

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: PGCert in Psychodynamic Counselling



Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time Only
Expected length	9 months

About the course

The Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Psychodynamic Counselling is a one-year part-time course offering a broadly based knowledge of psychodynamic theory and practice, as the access point to a four-year, part-time clinical training in psychodynamic counselling/therapy, or as a stand-alone course.

The course forms part of the Oxford University Master's Programme in Psychodynamic Studies which is accredited by the UPCA (Universities Psychotherapy and Counselling Association). Students who complete the full programme and the necessary clinical hours will be eligible for professional accreditation with UPCA as a psychotherapeutic counsellor. UPCA hold this accredited register on behalf of UKCP (UK Council for Psychotherapy). Students can also become members of UKCP, in addition to their membership of UPCA.

The PGCert may be taken as a stand-alone course, though it is not a clinical practitioner status course, or it may equip you to apply for the PG Diploma in Psychodynamic Practice or other higher level graduate courses in this area.

The course runs one evening a week over three terms at the Department for Continuing Education and consists of:

- term-time weekly theory-and-practice workshops organised around a key dimension of psychodynamic practice - 'The Psychodynamic Approach', 'Therapeutic Processes and Skills' and 'Therapeutic, Practical and Ethical Implications'
- experiential groups
- two tutorials per term with a course tutor
- two Saturday workshops.

Extensive regular reading and private study of at least 10 hours per week between the taught periods is recommended.

The course tutors will support and guide you in regard to your academic work, and offer a forum for the discussion of personal and professional development. All tutors are professionally qualified and accredited counsellors or psychotherapists.

Please note that no applicant currently in therapy/counselling with a course tutor will be admitted to the course.

The course works using the UPCA and UKCP standards which are based on a number of implicit ethical principles that highlight the important nature of boundaries, professional conduct and, in a psychodynamic course, the power of unconscious processes. Students should at all times act in accordance with the ethical codes issued by the UPCA and UKCP. Due to the psychodynamic and experiential nature of the programme, it is considered inappropriate for students to engage in romantic/sexual relationships with tutors or students whilst on course. Should any such relationship arise during the course of your studies, you must declare its existence to the Course Director as soon as possible, who may, for example, ask that you refrain from continuing your relationship or that you suspend your studies.

The PGCert course runs annually, while the PGDip and MSt courses are on a two-year cycle. A post-certificate seminar series is held on alternate years, when there is not an intake for the PGDip directly following the PGCert. The seminar series gives the opportunity for consolidation of certificate learning and facilitates a progression in psychodynamic thinking.

Counselling introductory courses

Counselling Introductory Courses are also run, separately to this PGCert - details are available in the Weekly Classes section of the Department for Continuing Education website, or from the Weekly Class Administrator via telephone at 01865 280893.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department for Continuing Education and this role will usually be performed by the Course Director.

It is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff.

Assessment

The course is assessed by four written assignments and end of year tutor reports. The four assignments will each count for 25% of the final mark and comprise two theoretical essays, one illustration and critique and one reflective journal assignment.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2024-25

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£6,065
Overseas	£11,270

Information about course fees

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Additional cost information

This course has sessions in Oxford. You will need to meet your travel and accommodation costs in attending these sessions. You are not required to take any therapy sessions for this course, however some students choose to do so. If you choose to take therapy, you will be responsible for the cost incurred. Therapy ranges from c. £40 to £80 per hour, and possibly more in London, but some therapists offer reductions for students. For accreditation purposes student membership of UPCA is required throughout the course, currently £21 per year.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2024-25 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£495
Accommodation	£745	£925
Personal items	£190	£320
Social activities	£40	£95
Study costs	£35	£85
Other	£20	£35
Total	£1,345	£1,955

Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£2,835	£4,445
Accommodation	£6,705	£8,325
Personal items	£1,710	£2,880
Social activities	£360	£855
Study costs	£315	£765
Other	£180	£315

Total	£12,105	£17,595
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Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,780	£5,940
Accommodation	£8,940	£11,100
Personal items	£2,280	£3,840
Social activities	£480	£1,140
Study costs	£420	£1,020
Other	£240	£420
Total	£16,140	£23,460

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).