Course Guide
MSc in Developmental Psychology and Clinical Practice

Overview
The MSc in Developmental Psychology and Clinical Practice is a two-year full-time course offered by UCL, based at the Anna Freud Centre (AFC). The aim of the course 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 clinical setting.

This course 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 Course
In the first year you will be based at the Anna Freud Centre in Hampstead, 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 dissertation.

Clinical Placement
During the second year of the programme, all students will have the unique opportunity to undertake a placement in a CAMHS team in London 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, Southwark CAMHS, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital, Barnet and Enfield CAMHS and the North Middlesex Hospital.

“This is a ground-breaking course which offers an understanding of childhood problems along with training in the skills needed to help distressed children and families. We are delighted to be a partner in offering placement experience to students on the course.”

Yvonne Millar
Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Islington Community CAMHS Service Manager

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 development and 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 CAMHS team where you will have the opportunity to work with children, adolescents and families, under the supervision of an experienced clinician.
- Practical training in research methods, and in developing skills to evaluate therapeutic interventions, including opportunities to work on research linked to the AFC’s own Evidence Based Practice Unit (EBPU).
- A solid foundation for those wishing to go on to further clinical training, or to apply for employment within the children’s workforce.
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. You will have the opportunity to undertake an observation of a parent and their new-born baby in the family home. Regular seminars run by an experienced psychotherapist will help you to follow the unique development of a new born child whilst developing your observational skills.

Clinical Skills

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. Research methods teaching and individual supervision continues in the second year.

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, Child Psychotherapy and Counselling Psychology.

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 Centre (AFC)

The Anna Freud Centre is a leading UK children’s mental health charity with over 60 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 course is highly selective and takes a maximum of 12 students per year. The MSc is offered as a two-year full time course 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.

Deadline

Application deadline: 10th February 2016. Please see the website for further details. Teaching on this course will begin in September 2016.

Student Stories and Virtual Tour

Visit the Anna Freud Centre website www.annafreud.org to take a virtual tour of the Centre and to hear what previous students have to say.

Open Evening

Please check the website for dates of our open evenings.

Fees

2016–2017: UK/ EU: £9,020 (year one)
Overseas: £23,020 (year one)
Please note: UCL fees may vary in the 2nd year.

What to do next?

For full details of the course please see our UCL website: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/study/masters/TMSPSYSDPC01.

Specific enquiries may be sent to lauren.shum@annafreud.org.

Applications can be made at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/apply.

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