

Diploma in Humanistic and Integrative Counselling

Overview of Assessment Processes

The Diploma in Humanistic and Integrative Counselling at BCPC is a continually assessed course. We make use of self, peer and tutor feedback and assessment processes and use a variety of assessment styles.

Students are required to complete two lengthy written assignments in Counselling Year 1 and one in Year 2 (approx 4,000 words each), as well as some shorter tasks, including two critiques of an audio recording of a counselling session (one in each taught year), two self-reflective documents (also one in each year) and a short presentation on time-limited counselling in Year 2. All assignments are marked according to specific Learning Outcomes. This kind of assessment is known as 'summative assessment'.

Tutors also build up a picture of your progress via a range of 'formative assessments', which take place throughout Years 1 and 2. Tutors meet regularly as a team to monitor student progress. Such monitoring may include discussion of a student's participation in all areas of the curriculum and their sense of progress in activities away from the course day, such as personal therapy and client work. Annual Supervisor's Reports, completed by your counselling placement supervisor, help provide tutors with a picture of your counselling practice as it develops.

Feedback on counselling skills practice by peers and tutors happens on a weekly basis over the course of Year 1. In Year 2, two hours per course day are allocated for weekly group supervision facilitated by your BCPC supervisor, who will become familiar with your counselling style and will help you identify strengths, weaknesses and learning needs, supporting and challenging you as appropriate.

Reflective practice is a cornerstone of the training and tutors gauge a great deal about your progress from your ability to form a realistic and flexible view of yourself and others. This includes the ability to give feedback non-judgementally and to receive feedback from others non-defensively. In the third term of Years 1 and 2 you will take part in a self, peer and tutor feedback process. You are required to write a Self Reflective Document, which is a reflective summary of your personal learning on the course. This is read by your tutor and two of your peers. You then receive feedback from your tutor and peers both in a written form and via a group process.

You have up until October of the year *after* you complete Counselling Year 2 to submit papers for the Diploma in Humanistic and Integrative Counselling. Over this period, you work to produce the assignments required for the Diploma submission, which is the final summative assessment of the training. The major elements of this submission are an 8,000-word dissertation, 6,000-word case study and a 3,000-word self-reflective document. Our Internal Examiner, who has no other involvement with the course, will assess your Diploma submission as pass, merit, distinction or refer accordingly. The assessment process over the three years of Diploma training is overseen by an External Examiner to ensure fairness and parity.