

# INTRODUCTION

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING IPAS, AUGUST 2017

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This is an information handbook for students beginning the Master of Science in Addiction Studies and Certificate Programmes in Addiction Studies through the International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS) in August 2017. You will find important information about assessments and policies in the third part of this handbook. **Students who enrolled in the programme in 2016 or before should refer to the Programme Manual that was provided to you in your first year of entry.** This Programme is only available in external, distance education mode.

## PROGRAMME DURATION AND SCHEDULE: FULL-TIME STUDENTS (Master of Science and Certificate Programmes)

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Modules within IPAS Programme are offered on a modified semester schedule, with courses staggered to allow periods of focused learning in specific modules. Students in the full-time MS programme will complete 4 modules in each semester. Students in the FT Advanced Certificate will complete 3 modules in the first semester. Students in the FT Intermediate Certificate will complete 2 modules in the first semester.

### First Semester ("Fall 2017" in VCU terms)

Public Health Issues and Approaches to Addiction\*  
 Biological Basis of Addiction\*

Aug 14, 2017	First day of class
Sept 25-Sept 29, 2017	Mid-semester reading week: no classes
Nov 6, 2017	Last class week
Nov 13-17, 2017	End of term reading week
Nov 20-24, 2017	Exam (to be scheduled within this period)

Treatment of Addictions: Critical Issues\*\*  
 Research Methods in Addictions\*\*\*

Sept 4, 2017	First day of class
Oct 16-20, 2017	Mid-semester reading week: no classes
Nov 27, 2017	Last class week
Dec 4-8, 2017	End of term reading week
Dec 11-15, 2017	Exam (to be scheduled within this period)

\*Modules in MS, FT Intermediate and Advanced Certificate Programmes

\*\*Modules in MS and Advanced Certificate Programmes

\*\*\*Module in MS Programme only

**Second Semester ("Spring 2018" in VCU terms)**

## Treatment of Addictions: Psychosocial Interventions\*

January 15, 2018	First day of class
Feb 26-Mar 2, 2018	Mid-semester reading week
April 9, 2018	Last class week
April 16-20, 2018	End of term reading week
April 23-27, 2018	Exam (to be scheduled in this period)

## Addiction Policy\*\*

## Treatment of Addictions: Pharmacotherapies\*\*

Feb 5, 2018	First day of class
Mar 26-30, 2018	Mid-semester reading week
April 30, 2018	Last class week
May 7-11, 2018	End of term reading week
May 14-18, 2018	Exam (to be scheduled in this period)

## Research Project in Addictions\*\*\*

Note there is no reading week during this course because there is no stringent or regular class schedule beyond the first several weeks. Project is carried out individually with project supervisor.

Jan 15, 2018	First day of class
June 29, 2018	Last day of class

\*Modules in MS, FT Intermediate and Advanced Certificate Programmes

\*\*Modules in MS and Advanced Certificate Programmes

\*\*\*Module in MS Programme only

NB: Within the VCU system, the official names for semesters 1 and 2 are "Fall term" and "Spring term" respectively. This may be confusing to many in the Southern hemisphere, but you will sometimes hear these terms.

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## **PROGRAMME DURATION AND SCHEDULE: PART-TIME STUDENTS**

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The Master of Science in Addiction Studies Programme and Advanced Graduate Certificate Programme part-time options will be completed over 24 months.

Modules within IPAS Programme are offered on a modified semester schedule, with courses staggered to allow periods of focused learning in specific modules. Students in the part-time MS programme will complete two modules in each semester of their enrolment. Students in the part-time Advanced Certificate will complete two modules per semester in the first year and one module per semester in the second year. Students in the FT Intermediate Certificate will complete 1 module per semester across three semesters.

### **YEAR 1 First Semester (“Fall 2017” in VCU terms)**

Public Health Issues and Approaches to Addiction\*

Aug 14, 2017	First day of class
Sept 25-Sept 29, 2017	Mid-semester reading week: no classes
Nov 6, 2017	Last class week
Nov 13-17, 2017	End of term reading week
Nov 20-24, 2017	Exam (to be scheduled within this period)

Treatment of Addictions: Critical Issues\*\*

Sept 4, 2017	First day of class
Oct 16-20, 2017	Mid-semester reading week: no classes
Nov 27, 2017	Last class week
Dec 4-8, 2017	End of term reading week
Dec 11-15, 2017	Exam (to be scheduled within this period)

### **YEAR 1 Second Semester (“Spring 2018” in VCU terms)**

Treatment of Addictions: Psychosocial Interventions\*

January 15, 2018	First day of class
Feb 26-Mar 2, 2018	Mid-semester reading week
April 9, 2018	Last class week
April 16-20, 2018	End of term reading week
April 23-27, 2018	Exam (to be scheduled in this period)

Addiction Policy\*\*

Feb 5, 2018	First day of class
Mar 26-30, 2018	Mid-semester reading week
April 30, 2018	Last class week
May 7-11, 2018	End of term reading week
May 14-18, 2018	Exam (to be scheduled in this period)