

Programme Guide

MSc in Psychoanalytic Developmental Psychology (PDP)



Overview

This well-established MSc programme is a joint venture between University College London (UCL) and the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, combining UCL's international academic reputation with the clinical focus of the Centre. The programme provides a unique foundation for individuals interested in childhood development. It combines different psychoanalytic perspectives on development, a year-long observation of a baby and family and a substantial research project making the programme ideal for:

- Those planning to work, or already working with children and families who wish to deepen their theoretical understanding of psychoanalytic perspectives and enrich their clinical practice
- Those wishing to proceed to a child or adult psychotherapy training
- Those wishing to proceed to do a doctorate in clinical, counselling or educational psychology.
- Those interested in developing a career in research with children and families or progressing to a PhD.

Programme Aims

- To give a theoretical grounding in psychoanalytic theories of child development
- To develop practical observational skills essential to clinical work
- To engage deeply with an area of knowledge and develop the skills required for conducting reliable and valid research
- To develop skills in integration across theory, observation and research.

University College London

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 national charity supporting young minds through innovative therapeutic practice, training and research. The vision of the Centre is a world in which children, young people and their families are effectively supported to build on their own strengths to achieve their goals.

Fees

2020–2021
UK/ EU: £10,750 (FT),
£5,435 (PT)*
Overseas: £26,890 (FT),
£13,390 (PT)*

Application deadline:

24th February 2020

Open Evening

Virtual Open Day: Wednesday 4th December 2019
Open Evening: Tuesday 21st January 2020
Please check our website below for further details and booking:
<https://www.annafreud.org/training/ucl-postgraduate-study/our-upcoming-events/>

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 2020 and is mostly based at The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, Kings Cross.

Student Stories

Visit the Centre's website 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/TMSPSYSPDP06>
Specific enquiries may be sent to: pdp@annafreud.org

Modules are grouped into 'families'

Module 'Family'	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Psychoanalytic Thought	Psychoanalytic Thought: Introduction to the Clinical Theory of Psychoanalysis	Psychoanalytic Thought: Developments and Applications	
Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Child Development	Infancy	Toddlerhood and Early Childhood	Latency and Adolescence
Observation I	Observation I: Observation of a Parent-Infant		
Research	Introduction to Psychological Research	Statistical Analysis using SPSS	Multivariate Data Analysis (optional)
	Research Project and Journal-Type Paper		
Optional Module: Choose one of the following:	Observation II: Observation of a Young Child Parenting: Theory, Research and Clinical Intervention Evaluating Clinical Interventions Multiple Perspectives on Developmental Psychopathology I		

Programme Duration

The programme is one full calendar year and involves four or five days study per week; however, a small number of places are available for a 2 year part-time option* or flexible study, which enables students to take up to five years to complete the MSc.

Programme Content

The programme's theoretical modules are taught through a combination of weekly lectures and small group seminars to discuss the weekly readings and lecture material.

Observations are discussed in small groups with an experienced psychoanalytic clinician. Research projects are carried out under the guidance of an individual supervisor. Teaching will be primarily based at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families at the newly built Centre of Excellence in Kings Cross, London.

Electives

Students have the opportunity to choose a module from a range of four electives:

- 'Observation of a young child', where students observe children in a nursery setting weekly and discuss their learning in the light of psychoanalytic theory.
- 'Parenting: Theory, Research and Clinical Intervention', where students are taught contemporary views on parenting, considering current research on psychological, genetic and environmental factors, as well as learning about different clinical approaches in working with parents.
- 'Evaluating Clinical Interventions', where students learn how to engage and generate evaluations of clinical interventions, ranging from clinical audits, to published research studies which inform evidence-based practice.
- 'Multiple Perspectives on Developmental Psychology I' which introduces students to several ways of thinking about childhood perspectives: systemic, cognitive behavioural, neurobiological, epigenetic, psychodynamic, mentalization, attachment and psychiatric.

*The part-time option is currently being reviewed and it is recommended to contact us before applying for this option.

**The programme description is correct at time of going to print but is subject to change without notice.

Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Child Development

The first of these modules covers psychoanalytic perspectives on infancy. The second module covers toddlerhood and early childhood, while the third module covers latency and adolescence. Although predominantly theoretical, each module includes clinical presentations of contemporary psychoanalytic treatment of children (and their parents) at each developmental stage.

Psychoanalytic Thought

These modules introduce the key psychoanalytic ideas and will bring to life the close connections between the study and practice of psychoanalysis. The first module will introduce key concepts using clinical examples, contemporary and historical writings, with particular focus on work with children and young people. The second module provides opportunities for more advanced studies in contemporary applications of psychoanalytic theory.

Research

Students attend modules on psychological research and quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques. Students also work on a research project and carry this out over the course of the year under the guidance of an individual supervisor. These projects are offered by staff at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families and collaborating institutions. Alternatively, students may devise their own project.

Observation

Students undertake an observation of a parent and infant in the family home, over the course of the whole year. These observations are supported by group seminars each week, of a maximum of 5 or 6 students, led by experienced child and adult psychotherapists. Students may also choose to carry out a second observation, of a young child as their elective, although places on this module are limited.

"The integrative nature of the PDP MSc, covering theory, research and observational domains has enhanced my knowledge of both research methods and developmental psychology. I felt incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from some of the most well-respected and bright minds in the field of child and adolescent psychotherapy research. The learning from the PDP course was instrumental in me gaining a job as a Research Officer at the AFNCCF. I have also recently started a funded PhD at UCL"

Antonella, Former PDP Student