



Invitation Professional Training Event

Suicide Prevention

An offer from the German National Association for Student Affairs (Deutsches Studierendenwerk DSW), Counselling and Social Services department, in cooperation with AMOSSHE-The Student Services Organisation and the ECStA

Date: Wednesday, 29th of October 2025 (10:00 am -12:00 pm Central European Time)

Event location: Zoom

Target group: Staff in psychological counselling centres in student services

Description: Suicide Prevention

Professor Jo Smith (University of Worcester, UK) and Dr Simon Merrywest (University of Manchester, UK), in association with AMOSSHE the UK Student Services Organisation, present an exploration of Student Suicide Prevention in Higher Education.

Across different institutional structures of student support in Europe and the United Kingdom, the challenges of growing demand and increasing complexity around student mental health are remarkably similar. Drawing on a variety of work over the last seven years, this webinar will explore a range of approaches in the UK to suicide prevention and postvention in higher education, focusing on aspects that will be particularly relevant to members of the European Council for Student Affairs and their networks. It will include case studies, such as the innovative Greater Manchester Student Mental Health Service and there will be plenty of opportunity for interaction and discussion.

Maximum number of participants: 60

Speakers:

- Professor Jo Smith (University of Worcester, UK)
- Dr Simon Merrywest (University of Manchester, UK)

Participation fee/costs: free of charge for ECStA members, but online registration is necessary

Link to registration: <https://form.jotform.com/251881827390970>

Registration deadline: 19th of October 2025

Contact: Sven Engel, office@esta.org, phone: +49 176-99777291

Suicide Prevention

Speakers

Professor Jo Smith

Professor Jo Smith OBE, Emeritus Professor of Early Intervention and Psychosis, University of Worcester, UK.

Prior to joining the University of Worcester, Jo was a Chartered Clinical Psychologist working in adult mental health and Early Intervention in Psychosis services during a 34-year NHS career in the UK.



Jo was project lead for 'Suicide Safer' a multiagency student suicide prevention initiative at University of Worcester (2013-2019), which was a finalist for a Times Higher Education (HE) 2018 'Outstanding Support for Students' Award. She is a member of the international 'Zero Suicide' initiative and was a co-author of an 'International Declaration on Zero Suicide in Healthcare' published in 2015. She was on national working groups which produced UUK (2017) '#Stepchange: Mental health in Higher Education', UUK (2018) 'Minding Our Future' and UUK and PAPYRUS (2018) 'Suicide Safer Universities' Toolkit. Jo supervised two PhD research studentships respectively exploring student suicide prevention and postvention policy and practice in UK HEIs and postvention support needs and roles for HEI staff following a student suicide. Jo co-edited a book with Dr Sharon Mallon from the Open University: 'Preventing and Responding to Student Suicide. A Practical Guide for FE and HE Settings', published by Jessica Kingsley in November 2021. She co-edited and co-authored HE Postvention Guidance, 'by the sector, for the sector', to guide HE senior leaders to respond sensitively and quickly after an unexpected student death by suspected suicide, funded by Office for Students and published by UUK, PAPYRUS and Samaritans in December 2022. She also co-authored and edited: 'Collective responsibility, collective action to prevent student suicide; Guidance for the higher education sector to reduce risk and restrict access to means of suicide', funded by Unite Students and Simplicity and published in October 2024. Jo was an Expert Advisory Group member for the National Confidential Inquiry review of suspected suicides in HE students in England. In 2023, Jo was awarded an OBE for services to HE in relation to student suicide prevention and response.

Dr Simon Merrywest

Dr Simon Merrywest has been Executive Director for the Student Experience at The University of Manchester since 2017. His team support students through their journey from recruitment to graduation, including the extensive provision of student wellbeing and more specialist support. They also run a large residential and sport portfolio and operate four overseas centres. He is also co-sponsor of the University's ambitious residential redevelopment programme.



Simon led the development of the University of Manchester's suicide strategy and is the co-chair of the Greater Manchester Student Mental Health Service Board. He co-edited and co-authored the [UUK, PAPYRUS and Samaritans HE Postvention Guidance](#) to guide HE senior leaders to respond sensitively and quickly after an unexpected student death by suspected suicide and new guidance: [Collective responsibility, collective action to prevent student suicide; Guidance for the higher education sector to reduce risk and restrict access to means of suicide](#). Simon is also an Expert Advisory Group member for the National Confidential Inquiry review of suspected suicides (and non-fatal incidents of self-harm) in higher education (HE) students in England, a member of the TASO Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group and a member of the Manchester Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths Panel.