



Programme Guide

MSc in Early Child Development and Clinical Applications (formerly PDP)



Overview

This two-year full-time MSc programme has a predominant psychoanalytic approach but provides a comprehensive understanding of early child development through a range of theoretical (psychoanalysis, developmental and neuroscience) and current clinical perspectives. Students are able to apply this understanding in a supervised clinical placement normally in the Early Years Service at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, a two-year observation of a baby in their home, as well as conducting a substantial research project. This programme (formerly known as MSc in Psychoanalytic Developmental Psychology) has undergone changes to bring it up to date with current research and clinical practice, making it ideal for those:

- Planning to work, or already working with infants, children and families, who wish to deepen their theoretical understanding and enrich their clinical practice
- Wishing to proceed to child and adolescent or adult psychoanalytic/psychodynamic psychotherapy training, or a doctorate in clinical, counselling or educational psychology
- Interested in developing a career in research with children and families or progressing to a PhD

Programme Aims

- To give a multi-perspective theoretical grounding in early child development
- To develop practical observational and clinical skills for work with children and parents in the early years
- 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, clinical practice and research

Distinctive features of this programme:

- Teaching and supervision by highly experienced clinicians and researchers working in the field of early child mental health and parenting;
- Opportunity to develop clinical skills for working with infants, young children, and parents in early years clinical settings; and
- Practical training in conducting mixed-methods 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.

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.

Fees

2022–2023
UK: £12,900 (year one only)
Overseas: £29,400 (year one only)
Please note: UCL fees may vary in the 2nd year.

Application deadline:

7th February 2022

Open Events

Virtual Open Day: Wednesday 8th December 2021

Please check our website below for further details and booking:

<https://www.annafreud.org/training/ucl-postgraduate-study>

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 2022 and is mostly based at The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, Kings Cross.

Full details of the course can be found on the [UCL website](#).
Specific enquiries may be sent to: earlydev@annafreud.org

Modules are grouped into 'families'

Year 1

| Module 'Family' | Autumn | Spring | Summer |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Developmental Foundations | Early Child Development I Psychoanalytic Theories of Infancy and the Caregiver-Child Relationship | Early Child Development II Parent-Infant Observation I | Early Child Development III |
| Science and Practice | Multiple Perspectives on Developmental and Psychopathology I | Applied Psychoanalytic Concepts | Prevention in Mental Health Multi-disciplinarity and Multiple Perspectives in Early Years |
| Research | Research Methods I (formative) | Research Methods II: Introduction to Statistical Analysis | Multivariate Data Analysis (formative) |
| | | Workshop Research Method/Assessment (formative) Qualitative Research Research Project I | |

Year 2

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Developmental Foundations | Parent-Infant Observation II | | |
| Science and Practice | Clinical Competencies: Masterclass I | Clinical Competencies: Masterclass II Clinical Placement Workshop: Clinical model/tool (formative) | |
| Research | Research Project II | | |

Programme Duration

The programme duration is two full calendar years and involves four- or five-days study per week.

Programme Content

The programme's theoretical modules are taught through a combination of weekly lectures and workshops to discuss the weekly readings and lecture material. Observations are discussed in small groups with an experienced psychoanalytic clinician. Clinical placements are supervised normally by clinicians from the Early Years Service at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. Clinical competencies masterclasses are taught by experienced clinicians with various approaches. Research projects are carried out under the guidance of an individual research 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.

Developmental Foundations

These modules focus on a multi-perspective understanding of Early Child Development and the impact of these early years on later stages of life. One module teaches key Psychoanalytic Theories of Infancy and the Caregiver-Child Relationship and these are also explored in terms of their socio-cultural influences, how they were received at the time and how they are used now. In parallel to this, students carry out a two-year Observation of an infant and family in their home. This observation allows to see 'theory in action' but also develop observational and self-reflective capacities, which are key for therapeutic work.

Science and Practice

These modules provide an understanding of how psychoanalytic theories, neuroscience and developmental research are applied to current clinical work with parents and babies. The Applied Psychoanalytic Concepts module specifically looks at the application of psychoanalytic ideas and explores individual and group work with babies, children, and parents, work with foster and adoptive parents, and explores clinical work where issues such as gender identity, parental conflict, and/or abuse/trauma are discussed. Prevention in Mental Health introduces the concept of preventive mental health, focusing on general promotion of health programmes and selective preventive interventions in high-risk groups. In Multiple Perspectives on Developmental Psychopathology 1 you will gain an overview of psychopathology (e.g. autism and conduct disorder) from multiple perspectives. Multi-disciplinarity and Multiple Perspectives in Early Years module looks at the importance of professional networks in early work, understanding different clinical approaches in the early years. Clinical Competencies masterclasses and a supervised Clinical Placement will allow you to apply the learning from the first-year taught content of the programme and to develop clinical skills in practice.

Research

Both formative and assessed Research Methods modules will expose you to a range of research methodologies, including quantitative and qualitative methodologies, and data analysis techniques. The programme provides training on SPSS, which is a statistical analysis software package. Developing these skills enables students to conduct their own Research Project and write-up a journal-type research paper.