

# Post-Qualifying Diploma in Counselling CYP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## How do I apply?

You can download the Application form and the Referee form from the bottom of this web page. Please email the completed Application form to the email address on the form. Please also send the Referee form to two appropriate professional referees, one of whom needs to be your clinical Supervisor.

Alternatively, if you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to contact Lisa Nel by emailing her at [lisa@imokyoureok.co.uk](mailto:lisa@imokyoureok.co.uk) or by calling 07810 441 896.

## Will I be interviewed?

An informal interview will be arranged at a mutually convenient time, following receipt of your completed Application form evidencing all the criteria for access to the training and two and references. Due to time and geography, interviews take place via Zoom / Teams or other video conferencing platform. They last approximately 30 minutes and enable both you and the trainer to ask questions both ways, to ensure that the training is a 'good fit' for you.

## How do the different payment options work?

The total course fee varies slightly according to location, venue hire and other overheads. So the following is a guide to illustrate the different payment options without individual venue figures. To find out the course fee at the centre where you will be applying, please contact I'm OK, You're OK.

Having been offered a place, a deposit of 10% secures your place. There are then two payment options for the remainder of the course fee:

- A) 10% deposit + remaining 90% in one payment
- B) 10% deposit + 9 x instalments over the academic year (this option incurs a small extra charge)

## How big will the group be?

The maximum group size is 18 participants.

## Do I need to be counselling under-16s during the training?

All participants will need to have completed a minimum of 50 hours of supervised under-16s client work, in order to undertake the Viva Assessment to complete and achieve the QLS L7 Diploma.

However, there is often a wide range of experience within the group, with some people already having worked with CYP for years, and others wanting to do the training before seeing any under-18s. Although having some CYP counselling practice during the training undoubtedly helps to relate the theory to practice, it is also possible for someone to complete the training weekends before beginning client work with under-16s. The element of the two essays which says to: "Illustrate with brief examples of counselling children and/or young people" may, in this instance, be answered hypothetically from reading, research and reflection.



## Is the 'Reflective Learning Journal' a personal diary or a learning log?

Neither and both... as this digital record is designed to enable you to consolidate the whole experience of training weekends, through recording *both* the personal impact of the learning sessions *and* the key professional insights which you have taken away. Contact weekends are often intense, containing many ideas, feelings and activities. The learning can quickly fade and become lost in the busy-ness of life, so this is a powerful way to consolidate key insights of personal as well as professional clarity and record these for future reference. Detailed guidance on how to complete this will be provided in the Training Handbook provided in weekend 1.

## What is the purpose of the two academic essays?

The essays are intended to help stimulate wider independent reading, research and reflection in each half of the training. This process supports the discovery of more of the excellent texts and articles available and stimulates greater clarification and deepening of the clinical governance underlying client practice. The process is supported through group Q&A sessions, draft essay feedback and tutorials if requested. There is also extensive guidance on essay writing in the Training Handbook. Passing an essay at academic level 7 is a learning skill in itself and personal achievement.

## What is involved in the Viva Assessment?

The Viva Voce (Viva) is a 40/45-minute face to face assessment. Due to the geography of delivery and diverse locations of both students and tutors, the Viva may be assessed 'live' online, using either Skype or Facetime. Support and further guidance for the confident and successful undertaking of the Viva will be given during the course of the training.

Details:

- arranged for a time following the end of the taught course and within one year of the final course weekend
- conducted by your Tutor and one other assessor
- based upon one case study from actual under-16 client work
- no audio or video recording of client work is required
- starts with a presentation of your work with this client (15-20 minutes) followed by questions from the examiners (20-25 minutes). These will be based upon specific aspects of the case but may also include any relevant knowledge and understanding from the 9 weekend training themes
- you will not be expected to cite the law or any theorists
- you will be expected to demonstrate a sound understanding of what is needed for safe and effective therapeutic practice with under-16s
- you will need to have supplied a current, appropriate Supervisor's Report just prior to Viva and the assessors may also include questions based upon this report

You will be told of the result within 7 days. Any referrals will receive written feedback to support a re-take. This needs to be based on the presentation of a different client and still arranged within a 24-month period following the end of the taught course. Like essays, a Viva re-take will incur an additional cost, due to the additional tutor time involved. However, while essays may be re-submitted twice, due to time restrictions, there would be just one opportunity to re-take the Viva.

## Is this Diploma a 'Level 7 Qualification'?

No. This is a **continuing professional development (CPD) qualification** assessed at academic level 7 i.e., essays must reach a level 7 standard of proficiency, to achieve the QLS L7 Diploma. Standards of marking are audited by national vocational awarding body, QLS (see below). Training content is based upon the BACP 5-18s CYP Competences Framework.

As a *professional competences training*, rather than an academic qualification, our focus is upon deepening skills and knowledge to meet the BACP professional competences for good practice with under-18s. Knowledge and understanding come through the training weekends but are deepened through wider independent reading and reflection. The best way to assess this is through essay writing. These essays are rigorously assessed and externally moderated at academic Level 7.

However, at a job interview, with this Diploma you can legitimately say that you have studied to QLS Level 7\* (for information about QLS, see below). In terms of the Qualifications Framework (Ofqual), just like a P.G.C.E., as a professional training, it cannot provide you with automatic access to a further higher academic qualification such as a Masters or a PhD.

Please also see participant comments on the web-page! Course graduates would vouch for the fact that the essay writing element is a highly-supported and formative process, facilitating the development (or maintenance) of robust academic writing skills. This means that should you decide to undertake further post-graduate academic study in the future, this training experience would boost your confidence to apply!

## What is the *Quality Licence Scheme*?

The **Quality Licence Scheme**, formerly *ABC Awards and Certa Awards*, is a leading national awarding organisation which develops diverse, high-quality vocational qualifications for all ages and abilities post-14. For further information, see the \*Quality Licence Scheme under which this course is run at: <https://qualitylicencescheme.co.uk/>