

MA Psychodynamic Counselling and Psychotherapy

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA Psychodynamic Counselling and Psychotherapy
b) Programme code(s)	730350
c) Programme credit value(s)	180 CATS 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Dr Chrysanthi Nigianni
e) Entry requirements	Hold an honours degree or an equivalent level professional qualification (e.g. social work, nursing, psychiatric nursing, teaching). For applicants who do not hold such awards, Special Entry may be considered at the discretion of the Admissions Tutor. Be required to have a minimum score of 6.5 in IELTS (including 6.5 in the written element) or equivalent' where they did not complete their previous University award in the medium of English. Preferable hold a foundation/certificate level award in counselling (commensurate with Goldsmiths' Certificate in Humanistic and Psychodynamic Counselling). Be required to demonstrate interpersonal and personal capacities to provide a 'therapeutic' relationship (assessed through application and interview). These capacities include sensitivity, reliability, robustness, willingness to learn from feedback, integrity, psychological self-awareness. Be required to provide a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check or equivalent Certificate of Conduct for international students.
f) Academic year effective from	September 2026

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

This programme is for those who wish to qualify and pursue a career as a professional psychodynamic psychotherapist.

The programme carries 180 credits reflecting 450 face to face teaching hours. The programme offers a full-time mode of study extending over two years and a part-time mode of study extending over three years.

This programme provides the training in counselling and psychotherapy necessary to become eligible for British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) individual practitioner accreditation once students have gone onto accrue the necessary additional post qualification supervised clinical hours.

Overview

The programme is designed to enable the student to develop as a reflective counselling/psychotherapy practitioner with a critical understanding and awareness of the influence of socio-cultural context and power relations. The curriculum focuses on psychodynamic, psychoanalytic and relational psychoanalytic perspectives.

Through engagement in a range of learning contexts, including lectures, group seminars, therapeutic skills practice workshops, creative workshops, experiential group work, counselling placements, personal therapy, tutorials, independent study and dissertation supervision, students are supported in developing links between personal, clinical and theoretical knowledge.

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	n/a
c) HECoS Code(s):	100495
d) QAA Benchmark group:	n/a

4. Awards

Item	Information
a) Awarding institution:	University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' University)
b) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths University London
c) Home School:	Mind, Body & Society If other, name here: N/A
d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. None 2. None 3. None If other, name here: Click or tap here to enter text.
e) Entry awards:	☐ Foundation Cert ☐ CertHE ☐ DipHE ☒ PGCert ☒ PGDip
f) Interim exit awards:	☐ Foundation Cert ☐ CertHE ☐ DipHE ☒ PGCert ☒ PGDip

Item	Information
g) Final awards:	MA Psychodynamic Counselling and Psychotherapy PGDip Psychodynamic Counselling and Psychotherapy PGCert Psychodynamic Counselling and Psychotherapy

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	☐ January ☒ Sept/Oct ☐ Other If other, specify: Click or tap here to enter text.
c) Mode of study:	On Campus Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the rows below. Row d) shows total hours of directed learning, with e) and f) showing how this is broken down in in-person vs. online learning, in hours and percentages.
d) Total hours directed learning/year	450 contact/teaching hours
e) In-person hours	450 100%
f) Online hours	0 0%
g) Pace of study:	☒ Full time ☒ Part time
h) Duration of programme	Full time: 2 ☒ years ☐ months Part time: 3 ☒ years ☐ months
i) External accreditation:	N/A
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A

6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

	Learning Outcome	Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	A critical understanding and application of a range of psychodynamic theories	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Think psychodynamically in an interdisciplinary way informed by race and critical theories, feminist philosophies, gender and postcolonial theories.	7	Diversity of perspective
D3	Identify and reflect on issues of 'diversity and difference' and how they impact on counselling/psychotherapy practice	7	Political in the personal
F1	Identify and work within an ethical clinical framework and identify 'boundary' issues in the counselling/psychotherapy practice	7	Responsible agency
F2	Develop a reflexive thinking and practice in counselling and psychotherapy	7	Responsible agency
F3	Develop the ability to work independently and exercise independent judgment	7	Responsible agency
P1	Demonstrate an advanced ability to assess the level of client distress, and respond appropriately/make clinical interventions	7	Responsible agency
P2	Demonstrate an advanced ability to work with the symbolic meanings of communication in the counselling/psychotherapy setting	7	Responsible agency
P3	Demonstrate an advanced ability to work with transference and counter-transference dynamics	7	Responsible agency

7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90 ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Programmes are staged in **Phases**, where each Phase relates to an exit award.

Compulsory modules must be taken by all students.

Option modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

Programme structure notes (where relevant):

The programme carries 180 credits reflecting 450 face to face teaching hours.

The programme offers a full-time mode of study extending over two years and a part-time mode of study extending over three years.

Progression

Full-time students must pass all first-year compulsory modules (Phase 1) in order to progress into year 2. It is expected that students will start to look for a Clinical Placement upon successful completion of their year one Practicum in May. They must then have all the relevant Clinical Placement paperwork signed off by the start of year 2, ready to begin actual clinical hours at the latest by week 2 of the Winter term. There will be a review of any students who have not begun to see clients by week 2 and they may be required to interrupt until the following academic year to catch up with this. Despite these preparations it should be noted that students can only formally register for the second year clinical placement module on successful completion and progression from the first year.

Second year full time students must then pass all second year compulsory modules (Phase 2 &3) to gain their MA. This includes successfully accruing 100 clinical placement hours. Failure to do this would lead to a postponement of their graduation date.

Weekly Personal therapy must start at the latest by end of November in year one to meet the minimum of 18 sessions/hours required that year and must run continuously until the end of year two or when the student has completed their 100 hours of clinical placement, whichever runs longest.

Part-time students must pass all first year compulsory modules (phase 1) in order to progress into year 2. It is expected that students will start to look for a Clinical Placement upon successful completion of their year one Practicum in May. They must then have all the relevant paperwork signed off by the start of year 2, ready to start actual clinical hours at the latest by week two of the Winter term. There will be a review of any students who have not begun to see clients by week two and they may be required to interrupt until the following academic year to catch up with this. Despite these preparations it should be noted that students can only formally register for the second year clinical placement module on successful completion and progression from the first year.

Part-time students must then pass all compulsory second year modules (phase 2) except the clinical placement module, to progress to year three. If necessary, the clinical placement module can be carried over to be completed during year three.

Weekly Personal therapy must start at the latest by end of November in year one to meet the minimum of 18 sessions/hours that year, and must run continuously until the end of year two or when the student has completed their 100 hours of clinical placement, whichever runs longest.

Early exit points

Students may exit the programme with either a PG Cert or a PG Dip if they meet the following criteria: Exit awards will be awarded to students who have failed the overall programme but have accrued the relevant credits, or to those who meet the relevant criteria if they exit the programme early.

A Postgraduate Certificate in Psychodynamic Counselling and Psychotherapy on completion of 90 credits, comprising modules (Phase 1):

- CO71001A Reflective practitioner
- CO71004B Psychodynamic Theories
- CO71008B Counsellor Competencies and Attitudes

It is important to be aware that this academic award on its own, will not qualify you to practice and will not qualify you with enough face to face tutor contact hours or clinical placement hours to meet the requirements of the professional body, the BACP, if you later apply for individual accreditation with them. Further training will be needed for the latter.

A Postgraduate Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling and Psychotherapy on completion of 150 credits comprising modules in Phase 1& 2:

- CO71001A Reflective practitioner
- CO71004B Psychodynamic Theories
- CO71008B Counsellor Competencies and Attitudes
- CO71003B Advanced Theory
- CO71007A Clinical Placement

Students who exit with this award will have achieved the required clinical supervised hours but not the appropriate number of teaching hours to meet the face-to-face tutor contact requirements of our professional body, the BACP, should individual accreditation be applied for at a later date.

Withdrawal from programme

In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to dismiss students from the programme on the grounds of their unsuitability for training and fitness to practice. The grounds for this are as follows:

The student's behaviour:

- is confirmed to be damaging or dangerous to other people who use services, other students or programme providers;
- creates an unacceptable risk to themselves or others.
- If this behaviour occurs while on placement the following applies:
- in the case of a student enrolled on a programme of study which leads to an entitlement to practice as a member of a profession, conduct which might call into question his / her suitability to practice that profession.

Phase 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Counsellor Competencies and Attitudes	CO71008B	30	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	Y1	n/a
Psychodynamic Theories	CO71004B	30	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	Y1	n/a
Reflective Practitioner	CO71001A	30	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	Y1	n/a

Phase 2 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Advanced Theory	CO7100 3B	30	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	Y2	Click or tap here to enter text.
Clinical Placement	CO7100 7A	30	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	Y2	Click or tap here to enter text.

Phase 3 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Dissertation	CO7100 2A	30	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	Y3	Click or tap here to enter text.

8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your learning experience. You are expected to attend all of your timetabled learning activities.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

Through engagement in a range of learning contexts, including lectures, group seminars, therapeutic skills practice workshops, creative workshops, experiential group work, counselling placements, personal therapy, tutorials, independent study and dissertation supervision, students are supported in developing links between personal, clinical and theoretical knowledge.

Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just

a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:

Theoretical essay, reflective essay, clinical study (essay), individual presentation (one group presentation in year 1 and one individual presentation in year 2), practical skill assessment (role play and individual viva), exam (multiple choice), dissertation

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0
Exam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1
Live	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2
Portfolio (multi-modal)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1
Practical / multimedia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1
Written	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	5
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	10	10
Of which...	Individual:	9	Group:	1		

9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/
b) Placement opportunities	In year 2 students are expected to take on clinical placements and complete 100 clinical supervised hours.
c) Programme-specific requirements	Personal therapy: To be in personal therapy for the duration of your studies Progression: Full-time students must pass all first year compulsory modules in order to progress into year 2. It is expected that students will start to look for a Clinical Placement upon successful completion of their year one Practicum in May. They must then have all the relevant Clinical Placement paperwork signed off by the start of year 2, ready to begin actual clinical hours at the latest by week two of the winter term. There will be a review of any students who have not begun to see clients by week two and they may be required to interrupt until the following academic year to catch up with this. Despite these preparations it should be noted that students can only formally register for the second-year clinical placement module on successful completion and progression from the first year. Second year full time students must then pass all second year compulsory modules to gain their MA. This includes successfully

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	accruing 100 clinical placement hours. Failure to do this would lead to a postponement of their graduation date. Part-time students must pass all compulsory second year modules except the clinical placement module, to progress to year three. If necessary, the clinical placement module can be carried over to be completed during year three. Weekly Personal therapy must start at the latest by the end of November in year one and students should have minimum 18 therapy sessions to progress to year 2. Therapy must then run continuously until the end of year two or when the student has completed their 100 hours of clinical placement, whichever runs longest.
d) Programme specific costs and resources	Full and part time students are required to be in personal therapy during the course of the programme (details of when and how this is to be undertaken can be found under Section 7 'Programme Structure'). The cost of personal therapy is to be paid by the student to the therapist. Such cost can vary wildly depending on location, availability and income, but you can expect to pay between £30.00 to £80.00 per therapy session. There can be a cost to attending certain placements, including a fee for training, supervision or additional supervision costs. These costs can vary. Students are not obliged to attend such placements, but if doing so, they should pay particular attention to the costs involved. Students will be attending placements and therapy sessions during the course of their programme. Travel costs are the responsibility of students.
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	Graduates of the programme have been employed in a variety of contexts including NHS, third sector and education. They can work as private practitioner in psychotherapy. Many graduates have applied for and gained individual accreditation as counsellors with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) or other professional bodies.

10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

11. Curriculum map

Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Counsellor Competencies and Attitudes	CO7100 8B	Compulsory	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Psychodynamic Theories	CO7100 4B	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒
Reflective Practitioner	CO7100 1A	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Advanced Theory	CO7100 3B	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Clinical Placement	CO7100 7A	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Dissertation	CO7100 2A	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

