resources and interests is an approach for delivering transformation and place-leadership. This module engages with debate and explores the challenges of collaboration and collaborative leadership. Students reflect on forms of collaboration in the changing landscape of public service delivery, while evaluating different theoretical approaches. They investigate the cycle of collaborative innovation and the demands of everyday practices. Students assess the strategies and tactics of network formation; different styles of network leadership; management of collaborative outcomes; and questions of accountability and political anchorage. They investigate the skills essential for collaborative practitioners.

POPP5059 Designing Public Services (30 points)

Designing Public Services invites students to consider the meaning of public services in society and the breadth of service delivery models. Students are introduced to a range of models of service delivery, different arguments contained within them and their application in practice. This module engages with the 'visioning' of new services including options appraisals and project delivery. Students examine commissioning and procurement; insourcing and outsourcing; partnerships and joint ventures; shared services; mutuals and cooperatives; hybrid organisations; co-production; and services as structures and processes. The module considers public value creation and public services. Students reflect on how services provide value to the community and society.

POPP5060 Policy into Practice (30 points)

Policy into Practice is an opportunity to undertake an individual policy development project. Students are introduced to problem-based policy development, exploring the processes of designing and carrying out an evidence-based inquiry into an identified policy issue facing an organisation or a community of practitioners. Students investigate the key processes of research into practice, investigating problem-definition; undertaking an independent review of existing evidence; ensuring ethical guidelines; collecting, analysing, and interpreting different types of data; generating recommendations; and writing for policy. Students undertake an individual project, generating evidence to inform a policy briefing, leading to recommendations for policy development.

The tuition fee for each qualification is £7,000* (£3,500 per year) normally paid in instalments over two years with an initial deposit of £375 (the deposit covers administration and registration process for starting the course) which will be deducted from the final invoice. *Fees usually increase annually. Level 7 students can apply for student finance (if they have studied Level 4, 5 and 6.) Contact qualifications@slcc.co.uk for more information.

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