

How to apply for the University of Manchester Doctorate in Counselling Psychology

You are required to upload the following supporting documents to your application:

1. Supporting statement

In a short statement please outline your academic, personal, and professional readiness to undertake the doctorate programme. You should explain why you would like to be selected to study the course at Manchester. Please note the following requirements for this statement:

- Include your name and date at the top (Include your name in the file title).
- A maximum of 3000 words (**not** including final reference list)
- Include academic source material and demonstrate appropriate academic referencing skills

Within the statement we expect you to explain the following areas:

- ***Research knowledge and experience***

Please tell us about your research background – the sorts of projects you have been involved in and your methodological expertise, and how the research ideas you outline in your proposal (see below) fit with the research conducted by the counselling psychology team at the University of Manchester and the work done in the Manchester Institute of Education. You should also reflect on your strengths and areas for development in terms of research.

- ***Counselling training experience***

Tell us about your previous counselling skills training: what was involved in the course(s) you completed and how this developed your skill set (for example if you completed skills/triad work, or was it largely theoretical, and what were you assessed on); and specifically, how it provides you with the necessary basic counselling skills to commence doctoral study and practice.

Please also explain the strengths and areas for development in terms of your therapeutic training to date.

Please, if you are able, tell us the amount of training you have had in hours (e.g., I have completed a counselling skills certificate which involved a total of 100 hours training (4 hours of study per week for 25 weeks)).

- ***Professional experience of client work in mental health and emotional wellbeing settings***

Please include a brief description of the relevant professional practice work you have undertaken. This may be in a voluntary or paid capacity where you have been supporting

client emotional wellbeing or providing counselling services, or other work which allowed you to develop your counselling skills.

Please let us know how many hours or years of counselling practice you have completed (excluding classroom exercises) and how much of your counselling work has been as part of a team or sole working.

Please also explain the strengths and areas for development in your therapeutic practice to date.

- ***Knowledge and understanding of counselling and psychology theoretical models***

Briefly describe the theoretical models of counselling psychology you have had exposure to (referencing appropriate source material) and reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the approach(es). Here we want you to demonstrate your critical thinking skills and academic writing.

- ***Personal readiness and reflexivity***

Briefly tell us why you are personally ready to undertake the doctorate programme and reflect on how your experiences to date demonstrate this.

It would be useful to tell us about prior experiences and how they have shaped your learning and development so far.

To achieve higher scores on this element of the assessment it is useful to be specific about the experiences and what you have learnt, as well as how you have applied that learning and potentially how it might influence your development if you enter counselling psychology training.

2. Brief doctoral research proposal

We would like you to submit a brief (maximum 1500 words) research proposal for your proposed thesis in counselling psychology. This should include your proposed title, an overview of the rationale for the research, research question and proposed methodology.

You should include how it fits with the counselling psychology team at Manchester, as well as highlighting connections to the Manchester Institute of Education research and scholarship groups. See for information the Manchester Institute of Education research themes here: <https://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/education/research/groups/>

Please ensure you clearly connect the proposal to members of staff who work on the Doctorate in Counselling Psychology team. You do not need to approach individual supervisors in advance of applying.

The research proposal forms an important part of our assessment criteria, and in particular decisions about SEED scholarship eligibility (alongside other elements of our assessment including that relating to professional practice). Please remember to include both a brief literature review and an outline methodology for your proposed research.

Please see advice on constructing a literature review here:

<https://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/applying/writing-your-proposal/>

Please note - DCounsPsych candidates are not required to approach a particular research supervisor ahead of applying, as supervisors are allocated during the first year of training.

3. Two references

One of these should be familiar with your academic work and the second from a professional setting. Our system will automatically contact your nominated referees once you have formally submitted your application.

4. Copies of certificates and transcripts for all previous degree qualifications; and copies of certificates from all counselling training courses

Please ensure that you include any certificates from counselling training in addition to academic qualifications.

5. Evidence of Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society

Please include in your application a copy of your membership email. Those with international degrees must approach the BPS personally to check the compatibility of their degree and provide us with evidence of this.

6. CV

This should be current and presented with your most recent experience first. It should detail your relevant educational and work experience.

7. Evidence of your English Language proficiency if applicable: IELTS certificate minimum overall score 7.5 with 7 in each section.