



School of Education, Social work
& Community Education

***The BA Professional Development in Community Regeneration For
the black & ethnic minorities voluntary sector and communities***

EMPOWERING OTHERS TO DO IT THEMSELVES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Breaking New Ground for Training in Community Regeneration for the Black and Ethnic Minorities Voluntary Sector:

The Scottish Executive's vision for social justice and neighborhood renewal requires a new set of skills and understanding to work and learn with local people in the regeneration of their communities. Whether you are working in central government, local government or as part of a local partnership, you will be part of the contemporary rediscovery of community and active citizenship. The programme will assist you to build critical skills and knowledge you need to work effectively in this area.

As part of BEMIS's programme for capacity building strategy for the black and ethnic minority's voluntary sector, this training programme is designed to fill a gap that has hindered the development of this sector and the diverse communities it represents. It is well acknowledged that the black and ethnic minorities' voluntary sector (BEMVS) has been and continues to be disadvantaged at various levels. This is attributed to a number of factors including lack of access to training and policy and decision making processes, which remains a major problem.

In response, BEMIS, in partnership with the University of Dundee/ Faculty of Education and Social work) and supported by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland has adopted this initiative to empower the sector through such a training programme: **(The BA Professional Development in Community Regeneration)** .

THE TRAINING

The University of Dundee's School of Education, Social Work, community Education and the Black and Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland have reached an agreement that will see BEMIS funding a number of participants for the second cohort through a degree course focusing on community regeneration and extra direct training days/ workshops style. The aim of the programme is:

The training is a degree level programme by distance learning over 24 –30 months (WITH EXTRA DIRECT TRAINING DAYS/ WORKSHOP STYLE.

"To enable practitioners working in the field of Community Regeneration to develop knowledge and skills in participatory forms of research and inquiry, policy planning, implementation and evaluation using a community learning and development approach."

It brings together for the first time in Scotland the skills of Planning with those of the Community Learning and Development at a time when inter-professional and collaborative working are becoming more and more important in the effective development and delivery of public, voluntary and community-based projects and services.

The University's Division of Community Education, along with the division of Town and Regional Planning will deliver the programme and it is very much informed by the Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Statement published in 2002.

Module Material is sent to participants with each of the 4 modules making up the programme having a notional 6-month time period each. To support the learning process practically, there will be 3 one-day workshops provided for each module . Additional training will be sought in arrangement with concerned stakeholders in this field (e.g. Communities Scotland, The Scottish Executive etc).

Learning is also supported by way of e learning through the University's Web-based Virtual Learning Environment and participants enrolled on the programme will be registered and eligible to use this facility. In addition, direct support will be provided through BEMIS..

Brief Description of Modules

Professional Development and Inquiry – Introduces the notion of the 'Reflective Practitioner' and the purpose of reflection in professional practice. It also explores research paradigms and matters in terms of their application to professional practice.

Community Regeneration – looks at the policy content of regeneration and community planning in terms of effective policy development and implementation based on Concepts of Social Justice and Inclusion.

Engaging Communities – explores approaches and methods of working with people in more participatory, anti-discriminatory and meaningful ways.

Professional Project – An inquiry based module that asks the participants to investigate, using a researcher-based approach, an area of personal and professional relevance in the context of community regeneration.

The required entry to the degree level programme is an HND or equivalent qualification (240 SCQF credits) but applications will be considered from candidates that don't have this level of qualification but have relevant experience within the field of community-based regeneration. The programme route for such applicants is longer.

If you are interested in this programme and wish to apply, contact Heather McMullen for AN APPLICATION FORM:

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GLASGOW
G1 3DX

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Tel: 0141 548 8047

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OVERALL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME (in brief)

- Identify and evaluate best practice in Community Regeneration.
- Critically discuss and explain the debates around community regeneration;
- Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to make professional contribution to community regeneration and to enhance your career prospects.
- To develop an action plan with measured outcomes to bridge the gap in skills, experience and understanding within local community projects

Outcome of the training

By supporting members of the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector in obtaining these essential skills and qualification, it will have several positive effects for the black and ethnic minority communities, wider voluntary sector.

1. Increase the number and quality of skills and understanding on community regeneration throughout the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector. Through accredited and recognized training the standard of information, skills and expertise in the field of community regeneration will not only be higher but also of good quality and equitable across Scotland.
2. Trainees from the black and ethnic minorities' voluntary sector and communities will have a more in-depth insight to the issues surrounding community regeneration including community planning and community learning. This information will be invaluable information to activists in the community development field.
3. BEMIS and trainees (representing the diverse black and ethnic minority communities) to work in partnership with all stakeholders in developing policies, networking initiatives and strategies that ensure access of information and support for the under-represented black and ethnic minority groups.
4. The development of an Information Exchange Forum between trainees and stakeholders, to meet regularly to discuss new issues and potential strategies and developments.

5. In various ways, this is the basis of community development in providing essential skills and expertise directly to communities in a way that is both positive and productive. This process will be at the heart of capacity building for the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector in Scotland, and will support the development of this sector through filling a gap in essential skills across Scotland.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PROGRAMME

This is the second year of the programme designed to provide 22 BA university places in the first year, and 15 places in the second year and with possible additional funding this programme could continue into year three, resulting in at least 66 university places for representatives from the diverse BEM communities. Candidates will be selected, through an application process, from across Scotland and from diverse black and ethnic minority communities.

PROMOTING THE PROGRAMME

Information on this programme will be distributed throughout Scotland through:

- BEMIS membership and networks
- BEMIS database of the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector organisation across Scotland
- Wider voluntary sector and their networks
- Local authorities
- CVS networks
- Local community connections

WHO ARE THE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Applications are welcome from the following:

- a) Black and ethnic minority voluntary sector organisations that would like to nominate a member of their staff or management committee
- b) Community groups or grassroots organisations, especially from communities that have been excluded or under-represented, that would like to nominate a member of their staff, network or management committee that has a responsibility for funding or fundraising.
- c) Individuals, from the black and ethnic minority communities, who have been and still are involved with BEM groups as volunteers and would like to extend and accredit the skills and knowledge they have. **(need nomination from an organisation).**

Applications from the wider voluntary sector maybe considered if they are for members of staff, from the black and ethnic minority communities, in posts that are to provide a service and support to these communities and black and ethnic minorities voluntary sector in the areas of capacity building and development.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will be based on the University of Dundee's Criteria and will be carried out by the School of education, and Social Work, and Community Education, with all procedures for ensuring equality for all candidates. However, it is expected for the candidates to have an HND in any discipline or equivalent and actively employed or engaged as volunteer with a community based organisation. Previous studies and work experience in the field can be considered.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
(<http://www.cpdeducation.co.uk/baprofdevcommunity.htm>)

Applications will be available from: NOW

Closing date for applications will be: 30th July 2007

Short listing will take in the week: August 2007

Successful applicants will be informed by End of August

Candidates selected for the course will be expected to start September 2007

CANDIDATE or NOMINATING Body's COMMITMENTS

Organisations / groups, nominating an individual whether he/she is a staff member, from the network or management committee will require signing a contract and making a commitment on the following:

- a) To ensure that the candidate attends the training and meet all the requirements and to support the candidate in completing work base assignments where appropriate.
- b) To provide evidence that they have made use of the training and delivered support services in their area. Candidate will also be required, and supported by BEMIS, to develop a portfolio to show that they have supported other BEMVS organisation or community groups in their area to
- c) To work with BEMIS staff in developing training programmes or Seminars around Community Regeneration if needed.
- d) Withdrawal from the course before completion will oblige the organisation to reimburse the full costs as incurred by BEMIS

In the case of nominations from community groups and volunteers, we would be looking for a similar commitment, especially in regard to delivering to other organisations and agencies in your area.

Throughout this course BEMIS will be conducting an evaluation and monitoring process to ensure that the course is running effectively and candidates are able to make full use of the

learning. The purpose of this process will be to support the development of future courses and ensure that they meet the needs of the candidate and delivery to the development of their skills.

In addition, on completion of the course candidates will be supported through further training such as "Training for Trainers Programme" – to enhance and develop their training and presentation skills.

