

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: PGDip in Psychodynamic Practice



Course facts

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Mode of study | Part Time Only |
| Expected length | 21 months |

About the course

The Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Psychodynamic Practice is a two year part-time graduate course which forms part of the University of Oxford master's in psychodynamic studies. The PGDip aims to integrate theoretical knowledge with clinical experience, and to that end you will have a clinical placement, clinical supervision, and be in personal therapy. The PGDip aims to bring trainees to the level of professional competence.

The course constitutes the second part of the University of Oxford's master's programme in psychodynamic practice, which is accredited by the UPCA (Universities Psychotherapy and Counselling Association). Students who complete the full programme and the necessary clinical hours will be eligible for professional accreditation with UPCA as a psychotherapeutic counsellor. UPCA hold this accredited register on behalf of UKCP (UK Council for Psychotherapy). Students can also become members of UKCP, in addition to their membership of UPCA.

The PGDip enables those who wish to, to apply to the BACP to be on their Register following the completion of a Certificate of Proficiency.

From the PGDip course you may apply to continue on to the final part of the programme, the MSt in Psychodynamic Practice, for further supervised research and clinical tuition.

The PGDip runs one evening a week over six terms at the Department for Continuing Education and consists of:

- term-time weekly lecture/application sessions, clinical seminars and experiential groups; covering topics in the areas of the historical and contemporary theoretical perspectives, clinical approaches to psychotherapy, difference in the clinic, working with diversity, research and reflective practice and short-term work
- two tutorials per term with an academic tutor, and one tutorial per term with a clinical tutor;
- four Saturday workshops;
- clinical placement; to complete a minimum total of 100 clinical hours, with supervision at a minimum 1:6 ratio to clinical hours; and
- a minimum of 40 hours personal therapy each year, with a psychodynamically trained and course-approved therapist/counsellor.

Extensive regular reading and private study of at least ten hours per week between the taught periods is recommended. Additional time is required for the clinical placement; this would include sufficient time for the required clinical and supervision hours plus other commitments, such as placement team meetings and organisation-based training, as agreed between the student and the clinical placement provider.

The course tutors will support and guide you in regard to your academic work, and offer a forum for the discussion of personal and professional development. All tutors are professionally qualified and accredited counsellors or psychotherapists.

Please note that no applicant currently in therapy/counselling with a course tutor will be admitted to the course. You will be responsible for arranging personal therapy and obtaining a suitable clinical placement.

The course works using the UPCA and UKCP standards which are based on a number of implicit ethical principles that highlight the important nature of boundaries, professional conduct and, in a psychodynamic course, the power of unconscious processes. Students should at all times act in accordance with the ethical codes issued by the UPCA and UKCP. Due to the psychodynamic and experiential nature of the programme, it is considered inappropriate for students to engage in romantic/sexual relationships with tutors or students whilst on course. Should any such relationship arise during the course of your studies, you must declare its existence to the Course Director as soon as possible, who may, for example, ask that you refrain from continuing your relationship or that you suspend your studies.

The PGCert course runs annually, while the PGDip and master's courses are on a two-year cycle. A post-certificate seminar series is held on alternate years, when there is not an intake for the PGDip directly following the PGCert. The seminar series gives the opportunity for consolidation of certificate learning and facilitates a progression in psychodynamic thinking.

Attendance

This course is part-time. You will be required to attend some classes, seminars, and workshops in Oxford during the course.

Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of world-class resources including libraries, museums, galleries, digital resources and IT services.

The Bodleian Libraries is the largest library system in the UK. It includes the main Bodleian Library and libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, provide access to e-journals, and contain outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera.

The University's IT Services is available to all students to support with core university IT systems and tools, as well as many other services and facilities. IT Services also offers a range of IT learning courses for students, to support with learning and research.

The Rewley House Continuing Education Library, one of the Bodleian Libraries, is situated in Rewley House. The department aims to support the wide variety of subjects covered by departmental courses at many academic levels. The department also has a collection of around 73,000 books together with periodicals. PCs in the library give access to the internet and the full range of electronic resources subscribed to by the University of Oxford. The Jessop Reading Room adjoining the library is available for study.

The department provides various IT facilities, including the Student Computing Facility which provides individual PCs for your use.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department for Continuing Education and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff.

Assessment

The course is assessed by five written assignments and one dissertation, and end of year tutor and supervisor reports. The five assignments will each count for 14% of the final mark, and the dissertation will count for 30% of the final mark:

- A theoretical essay on a key psychodynamic concept
- Two case studies
- An elaborated extract(s) from the trainee's placement log
- A reflective journal assignment
- A dissertation

Over the two-year duration of the course you must also complete the following:

- a minimum of 100 hours clinical contact with patients/clients
- supervision sessions at a minimum 1:6 ratio to client hours
- a minimum of 80 hours' personal therapy with a psychodynamically trained and course-approved therapist/counsellor.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2025-26

| Fee status | Annual Course fees |
|------------|--------------------|
| Home | £6,085 |
| Overseas | £12,025 |

Information about course fees

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Additional cost information

This course has sessions in Oxford. You will need to meet your travel and accommodation costs in attending these sessions. You are required to take 40 therapy sessions for each year of the course. You will be responsible for the cost of personal therapy, and may need to fund supervision if the placement provider does not offer supervision as required by the course. Therapy and supervision costs range from c. £40 - £80 per hour, and possibly more in London, but some therapists offer reductions for students. Students must also take out professional insurance for their placement work. For accreditation purposes student membership of UPCA is required throughout the programme. Trainee membership, applicable during the PG Diploma, is currently £45 per year.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for the 2025-26 academic year are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £330 | £515 |
| Accommodation | £790 | £955 |
| Personal items | £200 | £335 |
| Social activities | £45 | £100 |
| Study costs | £40 | £90 |
| Other | £20 | £40 |
| Total | £1,425 | £2,035 |

Likely living costs for nine months

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £2,970 | £4,635 |
| Accommodation | £7,110 | £8,595 |
| Personal items | £1,800 | £3,015 |
| Social activities | £405 | £900 |
| Study costs | £360 | £810 |
| Other | £180 | £360 |
| Total | £12,825 | £18,315 |

Likely living costs for twelve months

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £3,960 | £6,180 |
| Accommodation | £9,480 | £11,460 |
| Personal items | £2,400 | £4,020 |
| Social activities | £540 | £1,200 |
| Study costs | £480 | £1,080 |
| Other | £240 | £480 |
| Total | £17,100 | £24,420 |

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond the 2025-26 academic year, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require a more accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask/form>).