

Application Requirements for the Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology

We are delighted to be in a position to be able to invite applications for the Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology. Please read the following notes before you complete your application to the University. All applications are completed online at:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply/>

Once this page has been accessed and you have registered on the site please note the following points:

Selecting the course

This is a postgraduate research full time programme in Counselling Psychology. Please note you will need to change the drop down menu to indicate it is a research programme, rather than a taught programme. Once you have done this if you search either the terms 'counselling' or 'psychology' on the form then the programme will appear in a list.

Proposed Research

Please indicate any broad research areas that you are interested in. If you are able to provide more detail at this stage this would be helpful. Furthermore, it would be helpful to consider how you might see your interests fitting with the core staff team. We do not expect a full research proposal and you do not have to identify a research supervisor at this stage.

References

Where possible it would be desirable that you provide one academic and one professional reference. You are responsible for contacting referees and asking them to complete the reference. The standard University form is available here <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=9150>. This should be accompanied with a more standard letter on headed paper.

Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC)

To undertake the programme and ultimately have the potential to apply for Chartered status with the BPS it is necessary for you to have completed an appropriate initial degree in Psychology. Although, on completion of this degree, it is not necessary to become a member of the BPS it is recommended. In the instance that you do it you will receive a letter noting that you have GBC and this can be used as evidence. In the instance that you do not we would ask that you compile a document including the web address on the BPS website where we can find evidence that your degree proves satisfactory to meet the criteria. Those with international degrees will have to approach the BPS personally to check the compatibility of their degree with their standards.

Certificate in Counselling

We require evidence that individuals have had a substantial experience of utilising therapeutic skills. This is most commonly demonstrated through the completion of a certificate in counselling programme. Please note that a certificate in counselling programme is a substantial training programme. They usually consist of a year part time study and are often at numerous educational establishments around the country – we are unable to recommend programmes or provide guidance on the quality of existing ones. Brief counselling concepts courses will not suffice as evidence of this criterion. We would require a copy of a certificate of successful completion alongside the application.

Where an individual makes a claim for equivalent experience we would expect an individual to put together a short document (500 words) outlining how they feel they have completed the equivalent of a year long certificate in counselling through other means. This should be included as an appendix to the statement of purpose required during the application process.

Statement of Purpose

In section 9 you should upload copies of the required documents as listed (Degree certificates, evidence that you are eligible for GBC with the BPS and official academic transcripts, two references and English Language Certificates if appropriate). You should also prepare a Statement of Purpose to support your application to the programme and this should also be uploaded in this section of the form. This statement should be a brief academic piece of 1,500 words (+/-10%) which outlines your academic, professional and personal readiness to undertake this training. Within any of these sections we would like to see some use of academic referencing to support the points that you are making. These should be fully and accurately listed at the end of your work. Please note the reference list is not included within the word count.

What happens next?

The applications for the programme will be considered in two batches. These will be collected throughout the year, with early applicants (received before the 8th of February) being assessed in the subsequent week and interviews being held on Friday the 21st of February. Following this, the interview dates for 2014 are Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd of April. We anticipate that approximately 6 people will attend each interview day with the interview process running between 10am and 4pm and consisting of the following:

- An overview of the programme will be provided
- All candidates will be individually interviewed (including discussion around a recent academic piece of writing)
- All candidates will complete a critical reading activity and present their findings to the group
- All candidates will be invited to reflect upon the interview process as an activity.

The final cut off date for applications is the 7th of April. Applications will only be considered for the 2014 cohort after this date if the places on the programme are not filled following the interview dates.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Dr Terry Hanley CPsychol AFBPsS