The International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS) is a unique collaboration of three of the world’s leading research universities in the field of Addiction Science: King’s College London, the University of Adelaide, and Virginia Commonwealth University. This partnership offers three nested graduate program options available to students from around the globe via distance learning technologies.

Students are introduced to the latest information on topics ranging from the biological basis of addiction to addiction treatment, prevention and policy through lectures produced exclusively for IPAS by an international Who’s Who of experts in the field.

IPAS conducted its first Alumni Survey in the Spring of 2015. The purpose of the survey was to learn more about the educational and career experiences both prior to and after IPAS students graduated, as well as their perceptions of the relevance of educational training they received through the IPAS.

Alumni were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the IPAS Programme. IPAS achieved over a 90% satisfaction rating!

In addition, 89% of IPAS alumni stated they would recommend this program to a friend and/or colleague. These ratings are consistent with the overall alumni satisfaction rating of the IPAS Programme.

**IPAS Excellence**

**Alumni Overall Satisfaction Rating:**
- 70% - Very Satisfied
- 26% - Satisfied

**Alumni Report High Confidence Ratings In Demonstrating Skills Identified as IPAS Programme Goals**

IPAS Alumni were asked to rate their confidence level in demonstrating specific skills related to IPAS Programme goals. As the figure illustrates, more than 80% of IPAS Alumni feel confident in applying skills around the utilization of addiction research in treatment and policy, identifying public health issues related to addiction and being able to integrate their knowledge into their workplace and/or current setting. The ability to evaluate research was a particular strength reported by all alumni.
IPAS Alumni Motivated to Advance Education

About a third of alumni reported having a post-graduate degree prior to IPAS (35.7%, n=10). Similarly, 27.6% (n=8) reported enrolling in an academic program post IPAS degree; of which half were PhD programs.

Alumni were also active extending their education and knowledge by obtaining a variety of licenses and certifications (35.7%, n=10). Almost half (42.9%, n=12) reported enrolling in further education or training where alcohol and other drugs were a primary focus or substantial component of the course. Of those, most (81.8%, n=9) felt their IPAS experience contributed a lot to their decision to continue to advance in this area.

Our alumni were actively participating in a variety of dissemination activities including journal publications (24.1%, n=7) and presentations (55.6%, n=12). IPAS alumni also reported receiving awards (10.3%, n=3).

As illustrated in the graph below, most alumni chose the IPAS because of its flexible delivery of content (76%, n=22) and online format (86%, n=25). Such flexibility allows students to continue working in their career field while still working toward fulfilling their goals of obtaining a post-graduate degree in addiction studies.

The reputation of the universities, as well as the instructors was also an important factor. Although IPAS has only been around since 2007, over a third of the alumni stated they chose the program because it was recommended to them or advised by their employer. IPAS’ reputation for quality in post-graduate education in addiction continues to grow!

IPAS Alumni Making a Difference Around the World

Approximately half of IPAS alumni reported volunteering. Of the 12 individuals who stated they volunteered, most (n=11) volunteered <20 hours per week and 1 volunteered > 20 hours per week.

- 9 alumni stated they volunteered in an alcohol/substance use focused organization
- 1 stated they volunteered in a behavioral health organization
- 1 stated they volunteered for health related professional organization
- 1 stated they volunteered at mental health, substance use and trauma organizations.
IPAS alumni discussed their employment opportunities after they graduated. Overall, most reported that their IPAS education assisted them either with gaining new responsibilities, a new job and/or salary increase!

Three-fourths of IPAS alumni reported currently working full-time (74.1%, n=20). Analysis of job titles and organizations highlighted that these positions were related to addictions, behavioral health (general) and/or medical (including psychiatry).

Approximately half stated they returned to their previous position (53.6%, n=15). Of those, just over half (n=6) reported they had new responsibilities as a result of their IPAS education.

For those who stated they had new jobs (n=13), over 80% (n=11) stated that their IPAS degree helped them to obtain their new position. In addition, alumni reported salary increases after their IPAS degree (34.6%, n=9); with five individuals stating they agreed or strongly agreed that completing their IPAS degree was one of the reasons for that increase.

Full time employment were in areas such as a government agency (n=10), followed by voluntary/non-profit (25%, n=5) and private sector (25%, n=5). Similarly, alumni reported being commissioned or contracted with government entities (n=4), local commerce (n=1) and universities (n=1) (note: includes part-time).

As the pie chart illustrates, of those reporting employment (n=23), most alumni stated the primary focus of their work was in direct service delivery, followed by education and program management.

IPAS Alumni reported that the information and skills they developed and enhanced during their graduate studies was consistent with their job requirements. In addition, they reported using the content from IPAS in their work.

Over 90% reported that the content presented in IPAS was appropriate to their work and/or community needs and over 60% agreed or strongly agreed that the IPAS effectively incorporated relevant workplace and community issues into the curriculum.

Employment news from IPAS alumni is excited and illustrates the growth of opportunities for our graduates!

*“The program broadened my career prospects and gave me a wide range of national and international opportunities.”*  
-IPAS Alumnus
Who Completed the Alumni Survey

IPAS Alumni are a diverse international group of addiction professionals. Of IPAS’ current alumni (n=62), 32 surveys were completed. Three surveys were later removed for duplication for a total response rate of 47%. Most of the survey respondents were female and graduated in 2012 and 2013. Most participants came from North America (n=12), followed by Asia, Europe, Australia and Pacific Islands and Africa. This distribution was consistent of IPAS graduates.

The survey was developed by Drs. Cathers and Loos and included combining King’s College program evaluation questions and Humphrey Fellows Alumni Survey questions, as well as questions identified through the literature. Survey domains included: Demographics, Education (prior and current educational experiences), Employment (prior and current experiences), Volunteer Work, Accomplishments, and IPAS Program Ratings. Survey findings are used for program evaluation purposes only and are informing continued program development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender (n=28)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-65 years</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<td>Average</td>
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<td>Part-time</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Graduation Year
Alumni from graduation years 2009-2014 were represented in the survey.

Welcome to IPAS!

IPAS Programme Directors (left to right):
Kyle Dyer, PhD
King’s College London
Femke Buisman-Pijlman, PhD
University of Adelaide, Australia
Mary Loos, PhD
Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

About IPAS

The International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS) is a unique collaboration of three of the world’s leading research universities in the field of Addiction Science: King’s College London, The University of Adelaide, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

IPAS is a fully online programme offering:

◊ Master of Science and
◊ Post-Graduate Certificates in Addiction Studies

Come check us out on the web:
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