



Matrix College of Counselling and Psychotherapy

Admissions Policy

1. 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, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, the Student Selection and Recruitment Policy and Assessment of Literacy Criteria <https://matrix.ac.uk/compliance/> the Matrix APL policy and the Information on Admissions to Matrix College and Completion of the Application Form <https://matrix.ac.uk/bsc-hons/how-to-apply/>

2. Values

Matrix is committed to opposing discrimination and provided places remain available for the next intake, all applicants who fulfil the following criteria will be invited for interview.

Applicants are interviewed by two Matrix tutors (one of whom may be the Head of Training). There is no right of appeal against a selection decision.

Group size is restricted to 15. Following the interview if Matrix makes an offer of a place the applicant will at that time be informed of all the material terms of the proposed contract. The contract is formed when the applicant accepts the offer and pays the required deposit.

3. Criteria for Invitation to Interview and Admission to the Programme

We acknowledge that counselling training attracts learners who may not have recognised 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 two senior members of the tutor team (senior members comprise of the Head of Training and Programme Leads) using the Assessment of Literacy Criteria, and
- b) provide evidence of the applicant's suitability for the training; this will be assessed by two senior members of the tutor 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 both on application form and at interview:

- Ability of the applicant to reflect on their strengths and personal qualities as well as any negative characteristics which may impede their learning.
- Ability of the applicant to articulate their motivation for training.
- Ability of the applicant to demonstrate both motivation and commitment to learning and self-development and show a willingness to explore defensive processes.
- Ability of the applicant 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.
- Ability of the applicant to cope with both the academic and experiential components of the course.
- The applicant must show an awareness of the social context within which counselling takes place and show an open attitude in particular to issues of race, class, gender, disability, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation.
- The applicant must be able to 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 and declaration 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 and declaration 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 and declaration 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

Unfortunately, Matrix is not able to sponsor international students for the purpose of their studies.

4. 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 as some processing of personal material in the group is part of the learning and this may not be possible if a family member (for instance) was present in that group.

5. 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

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