

# MSc Counselling

Accredited by the BACP

Abertay University

## Information for new students

### Aims

- The MSc Counselling Programme aims to provide a learning experience that integrates *theoretical knowledge (the capacity to conceptualise problems and apply research), practical skills, and self-awareness* to enhance the development of therapeutic relationships. We want our graduates to be skilled, research informed Pluralistic Practitioners, capable of working ethically with a wide range of clients in a variety of settings.

### Content

- The programme runs over 3 years and has teaching throughout the year. In year 1 you are required to attend one day per week for terms 1 and 2 (a total of 26 weeks over September to May). These days will cover introductions to the Pluralistic Model for counselling and psychotherapy integration, a variety of theoretical perspectives, plus practical skills and personal development groups. You will also receive the essential training required to undertake ethical and professional practice in counselling, for example effective use of supervision, boundaries and record-keeping and crisis management. In term 2 you will have an observed skills exam to check your readiness to start your placement. In addition to passing this exam, the Programme Team must confirm your readiness to start placement. If the Programme team have any concerns about your practice, you will be asked to delay your placement and an action plan of support will be put in place.
- If approved, in year 2 you will go out on placement and attend full days for terms 1 and 2 (total of 26 weeks over September to May).
- In year 3, attendance is once every two weeks in terms 1 and 2. Your placement will continue during term 3.
- 90% attendance is required

## The structure of the course

	<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Term 3</b>
<b>Year 1 Monday*</b>	13 weeks one day per week	13 weeks one day per week	Preparation for placement
<b>Year 2 Tuesday*</b>	13 weeks one day per week	13 weeks one day per week	Continuation of placement
<b>Year 3 Thursday*</b>	1 day every 2 weeks (approx.)	1 day every 2weeks (approx.)	Continuation of placement

\*May be subject to change

### Assessment

- A range of assessment modalities are used with an average of two assessments per term, these focus on personal awareness, reflectivity and development, theoretical understanding and application to practice, research and practice skills.
- Assessments are designed to facilitate learning processes as well as assessing ability
- A pass grade in all nine modules is necessary to pass the masters programme
- All written assessments are submitted electronically and much of the independent learning is managed through the virtual learning environment (My Learning Space) and digital log PebblePad. You will be introduced to these systems at the start of the programme and support is available.

### Teaching

- The focus at Abertay is pluralism and the course will be taught in line with the methods and philosophies of this framework. The teaching team are experienced practitioners who are registered members of BACP. They bring a wealth of experience in counselling practice, research and training.
- Learning will be experiential through skills practice, personal development and professional practice groups. Lectures will provide foundations for knowledge which students are expected to further explore and advance through independent practice and study.

### Practice placement

- A total of 100 client hours must be completed to pass the programme. Therapeutic work must be one-to-one adult counselling, under suitable supervision. Private practice is not permissible for placement hours. In line with BACP guidelines, we do not allow students to set up or to maintain a private counselling practice whilst in training.
- While we maintain information on placements which have been approved by the university it is the students who are responsible for arranging their own placement. Organisations that

have not been used by our students in the past can be approved under the guidance of our placement administrator Jane Graham ([j.graham@abertay.ac.uk](mailto:j.graham@abertay.ac.uk))

- Successful completion of unit 2 on CNS502, approval by the Programme Team and a current PVG will be required before students are approved for practice placement
- 30 hours of practice placement should be completed before the end of year 2. 100 hours of practice placement should be completed by the end of year 3.

## **Fees**

- Current fees are available to view on the website <https://www.abertay.ac.uk/study-apply/money-fees-and-funding/tuition-fees/>
- SFC Loans may be available – contact [advisory@abertay.ac.uk](mailto:advisory@abertay.ac.uk)
- See MSc Counselling website for full details

## **Additional Expenses**

- PVG is required before starting placements
- Fortnightly external supervision is required in years two and three. This can vary in price between £30 - £80 per month.
- Personal insurance may be required by some placements
- BACP student membership is recommended.