

Manchester Institute For Psychotherapy

Accredited Prior Learning (Apl) Policy

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is a process through which an individual may be awarded credit for informal and formal learning experiences.

This includes recognition of learning from life experiences, existing strengths and previous courses, for example:

- * a person who has a child with special educational needs or disabilities gains learning from caring for that child.
- * a person who has worked as a mental health worker for ten years.

What does APL involve?

- * Identifying what someone already knows and can do.
- * Assessment of that person's existing knowledge in relation to the course requirements.

The underlining principle of APL is that all experiential learning can be quantified in terms of academic credit.

APL procedure following initial application

1. Applicant presents a portfolio of work and a 2,000 essay to the Course Director.
2. Interview with the Course Director and a second trainer to consider the presenting portfolio, to ensure it meets the requirements of the APL policy.

A portfolio of work could include:

- work experience in counselling
- formal and informal education
- independent study, e.g. evidence of CPD
- other relevant experiences
- references

The essay must be on a counselling/therapy related topic.

Criteria:

- The topic is addressed in a lucid, relevant, rigorous and coherent way.
- The essay is well structured with themes/ideas/issues developed in a logical and consistent way.
- There is evidence of personal experience with reference to relevant literature.
- Clear use is made of appropriate concepts to analyse and critique experiences and issues.

- There needs to be evidence of a level of self-awareness.
- Clear distinctions between evidence and opinion should be maintained.
- The conclusion must draw together the main arguments enabling the reader to appreciate how these points have been reached.
- Length of essay should be 2,000 words +/- 10%, not including reference list.

If the candidate satisfies the above requirements, then they may be admitted to the programme for Year 2, 3 or 4, at the discretion of the Course Director.

In the event of a candidate failing to achieve entry, the Course Director would advise them on courses of study and appropriate experience that could be undertaken prior to the next application.

Registration must be for at least one academic year. This is due to the nature of the course in which processes, relationships and content need time to develop.

This policy will be reviewed every 18 months

Last revised December 2018

