



## **Department of Psychology**

### **MA Integrative Counselling & Psychotherapy for Children, Adolescent and Families**

#### **Information for Applicants: Updated October 2022**

##### **Fees and Costs**

Details of the fees are on the University website. Candidates must note that weekly personal therapy is a mandatory requirement for all students and the cost for this is NOT included within the tuition fees. It will be the responsibility of each student to find a personal therapist and remain in therapy for the duration of their training. Personal therapy fees can range considerably and some practitioners offer reduced fees to student therapists. However, you should expect to pay between £45 and £120 per session as an additional cost.

Students may also require their own indemnity insurance once on placement depending on whether this is provided by the placement provider or not.

##### **Pattern of Study**

The programme is offered part-time only and will involve attendance for classes for one full day each week (around 30 weeks per academic year) plus a further day for placement.

During the first year there is no clinical placement but students will undertake an infant observation which involves completing of 20 consecutive weekly observations, normally conducted in the family home. In years 2 and 3 students undertake clinical placements as part of the programme and a minimum of 60 supervised, clinical hours per year are required. **Each academic year will begin with an Induction (the date for this is to be confirmed – usually third week of September). This is a mandatory part of the programme and students will need to ensure they are able to attend for the induction.**

Attendance for classes at the University during the 1<sup>st</sup> year of study is currently on a Wednesday with classes normally starting at 9.30am. In addition, during the 1<sup>st</sup> year all students will complete a weekly Infant Observation session (this can be on any day other than the Wednesday. Clinical placements start in Year 2 and continue in year 3 and will be for a minimum of 1 full day per week other than the University attendance day. Currently Year 2 is taught on a Thursday and Year 3 on a Friday (subject to change)

### **Entry Requirements for the programme:**

1a) Professional Qualification: Applicants hold a relevant professional qualification relating to working with children. These include:

- Social Work (DipSW, BA in Social Studies with DipSW, Masters in Social Work MSW)
- Nursing (Nursing BN, Nursing BA/BSc)
- Teaching (PGCE, B.Ed, MA/MSc in Education)
- Occupational Therapy (BSc, MSc)
- Speech and Language Therapy (BSc, MSc)

- Counselling/Psychotherapy Postgraduate Diploma, MA, MSc)
- Clinical Psychology/Educational Psychology (PhD, MSc)

OR

1b) Academic Learning: Applicants hold a good second-class honours degree (2.2 or above) in Psychology or related subject.

**AND**

2) Professional Experience: Applicants must have considerable experience of working directly with children and families. **This must include a minimum of two years post qualifying experience (from professional qualification or degree).**

**AND**

4) Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure: Applicants must present an appropriately clear and up-to-date Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) (formally CRB) check prior to starting the MA. All applicants must successfully complete an interview with academic staff. For non-native speakers of English, IELTS 6.5 or equivalent is required.

### **Placements:**

Placements are undertaken in years 2 and 3 of the programme. In year one this will be in a primary-age setting and in year 3 in a secondary-age or youth counselling setting. In accordance with BACP guidelines placement cannot be undertaken in a setting where the student has a dual relationship, i.e. where they are employed, volunteer, or are a parent of a child etc.

Students are supported in finding a suitable placement by the psychology department placement manager and where possible placements can be found in locations which are convenient for the student.

All eligible applicants to the programme will be interviewed by programme staff. Selection will be based on the following admissions criteria:

Applicants will normally be required to hold an undergraduate degree at Honours level. In most cases this will be in a modality specific discipline or a clinically related discipline such as Psychology, Education, Early Childhood Studies, Mental Health Nursing or Social Work etc. Graduate level professional qualifications in appropriate disciplines such as Teaching, Nursing, Social Work, Visual Art, Drama, Performing Arts, Occupational Therapy or Probation Officers etc. may also be accepted.

**Applicants will be expected to have at least two years' appropriate experience of having worked within a setting in a supportive capacity with young children/adolescents. Some of this work should be one-to-one. This might include working with children with behavioural or developmental challenges, learning difficulties, child mental health etc. This work can either be done on a voluntary or employed basis.**

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate maturity of personality at interview, as well as the capacity for reflexivity and self-awareness, as appropriate for students embarking on a therapy training. Applicants may benefit from completing a level 2 or 3 counselling skills training if this has not been covered in their undergraduate degree.

It is recognised that this is a postgraduate training where students are potentially qualified, experienced and valued practitioners in their fields. Students are encouraged to bring prior learning and experience to the training, thus enhancing the breadth and depth of the programme learning.

Applicants need an appropriate degree of psychological mindfulness including the capacity to form and maintain appropriate empathic relationships with clients. They should also demonstrate emotional literacy, robustness and an ability to be self-reflective.

Applicants may need to evidence that they can meet the academic demands of a Masters degree and in certain circumstances may be required to submit a brief written report to support their application following interview.

Applicants whose first language is not English will need to provide evidence with their application that they can achieve an IELTS score of 6.5.

Applicants will be required to supply the names of two referees, normally one of these should be able to comment on the applicant's academic suitability and the other the applicant's clinical/personal suitability for the programme.

In addition to these requirements, all students must be prepared to enter mandatory on-going personal therapy for the duration of the programme. Students should attend at least 35 weekly sessions within any calendar year. Payment for therapy is separate to course fees.

All successful applicants will need to complete an enhanced DBS check.

Full details of entry criteria, application and interview processes, along with details of DBS checks, personal therapy and fees are disseminated at open and introductory days, and at interview, as well as being available on the Roehampton website and in information packs.

Equality and diversity information is logged within the application form and compiled data is sent to HESA for consideration. Student services confidentially contact successful applicants who have a stated disability on their application form, to explore what provisions can be made to support their learning.

**MA Integrative Counselling & Psychotherapy for Children, Adolescents and Families (ICC)**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

### **Practicalities:**

#### **Where is the programme taught:**

The programme is taught at the University of Roehampton, predominantly on the Whitelands Campus – SW15 5PJ

#### **How do I get there?**

You can reach the campus by public transport. Nearby mainline stations are Barnes and Putney (TfL zone 3). Nearby tube stations Hammersmith and Putney Bridge.

Buses: 170; 85; 403; free university bus from Barnes/Wimbledon stations to main and Whitelands campuses.

There is some on-street parking in the local area.

#### **What day/time would I be at university?**

Students currently attend one day per week at university. The day and time will be confirmed during the summer term prior to the academic year beginning.

The day lasts from approximately 9.30am-4.30pm for approx. 30 weeks during the academic term. These can be subject to minor changes every year.

#### **Can I access the MA remotely or via distance learning?**

While elements of the programme have been taught remotely during the COVID pandemic this will not continue in the new academic year unless circumstances dictate.

Therapy training requires students to work together in developing the necessary skills and understanding to work effectively as practitioners. This programme meets BACP requirements for face-to-face learning.

**Can I do this MA at the same time as working full or part-time?**

Many of our current students continue to work while training. Bear in mind that while the course only requires one day at university during term-time there are several other aspects of the course which require additional time:

Yr1: Infant observation – 1 hour per week for 20 weeks, plus travel to and from the observation location and time to write up observations weekly.

Yr2: 1 day per week on placement and accompanying supervision.

Yr3: 1 day per week on placement and accompanying supervision

Family observation – 1 hour per week for 5 weeks

Across all years:

- Pre-lecture reading
- Further reading and engaging with resources
- Reading and study for assessments
- Completing assessments at the end of each module (Around December-January and April-June each year).
- Personal therapy – weekly throughout the programme.

Training as a therapist is a commitment and the more time you are able to dedicate to this important time in your life the more you and your future practice will benefit.

**Admissions:**

**When can I apply and when is the deadline for submitting an application?**

The programme team begin reviewing applications from October/November each year. We begin a cycle of interviews for prospective students in January and continue until places are full for the year.

If you have questions regarding the admissions process please contact [postgraduateadmissions@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduateadmissions@roehampton.ac.uk)

Please see accompanying information sheet for details of admissions criteria.

If your application is rejected at review or at interview you will be provided with feedback to help you move towards re-applying in the future, should you wish to.

**How many students do you accept each year?**

We aim for a cohort of approximately 25 students per year, although the actual cohort may be slightly larger or smaller than this.

**I've already studied some of the elements you cover on the MA. Do I still need to do all the modules?**

The MA is offered as a complete programme. Every module must be attempted and passed in order to receive the award at the end of your studies.

**How do I apply?**

Through the programme website:

<https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses/integrative-counselling-and-psychotherapy-for-children-adolescents-and-families/>

If you have any issues with your application, please contact [postgraduateadmissions@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduateadmissions@roehampton.ac.uk)

## **Placements**

### **Do I have to find my own placement?**

We have a dedicated School of Psychology placement manager who works with MA ICC students to find suitable placements during the academic year.

We have a growing database of placements that meet BACP and programme criteria and the placement manager is able to consider placement suggestions from students.

### **My employer is funding me to do the MA. Can I do my placement in the school or service where I am currently employed?**

Your placement should be in a context or service where you have no pre-existing relationship or connection. This is in order to fully support the development of your counsellor/psychotherapist identity with the children and young people you work without the complication of a dual professional identity.

In line with BACP course validation requirements, your placement must be undertaken on a voluntary basis and cannot be paid work.

### **I live outside London. Can I do a placement near where I live?**

Yes- students on the MA come from a variety of areas around the UK, including the Midlands, North and South-West of England. Our placement manager will work with you to find a placement in a suitable location for you.

### **Do I have to pay for clinical supervision?**

One of the course requirements for placements is that clinical supervision at the rate required by BACP (1 hour of supervision to 8 client hours – minimum of every two weeks while training) is provided as part of your placement. In some instances a student may choose to take up a placement where there is an

additional cost for supervision where they are prepared to cover this themselves.

**Fees:**

**How much is the course and is there any scope for a loan or grant?**

All information regarding fees for the MA is available on the programme website:

[www.roehampton.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses/integrative-counselling-and-psychotherapy-for-children-adolescents-and-families/](http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses/integrative-counselling-and-psychotherapy-for-children-adolescents-and-families/)

If you would like information about course fees or student loans please contact Student finance England (SFE) or follow the links on the programme website for more information.

**Post-Qualification:**

**What will I be qualified as when I graduate?**

The final award on completion of the programme is an MA in Integrative Counselling & Psychotherapy for Children, Adolescents and Families.

You will then be able to apply for individual membership of BACP before moving into registered member. For more information about BACP membership categories please see the BACP website:

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/membership/home/>

**What jobs do students go into when they qualify?**

We don't have any data on this as we have our first graduating cohort this year (2021). For information about the kinds of roles this qualification can lead to please see the BACP website – jobs search: <https://www.bacp.co.uk/search/jobs>

**When will the programme be accredited by BACP?**

The course is in the process of completing BACP accreditation. We have passed the Part A – eligibility section and are now being assessed on Part B. We hope this will be completed during the 22/23 academic year.

**Does this qualification enable me to join other professional bodies?**

This programme is aligned with the training and competence frameworks developed by BACP. If you would like information about other trainings and professional bodies please contact them directly.

*Rebecca Kirkbride, MBACP (Snr.Accred.), FHEA  
MA ICC programme convener*

*October 2022*