



## Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

#### Active Participation in Teaching

##### ***Programme Expectations in Relation to Teaching***

The Programme expects that all Trainees will attend and actively participate in all aspects of the academic programme. Learning is not, and cannot be, restricted to passive listening. Active and experiential learning is an important part of clinical psychology training. It is a requirement of the Health and Care Professions Council that when Trainees participate in clinical teaching they have given informed consent when they are taking the role of service users. For this consent to be meaningful it is important that Trainees understand their rights and the Programme's expectations.

##### ***Possible Stresses Linked to Clinical Teaching***

Training to become a Clinical Psychologist offers a wide range of interesting learning opportunities. It can also present personal challenges and it is recognised that clinical teaching can, at times, be stressful. At some point in training it is possible that Trainees will feel uncomfortable or upset by material to which they are exposed. While this is often a transient experience, some Trainees may experience a more sustained impact.

Where a Trainee finds participation difficult because of particular circumstances they are entitled to withdraw on a temporary basis. The Programme expects Trainees to do this in an appropriately professional manner, which causes the least disruption possible, returning if they feel able to, and if possible, discussing their absence with the lecturer. Trainees are encouraged to discuss this with their Advisor, in order that appropriate supports can be accessed as necessary.

If a Trainee's level of personal distress is high and results in the need for advanced or prolonged withdrawal from specific areas of teaching, it is expected that the Trainee take appropriate action. This would normally include discussion with their Advisor, who can arrange for them to be exempted from teaching activities temporarily, for absence to be recorded appropriately and discuss the most suitable strategies for managing the situation.

Trainees are encouraged to be proactive and thoughtful with regard to their personal circumstances in relation to teaching sessions. Trainees may find it helpful to look ahead in the timetable, and where appropriate, speak with the workshop facilitator or Advisor in order to inform them of any current sensitive issues.

Trainees are advised to consult the BPS Code of Ethics and Conduct:  
[www.bps.org.uk/what-we-do/ethics-standards/ethics-standards](http://www.bps.org.uk/what-we-do/ethics-standards/ethics-standards).

### ***Disclosure of Personal Information***

During academic teaching there should be no pressure on Trainees to disclose personal information that they feel uncomfortable revealing and especially personal information that they do not see as relevant to the task of training. However, the nature of the Programme means that discussion of personal feelings in relation to professional development is often appropriate and necessary, and there is an expectation that Trainees will be open to discussion of these feelings if these are relevant to their clinical work, reflection and professional development.

### ***Confidentiality in Active Participation in Clinical Teaching***

Trainees who discuss their experience of stress or a personal issue arising from clinical teaching with a member of the team are entitled to the usual assurance of confidentiality that applies in clinical contexts. This means that information that they disclose will not usually be discussed with third parties without their consent and/or knowledge. As in clinical contexts, a guarantee of confidentiality cannot be absolute, as might be the case if there were serious concerns about the welfare of the Trainee. Any such breaches would be rare, and would usually be discussed with the Trainee. The HCPC publish guidance relating to confidentiality on their website, which Trainees are encouraged to access for further information: [www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/raisingconcerns/confidentiality/](http://www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/raisingconcerns/confidentiality/).

### ***Trainee Consent to Participate in Clinical Teaching***

In the Trainee contract there is a formal consent form. By signing this consent form, Trainees are acknowledging and accepting the expectations set out in the sections above. Because these make it clear that there may be circumstances where a Trainee might wish to withdraw from clinical teaching, it should be understood that while they are consenting to participate in teaching, this consent is not absolute, and includes the right to withdraw, if there are good grounds for doing so on a temporary basis. Given the nature of the training and employment, failure to participate in training as described here may be taken up through the Trust Capability Procedure. Trainees are advised to consult the Clinical Practice and Employment Handbook for details of Trust Capability Policy and Procedure. Advisors would discuss any problems relating to this with a Trainee in the first instance.