



Matrix College of Counselling and Psychotherapy

Admissions Policy

1.0 Introduction

Matrix has an overarching aim to facilitate excellence in counselling. We do this through the provision of high quality training. We undertake to create a facilitative learning environment, provide high quality teaching, have a robust quality assurance programme, and support students to develop in the integration of the self.

The Matrix policy for admission should be read alongside our Equality and Diversity Statement (info sheet 027) and the Matrix APL policy, the Student Selection and Recruitment Policy and Assessment of Literacy Criteria.

2.0 Values

Matrix is committed to opposing discrimination and all applicants who fulfil the following criteria will be invited for interview.

Applicants are interviewed by two senior members of staff. There is no right of appeal against a selection decision.

Group size is ideally restricted to 15 or 16. Applicants will be offered a place in a group on receipt of the deposit and signed contact

2.0 Criteria for invitation to interview and admission to the programme

We acknowledge that counselling training attracts learners who may not have formal academic qualifications. Completion of two sections (each written in over 500 words) required on the application form will:

a) demonstrate academic writing level, this is assessed by the admission team using the Assessment of Literacy criteria, and

b) provide evidence of the applicant's suitability for the training, this will be assessed by the admission team and an interview will be offered to those applicants who show the qualities listed in bullet points below.

Counselling training is demanding both personally and academically. Invitation to interview and admission to the programme is based on evidence and demonstration of following criteria:

- Ability to reflect on strengths and personal qualities as well as negative characteristics which may impede their learning (on application form and at interview)
- Ability to articulate their motivation for training (on application form and at interview)
- Must be able to demonstrate motivation and commitment to learning and self-development and show a willingness to explore defences
- Must be able to show evidence of an understanding of relational qualities such as, empathy, congruence and unconditional positive regard and be aware of any difficulties they may have with these
- Must demonstrate an ability to cope with both the academic and experiential components of the course – by completion of application form and at interview.
- Must show an awareness of the social context within which counselling takes place and show an open attitude to issues of race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation
- Must demonstrate personal readiness for the demands of the training

Entry point for Year 1

- A number of years' work and life experience
- Completion of application form
- Two satisfactory character references
- A successful interview

Entry point for Year 2 is based on the following criteria:

- A number of years' work and life experience
- Completion of application form
- Fulfil requirement of the APL policy for entry into Year Two
- Two character references describing the applicant's suitability for entry to this level of training; one from the *most recent* previous academic training
- A successful interview

Entry point for Year 3 is based on the following criteria:

- A number of years' work and life experience
- Completion of application form

- Fulfil requirement of the APL policy for entry into Year Three
- Two character references describing the applicant's suitability for entry to this level of training; one from the *most recent* previous academic training
- A successful interview

3.0 Group dynamics

To ensure the best possible environment for learning we will not knowingly allow siblings, couples, or family members or relations into the same year group.

4.0 English language entry requirements

For applicants whose first language is not English, we require evidence of English language proficiency as part of the application to study with us.

This should be in the form of an English Language Test. We accept:

- IELTS with minimum grade 6.0 (with 5.5 in all components)
- Cambridge Proficiency Certificate with minimum grade C
- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English with minimum grade B

Developed by: Management team

Reviewed: by FP & AD September 2019

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