

Northern Ireland

Social

Care

Council

PROFESSIONAL IN PRACTICE

**INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT ROUTE
(IAR)**

**METHOD FOR SUBMISSION: ASSIGNMENT
HANDBOOK**

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Assignment Submission

Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must be enrolled with the Professional in Practice Framework.
- Candidates must be registered with the NISCC (on Part 1 of the Social Care Register).

Word count for **Consolidation** and **Specialist** Awards are as follows:

- 1 Requirement – 1,800 – 2,000
- 2 Requirements – 2,700 – 3,000
- 3 Requirements – 4,500 - 5,000

Word count for **Leadership and Strategic** Award is as follows:

- 1 Requirement – 3,600 – 4,000
- 2 Requirements – 5,400 – 6,000
- 3 Requirements – 8,500 – 9,000

A word count must be included on the submission.

Assignment Guidance

The assignment affords the candidate the opportunity to claim Professional in Practice Requirements by illustrating the integration of knowledge, skills and values within their work context and the discussion of their work.

Work referred to in assignments can include practice with a service user or a practice theme, if consent from a service user cannot be obtained. Other examples of work can be management, training, research, project development, etc. Your PiP Representative can help select the PiP Requirements and PiP award that best match the piece of chosen work.

The assignment should be analytical, evaluative and reflective and not merely a description or story about the work or the practice examples. The work will be assessed at postgraduate level (see the Assessment Grid on page 7).

Candidates submitting assignments should use the Professional in Practice Requirement/s being claimed as the basis of the assignment title. Assignments may be “Critical reviews of...”; “A comparative analysis of...”; “A critical evaluation of...” etc. The candidate should consult with their Professional in Practice Agency Representative on the assignment title.

When writing the assignment you should:

Carefully examine each Requirement you are claiming. Each Requirement will be marked separately. Therefore consideration should be given to ensure there is sufficient critical review of the knowledge, skills and values to meet each requirement being claimed.

Look at the language within the Requirement being claimed. Highlight the key terms. Ensure there is relevant research being referred to in order to examine the key terms within the case study, practice theme or piece of work you have chosen.

You should demonstrate your understanding of the concepts within the requirement(s) and explore how this knowledge has been applied in practice. Include theory to inform your practice, for example: psychodynamic theories, psychological and sociological perspectives that can help understand and analyse the service users' circumstances or behaviours. Examples may include knowledge of social issues for example: poverty / deprivation or behaviours associated with trauma, neglect, grief and loss, change, addiction, mental ill health, the analysis of risk as well as potential thoughts and feelings.

If you are using a practice theme, consider a group of service users you have worked with, who have some common experiences or challenges. These can form the basis theme/ topic of discussion where you can discuss your practice using your knowledge, skills and values.

Include discussion on the social work theory / theories used to intervene. Consider what social work models and methods you have applied in practice to promote change. What social work skills have you applied when using methods and models of social work practice? Critique these methods and models. Are they useful, and if so, why? Are there other models and methods than provide different / further guidance to support someone through a process of change.

What relevant legislation are you working with? Can this be critiqued, for example, consider statutory power dilemmas or contradictions and conflicts between legislation and policy.

Consider your role in empowering others. Therefore a critique around 'power with', 'power over', 'power within' or 'power to'.

Be explicit about the ethical dilemmas you have encountered and how have you managed these. What research, theory to inform or theory to intervene has been useful when managing ethical challenges?

What personal or professional value conflicts have you encountered?

Examples of Assignment Titles

A critical evaluation of decision making within risk assessment processes for adults with learning disabilities. (Could be used for Consolidation Award 3 or 4 or 6).

A comparative analysis of the implementation of two crisis intervention methods for work with children in accordance with agreed national, occupational or recognised agency standards. (Could be used for Consolidation 1 or 2 or 3 or 5).

A critical evaluation of research used to develop and implement service user and where appropriate carer rights and participation in line with the goals of choice, independence and empowerment. (Could be used for Specialist 4 or 6).

A comparative analysis of methods of risk assessment and the development of a risk assessment system for young people leaving care. (Could be used for Specialist 3 or 4 or 5 or 7).

A critical review of social care supervision in a European context and application to the development of staff supervision strategy. (Could be used for Leadership and Strategic 2 or 3 or 4).

A critical evaluation of the impact of service user feedback on agency policy. (Could be used for Leadership and Strategic 8 or 9).

Content of Submission

Each submission must use the Individual Assessment Route Booklet format which is available on the Learning Zone. This booklet contains the: Front Sheet, Candidate Checklist, Statement of Consent, Statement of Confidentiality, your written submission and the Line Manager Verification Report.

Where part of your submission is in a PDF format (for example: evidence in an APL submission or Assessor Report for a Direct Observation), these can be uploaded to the NISCC Portal as a separate document / documents.

Each assignment should contain the following:

	Number of words	Included in word count
IAR Booklet Forms: Front Sheet, Candidate Checklist, Statement of Consent, Statement of Confidentiality, Line Manager Verification Report.		No
Introduction, Roles and Responsibilities Candidates should provide a short introduction. In the event of two assignments being submitted, one introduction will suffice.	200-300 words	No
Outline one practice example, a practice theme or a piece of work. A brief synopsis of the work, including how it will meet the relevant Professional in Practice Requirements. If the assignment is a critical reflective account of work with a service user, consent must be obtained from the service user. Where possible, a case example should be used first and foremost. If you are unable to obtain consent from a service user, you can discuss a practice theme. Discuss this with your PiP Representative.	200 words	No
Title of your assignment		No
Introduction to the assignment		Yes
Analysis and critical reflection informed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient knowledge, skills and values to demonstrate understanding of the Requirements being claimed Legal and organisational context – legislation, policy and procedures Application of professional knowledge including theory and research A critique of the relevant theory, models and methods of practice. Summary of own professional development 	Consolidation & Specialist Awards 1 Requirement – 1800- 2000 words 2 Requirements – 2,750 - 3000 words 3 Requirements - 4500 - 5000 words Leadership & Strategic Award 1 Requirement – 3,600 – 4,000 2 Requirements – 5,400 – 6,000	Yes

	3 Requirements – 9,500 - 10,000	
	No 10% allowance	
Conclusion and Recommendations A summary of key points and/or the recommendations drawn from writing of the assignment and/or completing the work. Learning Reflect upon the professional development acquired through the work, research and writing the assignment. Outline current learning needs and how these are to be met.		Yes
References The references should be up to date and relevant and adhere to the recommended Harvard format.		No

Marking Grid

% Range	Content* (must include professional ethics) 30	Application of theory and research 20	Knowledge and understanding 20	Evidence of reading 15	Referencing (Harvard) 5	Presentation, grammar and spelling 10
70 – 100	Critical insightful evaluation and synthesis of complex issues and materials. A high level of originality and reflection. Demonstrates the ability to pursue research at Doctoral level. Originality. (21 – 30)	Extensive evidence of advanced applications and/or empirical data, where applicable, informed extensively by current research and practice in the area. Innovative and original use of knowledge. (14 – 20)	Exceptional knowledge and conceptual understanding of complex and/or specialised principles and concepts and the development and advancement of ideas and practice. High level critical judgement and confident grasp of complex issues. (14 – 20)	Extensive evidence of integrating current supplementary sources. (12 – 15)	Outstanding referencing with current sources. (5)	Outstanding, well-directed presentation, logically and coherently structured, using correct grammar, spelling and referencing. (8 – 10)
60 – 69	Critical evaluation and synthesis of complex issues and materials which includes some originality and a reflective approach. Well argued. (18 – 20)	Clear evidence of relevant applications and/or empirical data, where applicable, informed by current research and practice in the area. Critical judgement and a grasp of complex issues. (12 – 13)	Wide knowledge and depth of understanding of complex and/or specialised principles and concepts and the development of ideas and practice. (12 – 13)	Evidence of extensive reading of current supplementary sources. (9 – 10)	Comprehensive referencing with current sources. (4)	Very good presentation, logically structured, using correct grammar, spelling and referencing. (7)
50 – 59	Some critical evaluation and synthesis of key issues and material. Reasonably well argued. Largely descriptive. (15 – 17)	Evidence of relevant applications and/or empirical data, where applicable, with some links to current research in the area. (10 – 11)	Good and appropriate knowledge and depth of understanding of key principles and concepts with some understanding of the development of ideas and practice. (10 – 11)	Evidence of reading supplementary sources. (7 – 8)	Adequate referencing. Some current sources. (3)	Orderly presentation, clear structure and acceptable grammar, spelling and referencing. (6)
COMPETENT						
REQUIRING FURTHER WORK						
45 – 49	Some evaluation and synthesis of issues and material. (12 – 14)	Occasional relevant applications and/or empirical data, where applicable. (8 – 9)	Basic knowledge and depth of understanding of key principles and concepts only. (8 – 9)	Limited evidence of current reading. (6)	Limited referencing. Sources not up to date. (2)	Weak presentation and structure, grammar, spelling and referencing. (5)
31 – 44	Limited evaluation and synthesis of issues and material. (11)	Limited applications and/or empirical data, where applicable. (7)	Limited and/or superficial knowledge of key principles and concepts. (7)	Minimal evidence of current reading. (5)	Inadequate referencing. (1)	Poor presentation and structure, grammar, spelling and referencing. (4)
0 – 30	Little or no evaluation and synthesis of issues and material. (0 – 10)	Little or no evidence of relevant application and/or empirical data. (0 – 6)	Virtually devoid of any evidence of knowledge and understanding. (0 – 6)	Little or no evidence of reading. (0 – 4)	Inadequate referencing. (0 – 1)	Inadequate presentation, structure, grammar, spelling and referencing. (0 – 3)