

Professional Masters Programme Award Handbook

Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice

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Professional Masters Programme

Award Handbook: Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice 2011-2012

Introduction

Welcome to the Professional Masters Programme (PMP) at Bath Spa University! We hope that you will find your study rewarding and are looking forward to embarking on either your Post-graduate Diploma or your Master's in counselling and psychotherapy practice.

This award handbook contains all the specific information that you need to complete either PMP Award in counselling and psychotherapy practice. Both the MA and the Post-graduate Diploma are suitable for counsellors and psychotherapists who have completed a recognised counselling or psychotherapy training qualification, and who are working or who have worked professionally as a counsellor or psychotherapist.

The handbook gives specific details about required and elective modules. It should be read in conjunction with the main PMP generic student handbook (available from main CPD website at: <http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/schools/education/cpd/default.asp>) that contains detailed information on matters covering overall PMP learning outcomes, assessment criteria, modes of assessment, overall route structures, general APL and student support systems.

Admission Requirements for this Award

The admission requirements for this award are proof of the completion of a counselling or psychotherapy training. Students from the following courses and qualifications are especially invited to apply for progression onto the Professional Masters Programme via APL.

- Bath Centre for Psychotherapy and Counselling, Diploma in Humanistic and Integrative Counselling
- Bridgwater College, Advanced Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy
- Chichester Counselling Service, Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Counselling or Psychodynamic Counselling
- The Manor House Centre, North London, Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling and Therapy in the Community
- Northbrook College, Sussex, Advanced Diploma in Integrative Counselling and Therapy
- Wessex Counselling Service, Advanced and Diploma Courses in Psychodynamic Counselling

- Southampton Counselling Service, Advanced and Diploma Courses in Psychodynamic Counselling

Applicants who qualified through other counselling or psychotherapy trainings are invited to apply for accreditation of prior learning (APL). APL is given according to the level of the counselling or psychotherapy training qualification.

APL and Progression Requirements

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is the term used for recognising credit from previous study or professional work. Accreditation of Prior Learning towards both the post-graduate Diploma and the MA in counselling and psychotherapy practice at Bath Spa University (BSU) is open to qualified counsellors and psychotherapists after registration on the Professional Masters Programme. An application must be made *via* the Award Leader to the BSU CPD office using appropriate evidence to complete the PMP APL form.

Accreditation for prior learning (APL) is only given by Bath Spa University to applicants who have completed a counselling or psychotherapy training within the last six years of their application to BSU.

- 60 APL UK credits¹ at level 7 are generally given to counsellors and psychotherapists who have completed a counselling or psychotherapy training at level 4 *and* are professionally recognised to BACP standards as a qualification to work in an agency. This applies for both the MA and Post-graduate Diploma pathways.
- 90 APL level 7 credits are generally given to counsellors and psychotherapists who have completed a counselling or psychotherapy training at level 5 that is also *recognised* to BACP standards as a qualification to work in private practice. This is for the MA. However, we generally award 75 level 7 credits towards applications for the Post-graduate Diploma.

APL is also linked to the number of taught course hours and the number of counselling hours required. Further APL can be given for post graduate counselling training courses such as in supervision that are completed in the six year time frame. However, the PMP student handbook defines the maximum amount of APL credits that can be given for any particular award, available from:

<http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/schools/education/cpd/default.asp>

Please contact the Award Leader Fiona Gardner via the CPD office contact given in this handbook if you have any further queries about your APL application. An APL student application form is available from the CPD office.

¹ Level 7 credits relate to the UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and are also recognised by the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

Counsellors and psychotherapists who do not have the qualification needed for direct entry to the preparation for research modules (i.e. 90 credits) or who although qualified are outside the 6 year time frame are recommended to enrol for the independent study module to gain the required number of credits. The required number of credits will be assessed and decided by the counselling and psychotherapy supervisors. This independent study module IN 7760- for 15, 30, 45 or 60 credits can be a literature review, a case study or a work-based discussion/portfolio/presentation. Another option is to enrol on the work based action enquiry module TT7860 for 15, 30, 45 or 60 credits. Different elective options are discussed when you enrol and advice is given by the supervisor.

The PMP Award Route for Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice

60 credits—First Stage for all Awards

- Independent study IN7760 or Work- based action enquiry TT7860 C & P modules, OR
- Accreditation for prior learning for level 4/5+ professional counselling qualifications— only valid for PG Dip in Counselling and Psychotherapy practice and MA in C and P practice. Professional qualifications are usually linked to BACP recognition or similar professional bodies.

First Stage

60 Credits—Second Stage PG Dip Award

30 Credits—Second Stage for Master's Awards

- Work- based action enquiry and/or Independent Study relating to Counselling and Psychotherapy practice, OR
- APL from level 5 counselling and psychotherapy trainings – 90 towards the MA (in total 180 credits) and 75 towards the Post-graduate Diploma (in total 120 credits).

PG Diploma

30 Credits—Second Stage for Masters Awards

PR7103 Research and the Professional—Part I (For C & P)

PR7102 Research and the Professional—Part II (including project proposal for continuation to the dissertation final stage for a Master's Award)

Attendance is recommended at the Professional Research Support Seminars – schedule available from the CPD office.

Masters Degree

60 Credits—Final Stage Masters Awards

PR 7120 Masters Research Project

As the specific award is Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice the research project must reflect and focus upon this area of work.

Progression onto MPhil and PhD is available *via* consultation with your Award Leader and/or the Head of Research.

Staff Profiles for this Award

Fiona Gardner – PMP Award Leader for Counselling & Psychotherapy Practice

Fiona is a BSU affiliated field tutor and also acts as a main dissertation project supervisor for students within this award.

f.gardner@bathspa.ac.uk

Jane Whitehead - Counselling and Psychotherapy supervisor and affiliated field tutor

WHITEHEADJ@bridgwater.ac.uk

Various School of Education CPD staff are involved in supporting this award:

Dr Steven Coombs – Head of CPD and Chair of the PMP

Steve is the most senior member of our team and is responsible for the whole of our CPD provision.

01225 876149 s.coombs@bathspa.ac.uk

Zara Johnson – CPD QA Project Manager

Zara oversees the quality assurance work of the PMP including student and tutor evaluations.

01225 875440 z.johnson@bathspa.ac.uk

Sarah Lyons- Administrative Assistant

You will speak to Sarah if you phone the office. She is the first port of call for many queries.

01225 875593 cpdadmin@bathspa.ac.uk

Final words

We intend that all participants will have a successful and stimulating time whilst working within this award area of the Professional Masters Programme and that this experience will lead to a fulfilling career. We are sure that this course of study will enhance your therapeutic practice and give you an academic qualification to complement your professional training.

Best wishes with your studies!

Fiona Gardner

Appendix: The modules offered within the PMP Award for Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice

All generic and core modules that can be taken across the programme are denoted with a 'G'.

All generic PMP modules are included in the PMP Generic Student Handbook. Award specific PMP modules are included within this appendix section of the PMP Award Handbook.

Please note that these are a list of validated modules, their availability for study may depend on other factors.

Summary of the PMP accredited modules within this award

PMP Module Code	Module Name (Short)	Credits	PG Level 6 (H) &/or 7 (M)	Generic (G) or Award (A)
PR7103	Research and the Professional – Part 1 (for Counselling & Psychotherapy based on PR7101)	15	7	G*
PR7102	Research and the Professional – Part 2	15	7	G
PR7120	Masters Research Project	60	7	G
TT7860	Work-based action enquiry (shell module)	15, 30, 45, 60	6 & 7	G
IN7760	Independent Study Module & APEL (shell module)	15, 30, 45, 60	6 & 7	G

Notes:

*All generic modules listed above are appended to the main PMP generic student handbook except PR7103 which is appended to this Award Handbook.

Shell modules are generally independent study, content free and may be negotiated to suit a student's project needs. Each student has a personal project supervisor.

Course Module Code	PR7103
Name of course module	Research and the Professional. Part 1 Preparation for research Counselling & Psychotherapy Practice
Short name (if any)	Research and the Professional – Part 1.
Course module co-coordinator	Dr. Steven Coombs
Other tutor(s) (if any)	Fiona Gardner and Jane Whitehead
Module level(s)	7 (M)
Semester(s)	flexible enrolment for part-time PMP students – recommended completion within 6 months
Contact time	4 hours supervision time and directed study
Credit points	15
Subject Area(s)	PMP core research module
Acceptable for:	The PMP award in Counselling & Psychotherapy Practice
Prerequisites (if any)	None
Excluded Combinations	None
Type (Compulsory or Optional)	Compulsory for the PMP Master's awards in Counselling & Psychotherapy Practice
Description (overview)	This module is aimed at developing the necessary research skills and understanding for participants to be able to carry out professionally relevant research and underpins the final stage Master's research project.
Teaching and learning strategies	This core module reviews a range of research paradigms and commensurate methodologies/frameworks. The course is structured through key activity stages to ensure opportunities exist for the introduction of new skills and understanding and the transfer of those research skills into professional settings. Professionally relevant research approaches will be emphasized leading to a critical literature review of a piece of research selected by the participant that relates to their final stage Master's project.
Learning outcomes	At the end of this programme participants will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ developed their understanding and choice of different research models/paradigms; ▪ developed their understanding of the philosophy underpinning decisions involved in choosing or synthesizing an appropriate model, i.e., validating and adopting a commensurate research framework appropriate to the intended enquiry;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ developed their understanding of the ethical issues that may arise in doing research and have developed an ethical policy as part of the research design; and, ▪ developed their understanding of research design and methodology.
Key text(s)	<p>Gardner, F. and Coombs, S. (2010) <i>Researching, Reflecting and Writing about Work</i>. Routledge (Required student text for PR7103).</p> <p>McLeod, J. (2003) (2nd edition), <i>Doing Counselling Research</i>. London: Sage (Support student text for PR7103).</p>
Assessment scheme	<p>100% Coursework.</p> <p>A written critique of 2,500 +/- 500 words of a piece of published research.</p>