



Programme Guide

MSc in Developmental Psychology and Clinical Practice (DPCP)



Overview

The MSc in Developmental Psychology and Clinical Practice is a two-year full-time programme offered by UCL, based at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. The aim of the programme is to provide a framework for developing an integrated understanding of child development and childhood disorders, and to give you an opportunity to develop practical skills for working with children and families in a child mental health service.

This programme draws together theory, research and therapeutic thinking from a range of perspectives, including clinical and cognitive psychology, systemic theory, psychoanalysis and neuroscience.

Structure of the Programme

In the first year, you will be based at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families at the newly built Centre of Excellence in Kings Cross, London, where you will develop your core knowledge of child development, disorders and research methods, while beginning to gain practical experience of using clinical skills. In the second year, you will undertake a placement within a child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) setting. Lectures and seminars continue during the second year, whilst you also work on completing your research dissertation.

"The DPCP course was a perfect combination of theory, practical experience and research. I felt well supported by the lecturers and tutors who developed my knowledge, skills and professional and personal attitude. It has been a fantastic and challenging two-year journey, which I was lucky enough to have been a part of."

Theo - Former DPCP Student, 2017

Clinical Placement

During the second year of the programme, all students will have the unique opportunity to undertake a placement in a CAMHS team in London for 2-3 days per week. Here you will be working alongside experienced clinicians and gain exposure to a wide range of interventions with children and families. Partner organisations for the second year placements have included the following services: Islington CAMHS, Southwark CAMHS, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital, Barnet and Enfield CAMHS and the North Middlesex Hospital. We also offer some placements in the Centre's own clinical services.

Distinctive Features Include:

- The opportunity to develop a conceptual framework which draws together developmental research, neuroscience, psychoanalysis, systemic thinking, clinical and cognitive perspectives.
- An overview of child development and developmental psychopathology including a focus on key childhood disorders, taught by leading academics and clinicians in the field of child mental health.
- A unique clinical placement in a CAMHS team where you will have the opportunity to work with children, adolescents and families, under the supervision of an experienced clinician.
- Practical training in research methods, and in developing skills to carry out child mental health research, including ways to explore and evaluate therapeutic interventions.
- A solid foundation for those wishing to go on to further clinical training, or to apply for employment within the children's workforce.

Modules are grouped into 'families'

Module 'family'	Year 1	Year 2
Child Development, Disorders and the Developing Mind	Multiple Perspectives on Developmental Psychopathology I and II Psychoanalytic Thought: Introduction to the Clinical Theory of Psychoanalysis Parent-Infant Observation	CAMHS in Context
Clinical Skills	Building and Maintaining Therapeutic Relationships Assessment and Planning Clinical Interventions Evaluating Clinical Interventions	CAMHS Placement Clinical Skills I and II Work Discussion Group
Research Skills	Introduction to Research Methods Quantitative Data Analysis (SPSS) Qualitative Research Methods	Research Workshop Supervised Dissertation (Year 1 and 2)

Child Development, Disorders and the Developing Mind

In this family of modules, you will gain an overview of development and psychopathology, as well as a conceptual framework for thinking about the developing mind. Disorders of childhood (e.g. autism and conduct disorder) are explored from multiple perspectives – psychoanalytic, clinical, cognitive behavioural and neurobiological. You will have the opportunity to undertake an observation of a parent and their new-born baby in the family home. Regular seminars run by an experienced psychotherapist will help you to follow the unique development of a new born child whilst developing your observational skills.

Clinical Skills

During the first year you will attend workshop-based classes in which you will develop the skills necessary to engage young people and their families in a clinical setting, through role play, feedback on video performance and observation of specialists.

As the year progresses you will begin to integrate understanding from a range of therapeutic modalities to introduce you to ways of undertaking assessments with children and families and to link assessments to case formulation and treatment planning. During the second year you will continue to have seminars in clinical skills to support your placement experience, as well as a work discussion group run by an experienced child mental health clinician.

Research Skills

Across the two years you will be working on a research portfolio, with opportunities to work within some of the Centre's own research projects, or work with external partners. During the first year classes will help you to learn research methods, including practical skills for analysing quantitative and qualitative data. You will also have an opportunity to learn skills for evaluating clinical practice. Individual academic supervision continues in the second year.

Career Prospects

Completing this MSc does not result in an accredited qualification as a therapist. However, the core clinical skills and direct supervised experience of working in a child and adolescent mental health service have helped graduates secure posts within the children's workforce, and gain places on doctoral-level professional training courses, including Clinical Psychology, Child Psychotherapy and Counselling Psychology.

University College London (UCL)

UCL is one of the foremost teaching and research institutions in the United Kingdom. It was founded in 1826 to provide higher education for all who could benefit from it, regardless of religion, race or class, and is both the oldest and the largest of the various colleges and institutes that make up the University of London. Psychology at UCL has an outstanding track record of innovative research.

The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

The Centre is the leading UK children's mental health charity with over 60 years' experience of caring for young minds through direct clinical services, research and teaching. The vision of the Centre is a world in which children and their families are effectively supported to build on their own strengths to achieve their goals in life.

Applying for the MSc

The programme is highly selective and takes a maximum of 12 students per year. The MSc is offered as a two-year full time programme only - there are no part-time or flexible study options. Overseas students would be expected to demonstrate a high level of written and spoken English.

Fees

2019 – 2020

UK/ EU: £9,860 (year one only)

Overseas: £25,150 (year one only)

Please note: UCL fees may vary in the 2nd year.

Application deadline:

4th February 2019

Open Evening:

Virtual Open Day: Tuesday 11th December 2018

Open Evening: Tuesday 22nd January 2019.

Please check our website below for further details and booking.

Application Process

Applications can be made at:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/apply>

Teaching

Teaching on this programme will begin in September 2019 at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, Kings Cross.

Student Stories

Visit the Centre's website at www.annafreud.org to hear what previous students have to say about studying on our programme.

Full details of the course can be found on the UCL website at:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/study/masters/TMSPSYSDPC01>

Specific enquiries may be sent to: dpcp@annafreud.org