The International Programme in Addiction Studies, or IPAS, is a unique collaboration of three of the world’s leading universities in the field of Addiction Science: King’s College London, the University of Adelaide, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Graduates of this entirely online program learn to identify current problems in the field of addiction, evaluate the latest research, and apply it to develop and communicate solutions in the field. Students gain a global perspective from international experts in addiction science, providing them with a core foundation of knowledge that prepares them to assume leadership roles in addiction treatment and prevention and to shape local, national, and international policy. Three nested programs are available: a Master of Science, and intermediate and advanced certificates in Addiction Studies.

In the summer of 2019, IPAS surveyed alumni to learn more about their educational and career experiences and the perceived relevance of their IPAS training. Survey domains included: demographics, education (prior & current), employment (prior & current), volunteer work, accomplishments, and IPAS program ratings. Of 96 alumni, 44 (45.8%) completed the survey. IPAS received a 100% overall satisfaction rating, with 95% indicating they would recommend the program to friends or colleagues in the addiction field.

IPAS graduates work in a variety of settings, and 84% of graduates agree that IPAS helped them achieve their professional goals. About 15% have gone on to further their education at the doctoral level, and 30% of survey respondents indicated that they have obtained a professional certification or license since graduation. Some of these include becoming NAADAC Master Counselors, International Certified Addiction Professionals, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, and Credentialed Drug and Alcohol Nurses, and certificates in Healthcare Leadership, Project Management, Cognitive & Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy, and Behavioral Activation Therapy. Some graduates have also become National Trainers in the Universal Prevention Curriculum for Substance Abuse and UNODC Global Trainers in Drug Demand Reduction.

“NOW I RECOGNIZE THAT I AM AN ADDICTIONS EXPERT”

Type of Agency:
- Government: 61.0%
- Voluntary/Non-profit: 16.7%
- Private: 16.7%
- Academia: 5.6%
As the map shows, our students have represented countries all around the globe. Survey respondents represented graduation years from 2009-2019, with 57% male and 43% female, in the following regions:

- North America: 40.8%
- South/Central America or the Caribbean: 2.3%
- Southeast Asia, China, or Japan: 11.4%
- Southwest Asia or Middle East: 4.5%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 11.4%
- Europe: 11.4%
- Australasia/Pacific Islands: 18.2%

The top reasons students chose IPAS were the online format (82%), flexible delivery of the program (71%), the reputation of the participating universities (66%), and the reputation of the program (52%). Respondents completed IPAS full time (22.7%), part-time in 2 years (63.6%), or part-time in 3 or more years (13.6%).

Learn more about IPAS at http://ipas.vcu.edu