

MSc Counselling

Accredited by the BACP

Abertay University

Information for new students starting in September 2021

Attendance

- The programme runs over 3 years and has teaching throughout the year. In year 1 you are required to attend one day per week (5 hours) 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.
- In May of year 1 there is a four- day block of workshops (9.30 – 4.30 each day). These provide essential training required to undertake ethical and professional practice in counselling, for example effective use of supervision, boundaries and record-keeping and crisis management. This is followed by 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) and, at the start of term 3, there will be a four-day block of workshops.
- In year 3, attendance is once every three weeks in terms 1 and 2. In term 3 students attend a four- day blocks focussed on professional issues and progression in to registered practice. This is followed by a single day ending event and Viva drop ins as required.
- 90% attendance is required by the BACP

| | <i>Term 1</i> | <i>Term 2</i> | <i>Term 3</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Year 1 Monday*</i> | 13 weeks one day per week | 13 weeks one day per week | Four -day block of workshops |
| <i>Year 2 Tuesday*</i> | 13 weeks one day per week | 13 weeks one day per week | Four-day block of workshops |
| <i>Year 3 Thursday*</i> | 1 day every 3 weeks (approx.) | 1 day every 3weeks (approx.) | Four-day block of workshops plus one day ending event |

*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. You should be prepared to be personally vulnerable and to build relationships with a range of peers.
- Lectures will provide foundations for knowledge which students are expected to further explore and advance through independent practice and study. You should be prepared to read widely and regularly outside of class to support your learning.

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)
- Successful completion of unit 2 on CNS503, 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 for the whole programme can be found using this link: [Tuition Fees | Abertay University](#). Fees for EU and rest of UK students are available from advisory@abertay.ac.uk • SFC Loans may be available – contact advisory@abertay.ac.uk

Questions to consider

Please ask yourself the following questions in making a decision to accept a place on the course if one is offered.

- Are you in a suitable place to be able to commit to the 90% attendance requirement?
- Are you able to commit financially, including 'hidden' costs such as regular supervision, travel to course and placement, and personal therapy? (Personal therapy is not a requirement for the course however many students find it beneficial).
- Are you willing to be known by us and by others? Counselling training is intensely personal, not just professional.
- Are you emotionally mature, able to make good relationships and to make others feel safe in your presence?