

## Professional Master's Programme

### MA Professional Learning – Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice

A new MA structure of the Professional Master's Programme has been set up at Bath Spa University (BSU) designed to enhance the professional development of counsellors and psychotherapists. The award is modular, based on accumulating credit points (180 are needed for a Master's), and gives a flexible career track suited to meet the demands of professional people needing to study part-time.

### Bath Spa University and Wessex Counselling Service

Graduates from both the Wessex Agency Diploma and the Wessex Advanced Diploma qualify for accreditation of prior learning (APL), worth 45 and 60 credits respectively. This means that your professional qualification will be considered as contributing to the credits needed for your MA award. Different modules are then taken as part of the MA, each worth 30 credit points. One module might be a work-based action enquiry or an independent study based on a topic that interests you. Alternatively, or in addition, depending on your experience, students may be invited to submit a portfolio of evidence – possible options could include accounts of clinical work, peer-reviewed seminars, a literature review or accounts based on conferences or workshops attended.

All WCS graduates would be required to complete the half modules, worth 15 credit points, on Research Methods and Research Project (Dissertation) Preparation. The two half modules can be completed flexibly *via* supported flexible learning programmes and lead to the Counselling and Psychotherapy Research Project Dissertation. This final stage dissertation is a substantial piece of research based on your counselling and psychotherapy practice that is usually completed over a year, and amounts to 60 credit points. Considerable help and support is given in the form of 12 hours of personal tutorial supervision over the course of the dissertation work and completion phase. There are also a series of professional research support seminars held for students across each year. Your research topic will be discussed and approved by both the academic supervisor and programme leader.

### What does it cost?

For Academic Year 2006-07 each half-module rated course will be £280, and the fee of £1,120 is required for the final Masters stage Dissertation. If you hold Qualified Teacher Status there are substantial grants/discounts available. Other grants are available, e.g. the Career Development Loan sponsored by the DfES via banks.

Before registering for the Professional Masters Programme all prospective participants should have an advisory meeting to discuss their individual requirements and if necessary which course modules to take within this career track.

Please contact the PMP Leader (via CPD Admin) for an advisory interview:

Dr Steven J. Coombs, Head of CPD at Bath Spa University 01225 875593/  
[s.coombs@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:s.coombs@bathspa.ac.uk).

For further discussion on options for work-based action enquiry or an independent study and for ideas for the final stage dissertation please contact the Professional Track Leader:

Fiona Gardner 01761 232701/ [fgardner@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:fgardner@tiscali.co.uk).