Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology (DPsych)

For more detail about the programme please see our website:
http://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/counselling-psychology-dpsych

What are the entry requirements to Year 1?
The following are normally required for you to enter for first year of the Professional Doctorate:

- A 2:1 honours degree or above which confers GBC (see below) or other first degree with relevant conversion course.

- Successful completion of introductory training in therapeutic/counselling skills. We are looking for training such as certificate-level counselling skills courses (i.e. a course which awards you a certificate on completion); other relevant therapeutic training, e.g. that offered by various levels of the NHS IAPT programme such as for psychological well-being practitioners; or other appropriate counselling training undertaken as a health or social care worker. If you are in doubt as to whether your training would meet our requirements please ask us (see contact details, right). We run a five-day workshop at City University London which equips you with relevant skills for application to the Professional Doctorate course, although other courses are also available on the market. http://www.city.ac.uk/courses/cpd/counselling-skills-workshop

- Substantial experience with face-to-face mental health/counselling work (usually one year minimum). This could include working (paid or unpaid) as a mental health or social care support worker/healthcare assistant in a ward or community setting; a mental health charity; a victim support unit; bereavement counselling; or relationship counselling. The experience we are looking for is more than 'befriending', and is different from having worked for example in healthcare roles other than mental health. You need to show you can talk about a patient/client case, conceptualise the person's problems, and put this within the context of the person's life history and environmental system.

- The capacity to undertake research at doctoral level

- Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society (BPS). This would normally be in the form of a letter from the BPS confirming that you are a Graduate Member and that you have been granted GBC. If you are unsure whether your undergraduate degree confers GBC then please contact the BPS for clarification. If you are currently completing a relevant BPS accredited course you will need to have applied for
and been granted Graduate Membership conferring GBC with the BPS, by the commencement of the programme.

All students commencing the Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology are required to undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (previously known as an enhanced CRB Disclosure). You are advised to visit https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service for further information. The amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975 (2013) provide that certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected' and are not subject to disclosure to employers, and cannot be taken into account. Guidance and criteria on the filtering of these cautions and convictions can be found on the Disclosure and Barring Service website.

Students are also required to complete an Occupational Health questionnaire prior to admission and to attend an Occupational Health appointment in the first weeks of the course to ensure you have health clearance to practice. Successful applicants will be given specific details of your mandatory appointment during your induction.

What are the fees?
The tuition fees for 2016/7 are below. **Please note that fees are per year, and may increase annually.**

Programme fees: £9,500 for Home/EU students
£14,500 for Overseas students

DBS check: No fee - we undertake DBS checks for you and do not pass the costs on to the trainee.

How can I apply?
Please see the following link for information on how to apply:

http://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/counselling-psychology-dpsych

The following documentation is required for your application. Please note that applications will not be considered until they are complete.

- Completed application form.
- Supplementary form.
- When applying online you must provide the email addresses to two referees, at least one must be from an academic referee if you are a recent graduate and we will contact them directly. Other suitable referees may include a current employer or an organisation where you have undertaken relevant work experience. If you are submitting a paper application you must submit two
references with your application. References must be provided either on the form provided (with an institution stamp) or on headed paper.

- A certified copy of your degree certificate/transcript, if available. If this is not available at the time the application is made, we will still consider your application.
- Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society (BPS). This would normally be in the form of a letter from the BPS confirming that you are a Graduate Member and that you have been granted GBC. If you are unsure whether your undergraduate degree confers GBC then please contact the BPS for clarification. If you are currently completing a relevant BPS accredited course you will need to have applied for and been granted Graduate Membership conferring GBC with the BPS, by the commencement of the programme.
- If English is not your first language, you will need to provide proof of English Proficiency. City University will ONLY accept the following English Language Qualifications:
  - GCSE - grade C or above
  - Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English - Pass
  - IELTS – 7.5 or above (with a minimum of 7.0 in each sub-category).

Emails confirming receipt of applications will be sent within one week of the application being received. If you do not hear from us after one week, please do contact us, as it may be possible that we have not received your application.

When should I apply?
We strongly recommend that you submit your application, and any supporting documentation, by 26th February 2016, to guarantee equal consideration. Applications will not be reviewed until this date. We cannot guarantee that applications received after this date will be considered as places are strictly limited.

What is the application process?
Receipt of applications will be confirmed within one week. All complete applications will be reviewed by the Admissions Team from the beginning of February on a first come, first served basis, and shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview from the second half of February 2016 onwards. All applicants will have heard whether or not they are shortlisted for interview by mid-March.

Please note that applications will not be considered unless they are complete.

When are the interviews?
Interviews will take place from the middle of March to May 2016.

What kind of counselling skills training are you looking for?
We are looking for training such as certificate level counselling skills courses (i.e. a
course which awards you a certificate on completion); or other relevant therapeutic training such as that offered by various levels of the NHS IAPT programme such as for psychological wellbeing practitioners; or other appropriate counselling training undertaken as a health or social care worker. If you are in doubt as to whether your training would meet our requirements please ask us. While there are many programmes in the market, we do run a five day workshop at City University London, which equips you with relevant skills for application to the Professional Doctorate programme.

**What other qualities do you look for in a good applicant?**
We are looking for a combination of relevant experience, clinical skills potential, capacity to undertake doctoral level research and excellent interpersonal skills.

**Why Study at City?**
The University is located in the heart of London and offers trainees a unique opportunity to study in a modern, vibrant environment. We have an excellent reputation for graduate employment and a degree from City University London will prepare you for your future career.

Counselling Psychology at City University London has a long established tradition and was one of the first programmes to be accredited by the British Psychological Society in 1995. It has maintained its valued accredited status to date, constantly keeping pace with developments both nationally and internationally, maintaining our reputation for innovation and excellence. Since the statutory registration of practitioner psychologists by the Health & Care Professions Council, the programme has also been approved by that body.

Our professional clinical and academic training and the opportunity to build your own portfolio of placement experience equips you to **build a successful and fulfilling career in a broad range of settings**, including the NHS (e.g. inpatient settings, community mental health teams, specialist services such as early intervention, with different clinical populations e.g. older adults); the independent hospital sector; forensic settings including HMPS and probation; working in organisations in areas such as occupational health; in the Third (voluntary) sector; industry, government, private practice (including Employee Assistance Programmes) and academic and research settings, among others.

The diversity of our trainees is a highly valued feature of our course, and is integral to the learning context. We view our trainees as active contributors to their learning and to the overall success of the programme.

**Are there any funding opportunities for Counselling Psychology students?**
Unfortunately we are unable to offer any scholarships or bursaries for trainees on the Counselling Psychology Programme. If you are employed by a relevant employer you may be able to approach your employer for whole or part funding.
When is the programme taught?
The programme years are taught on different days of the week. In year 1, trainees are required to attend lectures at the University for three terms. Each term is 10 weeks and all lectures are taught on a Wednesday from 9:00 - 17:00. Please be aware that trainees may occasionally be required to attend meetings and events at the University outside of term time and on other days of the working week than the normal University attendance day. Please note that this information is subject to change.

* Dates and times are always subject to change for each academic year.

Can I work and complete the programme at the same time?
The Professional Doctorate is a demanding, full-time programme. Trainees cannot continue working full time alongside it although with good organisational skills many do fit part time work around the requirements of the programme. You should be aware that those who are deemed unable to devote sufficient time to their studies may not be offered a place on the programme. In some cases trainees have paid work in relevant employment which can provide some of the placement requirements. This can help with money and time management issues.

What is GBC and how do I obtain it?
GBC is Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society (BPS), a membership level with the British Psychological Society. Most psychology graduates of UK universities as long as your degree contained sufficient psychology and is therefore an accredited psychology degree with the BPS will be eligible for GBC. To apply you will need to contact the BPS (www.bps.org.uk) after completing your degree. Application forms and further information can be downloaded from their website. Psychology graduates from overseas universities should contact the BPS to see if they are eligible for GBC. They also have a specific information booklet designed to give guidance to graduates with degrees from overseas.

If your degree is not accredited, then you can gain GBC by sitting the BPS qualifying examination or by taking a Psychology conversion course. A list of accredited degree and conversion courses can be found on the BPS website at www.bps.org.uk

You will need to have applied for and been granted Graduate Membership conferring GBC with the BPS, by the commencement of the programme. If you are already eligible we would like to see confirmation of your Graduate Membership at the point of application.

Who arranges the placements?
It is the trainee's responsibility to find and arrange their own placements. This allows you to build a unique portfolio of clinical placement experience according to your professional interests and desired career direction, provided you obtain a sufficient
breadth of experience. Considerable advice and support is offered from the Placements Coordinator and by Personal Tutors, and the university has a substantial database of placement opportunities across many settings including NHS and Third Sector. If your application is successful, on acceptance of the place, you will be sent further information relating to finding placements and available placement opportunities.

**Do placements have to be in London?**
No, you can undertake your placements wherever is convenient for you as long as you ensure your supervision is from HCPC Registered Psychologists, and the placement is approved in advance by the Placements Coordinator and the Personal Tutor.

**How do I become a Practitioner Psychologist?**
To become eligible to register with the Health and Care Professions Council as a Practitioner Psychologist it is necessary first to achieve Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, and then undertake further accredited training. The Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology at City University is both an HCPC approved and BPS accredited programme that provides graduates with eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and chartered membership with the BPS. For further information on the registration process see [www.hcpc-uk.org](http://www.hcpc-uk.org) and for the chartered membership process see [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)

**What are the employment opportunities following completion of the programme?**
HCPC Registered Practitioner Psychologists may work in a variety of settings, including the NHS (e.g. inpatient settings, community mental health teams, specialist services such as early intervention, with different clinical populations e.g. older adults); the independent hospital sector; forensic settings including HMPS and probation; working in organisations in areas such as occupational health; in the Third (voluntary) sector; industry, government, private practice (including Employee Assistance Programmes) and academic and research settings, among others.

**Who do I contact if I have further questions?**
If you require further information please contact counsellingpsych@city.ac.uk