

pre-training requirements

The Association of Child Psychotherapists (ACP) sets minimum standards for entry to the training. IPCAPA has some additional requirements.

work experience

Applicants are required to have substantial experience of working with children and adolescents of varying ages. This experience may have been gained in a number of settings, including health, education and social care.

research experience

Applicants are expected to have some experience of research as part of their undergraduate and/or post-graduate study, or to have gained experience in research in another setting. 'Research' is a broad term, which could cover systematic observation (e.g. infant observation), social science research (e.g. ethnography or other forms of qualitative analysis) and/or psychology research (e.g. developmental or clinical research). Although not a requirement, some familiarity with a range of research methods, in addition to infant observation, will be an advantage to applicants.

personal analysis

In general it is hoped that where possible before applying for training applicants would have begun personal analysis with an ACP approved analyst who they will expect to continue in analysis with throughout their training. Even if it has not been possible to have a more intensive therapy, some experience of being a patient in a psychoanalytically informed treatment would be helpful to anyone applying for the clinical training. Many prospective applicants find that being in analysis before beginning the training can cause financial hardship. We have a bursary fund called the Ruth Schiff fund that can help with this financial burden, which anyone can apply for. We wish to encourage suitable prospective applicants who are currently underrepresented to apply for the IPCAPA training. Therefore prospective applicants from BME communities are particularly encouraged to apply for Ruth Schiff funding if wanted. Please contact the IPCAPA Training Coordinator for further information.

personal suitability

The pre-clinical studies provide an opportunity for assessment of suitability for working in psychotherapy and an opportunity to discuss with tutors the appropriateness of applying for clinical training.

entry requirements

- Applicants must have a 2.1 Honours degree (or equivalent) OR a Masters from a UK University in a relevant subject.
- Applicants will have carried out a pre-clinical course of study at Masters level or equivalent comprising observation seminars and a taught theoretical component.
- Applicants must have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. If you are not eligible to be granted an enhanced DBS clearance certificate, you cannot be considered for this training.

essential pre-clinical course components

mother infant (primary caregiver) observation

- All observation seminars and groups must be led by an ACP Child Psychotherapist or person recognised by the Training Council as having an equivalent psychoanalytic qualification.

- The observation period standard is weekly observations from birth over a 2-year period taking place in a family setting.

- A final paper is based on the observations demonstrating observational skills and the integration of psychoanalytic understanding with the observations.

work discussion seminars

- 1 year minimum attendance at small group weekly seminars
- A paper

theoretical component

- Seminars covering; basic psychoanalytic theory, personality development and child developmental research.
- A paper showing theoretical understanding

additional requirements

In order to fulfil ACP requirements applicants must have either carried out young child observations or had teaching on research methods

recognised courses

The pre-clinical courses marked with an asterisk (*) meet most but not all of these preclinical requirements. Please contact each course to ascertain what, if any, aspects are not covered and what processes are in place to help students achieve these IPCAPA staff are pleased to discuss what further steps prospective applicants may need to take. Prospective applicants often join a work discussion group offered by the *bpf* 'Developing a Psychoanalytic Approach to working with Children and Adolescents'.

British Psychotherapy Foundation (*bpf*)

MSc Psychodynamics of Human Development with Birkbeck, University of London

Training coordinator: Sam Lelong

MSc@bpf-psychotherapy.org.uk

https://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2022/postgraduate/programmes/TMSPDHDV_C/0/psychodynamics-of-human-development-msc

Anna Freud Centre *

MSc in Early Child Development and Clinical Applications with University College, London

Enquires: ecdca@annafreud.org

<https://www.annafreud.org/ucl-postgraduate-study/ucl-postgraduate-programmes/early-child-development-and-clinical-applications-msc/>

NB. Please note that applicants will need to write a work discussion paper and complete the 2nd year of an infant observation

Birkbeck *

MSc in Psychodynamic Counselling and Psychotherapy with children & adolescents

https://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2022/postgraduate/programmes/TMSPDCPA_C/0/psychodynamic-counselling-psychotherapy-with-children-and-adolescents-msc

NB. Please note that applicants need to do a 2nd year of infant observation. Currently applicants who are graduates from this course may also need to obtain some extra teaching on research methodologies.

Tavistock

MA in Psychoanalytic Observation Studies (M7)

<https://tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/training/courses/working-children-young-people-families-psychoanalytic-observational-approach-m7/>