

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA/MA IN
Psychoanalytic Studies

**TRAINING
PROGRAMMES**

OCTOBER 2012

Ref. M16



This training programme is an academic course offering a study of psychoanalytic theory and its applications.

The course aims at fostering a supportive intellectual culture, enabling programme participants to explore issues together and to pursue research interests.

It also aims to contribute to an increased bridging between the clinical domain of contemporary psychoanalytic practices and the wider intellectual culture.

The programme has a broad and balanced curriculum and includes:

- observation seminars taught by clinically experienced staff
- theory lecture/seminar series taught by staff from both academic and clinical backgrounds
- an applications component taught by staff engaged in psychoanalytically-informed research and writing in a range of spheres such as art, literature, drama, social and group processes and popular culture

Membership

1) There are 20 places available on this course. We welcome students from a range of clinical, academic and professional backgrounds. Some students are practising psychotherapists or professionals in the mental health field who seek an opportunity to take a broader and more academic approach to psychoanalysis. Other students may be considering training as psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, child psychotherapists or counsellors. For them the course provides a preparatory stage as well as an academic psychodynamic foundation for further training.

2) We welcome students from ethnic minority groups.

3) A number of students each year are in academic or professional positions who do not plan to become clinicians but who wish to study psychoanalysis for what it might offer their disciplines and life interests. This mixture of backgrounds is important for maintaining a balance of intellectual and professional input into group discussions and learning.

4) Students with non-standard educational backgrounds are also welcome to apply.

Time commitment

The course is taught on Tuesday afternoons and evenings for three terms annually, with an extra Wednesday commitment for one-year route students. There are ten weeks of academic study and seminars. The weekly reading, observation and preparation for the course should take up to seven or eight hours in addition to the timetable commitments.

Course completion

The MA is awarded by dissertation one term following completion of the other course modules taught over two years. Those not wishing to do a dissertation may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma on completion of an additional essay. Those who choose the MA option then produce this in the first term of the third non-taught year. This term does not require regular attendance at the Clinic, but supervision will be available in relation to individual needs of candidates. The maximum period over which the course can be completed is four years. There is an opportunity for a few students each year to undertake a one-year route of more intensive study. There is, in addition, a PhD option available to M16 students.

Course programme

Observation Seminars

The afternoon begins with an observation seminar which is a small discussion group led by an experienced clinician. The group meets for the duration of the course and offers individual scope for the presentation and discussion of work, as well as written feedback which serves as a formative assessment. Students will observe each week, typically an infant or young child in a home or pre-school setting, and make a detailed recording of their experience. The seminar group will discuss this material and explore the conscious and unconscious meanings of the observed events. In the second year there is the opportunity for some students to undertake observation of an institution in a similar way.

Theory Seminars

The afternoon continues with a theory lecture/seminar in which all the course members participate. A text may have been set for this and should be brought and used in the discussion. The seminars will be conducted as group discussions of relevant primary texts, including the works of Freud, Klein, Winnicott, Bowlby, Lacan, Bion and others.

Applications Seminars

This component provides a variety of topics and discussions and changes at least termly. Preparatory background reading is set. Some of the present applications blocks include: psychoanalysis and drama, psychoanalysis and art, psychoanalysis and developmental psychology, psychoanalysis, narcissism and culture, the unconscious in popular culture.

Methods in Psychoanalytic Research

This unit undertaken in term two of the second year, will explore problems and methods in undertaking dissertation research in Psychoanalytic Studies.

It examines debates concerning the nature of psychoanalytic understanding and its relation to the other social and cultural sciences; the nature and problems of naturalistic observation studies using psychoanalytic concepts; methodological problems in applying psychoanalytic approaches to social and cultural topics.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Course Administrator,
Directorate of Education and Training,
The Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane,
London NW3 5BA

Tel: 020 8938 2355

Fax: 020 7447 3837

Email: olcadmin@tavi-port.org

www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk

Dissertation Proposals

These seminars take place in the third term of the second year, for part time students and in the third term of the first year, for full time students.

Entry requirements

Selection is based on a combination of academic and non-academic factors. The normal academic requirement is an upper-second class honours degree. The majority of applicants have first degrees in humanities and social science subjects, but overall the subject matter of this first degree is of less importance than evidence that an applicant has a firm interest in psychoanalytic ideas. Applicants with degrees of less than upper second class, and in some cases without degrees, are considered for exceptional entry if the course tutors can be satisfied as to their academic competence. For all applicants, some capacity to use the learning opportunities offered by the course for personal development is an important factor, especially in relation to the observation component.

Further options after the course

The course offers informal links with some BCP psychoanalytic psychotherapy trainings and candidates wishing to explore training possibilities can discuss this with their tutor. However, professional training bodies require candidates to undergo the usual selection procedures.

The course does not offer a professional qualification and no accreditation for practice is available from completing it.

Course tutor

Ms Kate Robertson

“”

I would like to thank you and the team on M16 for your valuable support in my achievement of the MA. Upon reflection I can appreciate the hard work and felt proud at the graduation ceremony to have gone through such an 'experiential' and academic journey

Former students' feedback