



# Programme Guide

## MSc in Developmental Psychology and Clinical Practice (DPCP)



### Overview

The MSc in Developmental Psychology and Clinical Practice is a two-year full-time programme offered by UCL, based at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. The aim of the programme is to provide a framework for developing an integrated understanding of child development and childhood disorders, and to give you an opportunity to develop practical skills for working with children and families in a child mental health service.

This programme draws together theory, research and therapeutic thinking from a range of perspectives, including clinical and cognitive psychology, systemic theory, psychoanalysis and neuroscience.

### Structure of the Programme

The first year is based primarily at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, Kings Cross, London, where you will develop your core knowledge of child development, disorders and research methods, while beginning to gain practical experience of using clinical skills. In the second year, you will undertake a placement within a child and adolescent mental health setting. Lectures and seminars continue during the second year, whilst you also work on completing your research project.

### Career Prospects

Completing this MSc does not result in an accredited qualification as a therapist. However, the core clinical skills and direct supervised experience of working in a child and adolescent mental health service have helped graduates secure posts within the children's workforce, and gain places on doctoral-level professional training courses, including Clinical Psychology and Counselling Psychology. Some students may pursue further training or work in research, for example by undertaking PhD or work within a research area of applied psychology.

### Distinctive Features Include:

- The opportunity to develop a conceptual framework which draws together developmental research, neuroscience, psychoanalysis, systemic thinking, clinical and cognitive perspectives.
- An overview of child developmental psychopathology including a focus on key childhood disorders, taught by leading academics and clinicians in the field of child mental health.
- A unique clinical placement in a child and adolescent mental health team where you will have the opportunity to gain experience of work with children, adolescents and families, under the supervision of an experienced clinician.
- Practical training in research methods, and in developing skills to carry out child mental health research, including ways to explore and evaluate therapeutic interventions.
- A solid foundation for those wishing to go on to further clinical training, or to apply for employment within the children's workforce.

### Clinical Placement

During the second year of the programme, all students will have the unique opportunity to undertake a placement in a child and adolescent mental health team for 2-3 days per week. Here you will be working alongside experienced clinicians and gain exposure to a wide range of interventions with children and families. Partner organisations for the second-year placements have included the following services: Islington CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), Enfield CAMHS, Great Ormond Street Hospital, and the Royal Free Hospital. We also offer some placements within the Centre's own innovative clinical services, for example the AFC Family Trauma Team.

## Modules are grouped into 'families'

Module 'family'	Year 1	Year 2
Child Development, Disorders and the Developing Mind	Multiple Perspectives on Developmental Psychopathology I and II Psychoanalytic Theories of Caregiver-Child Relationship Parenting: Theory, Research & Clinical Intervention	Clinical Practice in Context
Clinical Skills	Building and Maintaining Therapeutic Relationships Assessment and Planning Clinical Interventions	Clinical Placement Clinical Skills I and II Work Discussion Group
Research Skills	Introduction to Research Methods Quantitative Data Analysis (SPSS) Evaluating Clinical Interventions Qualitative Research Methods Supervised Research Project	Supervised Research Project

### Child Development, Disorders and the Developing Mind

In this family of modules, you will gain an overview of development and psychopathology, as well as a conceptual framework for thinking about the developing mind. Disorders of childhood (e.g. autism and conduct disorder) are explored from multiple perspectives – psychoanalytic, clinical, cognitive behavioural and neurobiological.

### Clinical Skills

During the first year you will attend workshops in which you will develop the skills necessary to engage young people and their families in a clinical setting, through role play, feedback on video performance and observation of specialists.

As the year progresses you will begin to integrate understanding from a range of therapeutic modalities to introduce you to ways of undertaking assessments with children and families and to link assessments to case formulation and treatment planning. During the second year you will continue to have seminars in clinical skills to support your placement experience, as well as a work discussion group run by an experienced child mental health clinician.

### Research Skills

Across the two years you will be working on a research portfolio, with opportunities to work within some of the Centre's own research projects, or work with external partners. During the first year, classes will help you to learn research methods, including practical skills for analysing quantitative and qualitative data. You will also have an opportunity to learn skills for evaluating clinical practice. Individual academic supervision continues in the second year.

**"The DPCP course has provided me with a well-rounded education in Psychology, with an outlook that is forward-thinking and requires critical thought. More importantly, it has taught me to value difference and diversity and its impact on one's experiences - all this in a nurturing, friendly and positive environment. It has been my luck to have received this education from some fantastic lecturers and tutors who have always sought to aid my development, both as a student and as a person."**

**Krish, Former DPCP Student**

### University College London (UCL)

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 UK children's mental health charity with 70 years' experience of caring for young minds through direct clinical services, research and teaching. The vision of the Centre is a world in which children and their families are effectively supported to build on their own strengths to achieve their goals in life.

### Applying for the MSc

The programme is highly selective and takes a maximum of 20 students per year. The MSc is offered as a two-year full-time programme only - there are no part-time or flexible study options. Overseas students would be expected to demonstrate a high level of written and spoken English.

#### Fees

2023–2024

UK: £14,100 (year one only)

Overseas: £32,100 (year one only)

Please note: UCL fees may vary in the 2nd year.

#### Application deadline:

**6th February 2023**

#### Open Events:

Virtual Open Day: 7th December 2022

Open Evening: 17th January 2023

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 2023 at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, Kings Cross.

#### Further Information

Full details of the course can be found on the [UCL website](#).

Specific enquiries may be sent to: [dpcp@annafreud.org](mailto:dpcp@annafreud.org)