**Evidence to Support the Fulfilment of Admission Criteria for the MSc in Counselling and Psychotherapy course**

**Entry: September 2024**

Thank you for your initial application and your interest in our course.

The MSc in Counselling and Psychotherapy is an exceptionally demanding course - emotionally as well as academically; we are training therapists to work with people who may be in great emotional and psychological distress and this can often mean trainees touch upon their own histories and memories.

For this reason, and in line with the requirements of BACP, applicants need to demonstrate the following attributes:

* self-awareness, maturity and stability;
* ability to make use of and reflect upon life experience;
* capacity to cope with the emotional demands of the course;
* ability to cope with the intellectual and academic requirements;
* ability to form a helping relationship;
* ability to be self-critical and use developmental feedback;
* awareness of the nature of prejudice and oppression;
* awareness of the nature of identity, difference and inclusivity;
* ability to recognise the need for personal and professional support;
* competence in or the aptitude to develop generic personal skills, including: literacy, numeracy, information technology,
* administrative skills,
* self-management skills,
* communication and interpersonal skills.

All applicants who meet our entry requirements are asked to complete this criteria questionnaire as part of our selection process.

Your responses will be reviewed and scored by members of the counselling & psychotherapy course team, ***and on the basis of this score you may progress to the next stage of the selection process*** (a group interview).

***It is important that you answer these questions fully*** as we will use ***only*** your answers to these questions to score you.

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.

We will be in touch after our closing date with information about the next stage of the selection process.

**Name:**

**Keele Student ID (if you have one):**

**Email address:**

**Are you applying for the 1 year full-time or 2 year part-time programme?**

**How did you hear about the programme?**

1. **Can you tell us why you want to study counselling?**

**Answer\_**

1. **Can you tell us why you want to specifically study counselling at Keele?**

**Answer\_**

1. **We are looking for students with significant life experiences so that they have a greater understanding of the experiences of others.**

**Can you write briefly about an experience that you have had that taught you something about yourself. Describe the experience and say what you learned about yourself.**

**Answer\_**

1. **We are also looking for students with some experience of working with people in a helping capacity, whether voluntary or paid. Please tell us what experience you have in a role where you have helped others.**

**Answer\_**

1. **Is there anything that you think could get in the way of you studying counselling e.g. mental health condition or difficulties, traumatic experiences that still impact on you, or recent loss? If so, please tell us about this and note that any such experiences or difficulties would not, of themselves, result in you not being offered a place on the programme.**

**Answer\_**

1. **Do you have any experience of counselling as a client? If so, tell us a little bit about it and whether it was helpful or not.**

**Answer\_**

1. **You have previously pursued a programme of study; can you say:**
   1. **What was the most satisfying aspect?**
   2. **What was the most challenging aspect?**
2. **The programme is an extremely demanding one in terms of time, academic standard and personal development, as well as skills development.**

**Can you tell us how you plan to cope with this and what personal support you have (e.g. friends, family)?**

**Answer: -**

1. **Can you think of an example of where you have *experienced or witnessed* prejudice or oppression? Tell us a little about it and what you feel about it.**

**Answer\_**

1. **We begin the course with a mandatory Residential Weekend on 14th and 15th September 2024, followed by a two-week intensive induction, i.e. attendance Tuesday to Friday inclusive, from 9am to 5pm, for the two weeks following the residential weekend.**

**We also hold a mandatory Annual Conference (March/April 2025 date to be confirmed)**

**Attendance at the residential weekend, the two-week intensive induction, and at the annual conference are mandatory elements of the programme (for part-time students, this is in Year 1 only.)**

**Would you have any problem attending any of these elements?**

**Answer**\_