UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Education and Psychology		
Course Code(s):	PS049P01UM PS049P31UM	Full-time Part-time	1 Years 2 Years
Course Title:	MSc Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Science Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy Postgraduate Diploma Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy Postgraduate Certificate Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy University Statement of Credit Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of first cohort:	14/Sep/2026		
Specification valid from:	2025/6		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Mr Garrett Kennedy
Head of Department:	Rosalyn Collings

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership)
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The MSc Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy offers a comprehensive and contemporary route into professional therapeutic practice. Designed in alignment with the requirements of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), the programme equips you with the knowledge, skills, and reflective capacity needed to work confidently and ethically as a counsellor or psychotherapist. By the time you graduate, you will be well prepared to apply for the BACP Certificate of Proficiency, supporting your progression toward professional registration within the UK.

Our aim is to develop accountable, ethical, and research informed practitioners who can integrate theory, evidence, and lived experience into meaningful therapeutic work. We are committed to nurturing compassionate, reflective professionals who can respond sensitively and effectively to the diverse needs of clients and communities. Your learning journey is supported by a curriculum that blends theoretical depth with practical experience, ensuring you develop both the academic understanding and the interpersonal skills essential for therapeutic practice. You will understand and be familiar with safeguarding principles and policies, recognising that there may be additional information to learn in the various settings.

From the outset, you will benefit from an extended induction that helps you transition into postgraduate study and familiarise yourself with the systems, expectations, and support available at the University. The curriculum adopts a multifaceted, student-centred approach grounded in humanistic and relational frameworks, encouraging you to explore your own developing therapeutic identity while engaging with a range of integrative techniques. Throughout the programme, you will draw on research-based evidence about the qualities and competencies that underpin effective counselling practice.

A key feature of the course is the opportunity to undertake supervised counselling placements. These experiences allow you to apply your skills in real clinical environments, engage in reflective practice, and contribute meaningfully to the services in which you work. Your academic development is supported through strategically scaffolded assessments that build your confidence and competence over time. These assessments are applied, diverse, and designed to strengthen your psychological literacy, digital skills, and professional readiness. Dedicated assessment unpacking sessions and opportunities for formative feedback ensure you feel supported at every stage.

You will also have the chance to carry out your own research project, guided by experienced staff, enabling you to explore an area of counselling or psychotherapy that inspires you. Career development is embedded throughout the programme, and you will be taught by a diverse team with expertise across multiple therapeutic and psychological perspectives.

Graduates of this programme will be equipped to practice as competent, ethical counselling and psychotherapy professionals across a range of mental health settings. You will be able to assess and address complex issues with creativity and sound judgement,–communicate effectively with specialist and nonspecialist audiences, and demonstrate autonomy, insight, and originality in your ongoing professional development.

Educational Aims of the Course:

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2025/6	H	Full Time	£12203.00
2025/6	Overseas	Full Time	£16950.00
2025/6	H	Part Time	£6102.00
2026/7	H	Full Time	£11015.00
2026/7	Overseas	Full Time	£18645.00
2026/7	H	Part Time	£5508.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7PS070	Foundations of Theory and Practice in Counselling and Psychotherapy	30	SEM1	Core
7PS067	Advanced Integrative and Clinical Practice	30	SEM2	Core
7PS069	Conducting and Interpreting Research	30	SEM1	Core
7PS068	Applied Integrative and Clinical Practice	30	CRYRA	Core
7PS071	Dissertation	60	CRYRA	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7PS070	Foundations of Theory and Practice in Counselling and Psychotherapy	30	SEM1	Core
7PS067	Advanced Integrative and Clinical Practice	30	SEM2	Core
7PS068	Applied Integrative and Clinical Practice	30	CRYRA	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7PS069	Conducting and Interpreting Research	30	SEM1	Core
7PS071	Dissertation	60	CRYRA	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Regulations Exemption:

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Apprenticeship Standard

QAA Benchmark Statement: Counselling and Psychotherapy (March 2022)

BACP Accredited Course Progression Scheme

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGCERT01 Critical evaluate and apply current theories, concepts and insights informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice (Knowing)	
PGCERT02 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and practical and/or professional skills in your discipline. (Knowing)	
PGCERT03 Make informed decisions on complex issues, and communicate your conclusions clearly to different audiences. (Doing)	
PGCERT04 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level. (Doing)	
PGCERT05 Critically analyse, identify and utilise various study methods to improve your own performance. (Being)	
PGCERT06 Reflect on your own achievements, identify future goals and plan for a further career or study (Being)	
PGDIP01 Demonstrate critical evaluation of current theories, concepts and insights informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice. Show how you have applied this knowledge in original and insightful ways. (Knowing)	
PGDIP02 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and practical and/or professional skills in your discipline. (Knowing)	
PGDIP03 Make informed decisions on complex issues, and communicate your conclusions clearly to different audiences employing discipline conventions and expectations. (Doing)	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGDIP04 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, acting independently and autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level. (Doing)	
PGDIP05 Critically analyse, identify and utilise various study methods to improve your own performance. (Being)	
PGDIP06 Reflect on your own achievements and plan for a future career or further study (Being)	
MA01 Reflect and critical understanding and in-depth knowledge of contemporary issues in the application of integrative counselling and psychotherapy, underpinned by an awareness of the latest research, developments and debates. (Knowing)	
MA02 Successfully critique professional knowledge and extend application of knowledge to practice in line with subject benchmark statements and sector frameworks for the scope of practice and education for counselling and psychotherapy while considering the implications for skilful client and interprofessional working. (Knowing)	
MA03 Critically reflect on and evaluate personal skills, identify developmental needs and measure progress against a self-development plan including arising theory and practice. (Being)	
MA04 Ethically apply the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment and continuing professional development, such as: safeguarding, initiative and personal responsibility, decision—making in complex and unpredictable situations and independent learning. (Being)	
MA05 Identify, select and evaluate relevant information and data, drawing heavily on current research, academic publications and appropriate primary sources and competently undertake complex research tasks to enable the achievement of aims and desired outcomes. (Doing)	
MA06 Critically reflect on and manage complex issues - both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. (Doing)	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

Your learning on the MSc Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy is designed to be engaging, supportive, and grounded in the realities of contemporary therapeutic practice. The course is structured to help you build confidence gradually, beginning with foundational counselling and psychotherapeutic concepts before progressing to more complex theories, skills, and professional applications. This scaffolded approach ensures that you feel secure in your understanding as you move through the programme, allowing you to develop both competence and self assurance at a steady pace.

Teaching takes place through a blend of in person and online learning activities, creating a flexible and inclusive environment that supports different learning preferences and personal circumstances. Small group seminars, skills workshops, and experiential activities allow you to practise therapeutic techniques in a safe and supportive setting, while online resources, discussions, and guided tasks help you consolidate your learning at your own pace. These elements work together to create an active, reflective, and engaging learning experience.

Throughout the course, you will be supported to develop the academic, interpersonal, and digital skills needed for postgraduate study and professional practice. You will receive guidance on research methods, academic writing, and digital literacy, including the ethical use of digital tools, data, and emerging technologies such as AI. This ensures that you are confident in navigating both traditional and modern aspects of therapeutic work, from reflective journals and case studies to digital assessment tools and research software. You will develop your understanding of working both as a face-to-face practitioner and via online and telephone by developing an understanding of the OPT competencies framework.

Professional practice is woven throughout your learning. Placement experiences allow you to apply your developing skills in real world settings, supported by supervision and reflective practice. These opportunities help you understand how theory translates into therapeutic work and enable you to grow as a practitioner who can respond thoughtfully and ethically to the needs of clients and in respect of safeguarding practice. Your dissertation further strengthens this integration by allowing you to explore a topic of personal and professional interest through independent research.

By the end of the programme, you will have developed a rich blend of theoretical understanding, practical competence, digital fluency, and reflective capacity. This holistic approach ensures that you are well prepared for the complexities of counselling and psychotherapy practice and confident in your ability to contribute

meaningfully to the profession.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

Assessment on the MSc Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy is designed to support your development as both an academic learner and an emerging practitioner. The assessment strategy is grounded in evidence based practice and aims to provide a balanced, manageable workload that helps you build confidence as you progress through the course. You will encounter a range of assessment types that reflect the varied skills required in counselling and psychotherapy, allowing you to demonstrate your understanding in ways that feel authentic, inclusive, and relevant to your future career.

Assessments are carefully scaffolded so that you can develop your abilities step by step. Early tasks focus on foundational skills, while later assessments encourage deeper critical thinking, complex problem solving, and the application of evidence based arguments. Each module introduces its assessments early in the teaching block, giving you time to plan your workload and engage with the material at a steady pace. You will also take part in assessment unpacking sessions, where expectations are clarified and you can ask questions to ensure you feel fully prepared.

Formative opportunities are built into every module, allowing you to practise key skills and receive personalised feedback before submitting your final work. Continuous feedback is also embedded throughout seminars, workshops, online activities, and peer discussions, helping you refine your ideas and strengthen your academic voice. This ongoing dialogue supports your growth as a reflective practitioner who can evaluate evidence, integrate theory with practice, and communicate effectively with different audiences.

Inclusivity is central to the assessment design. Tasks are varied in format and purpose, ensuring that all students can demonstrate their strengths. Clear guidance, accessible resources, and multiple formats of support—written, audio, and visual—are provided through the virtual learning environment. Additional adjustments are available for students who require them, ensuring that assessments remain fair and accessible.

You will also have opportunities to personalise your assessment experience. Many modules allow you to choose the focus of your work, enabling you to explore themes that reflect your interests, lived experiences, or developing therapeutic identity. Your dissertation offers the greatest level of choice, giving you the chance to design and conduct research on a topic that aligns with your professional aspirations or areas of curiosity within counselling, psychotherapy, or mental health.

By the end of the programme, you will have built a rich portfolio of applied, reflective, and research informed work that demonstrates your readiness for professional practice and your ability to engage thoughtfully with the complexities of therapeutic work.

Further Information for Student:

Transition Support

Your journey through the MSc Counselling and Psychotherapy is supported from the moment you join the programme, with a strong focus on developing both your academic knowledge and the professional skills required for a future career in therapeutic practice. We recognise that our students bring a wide range of experiences, strengths, and support needs, and we are committed to creating an environment where every learner can thrive. Our approach is grounded in the belief that an inclusive, safe, and reflective learning community enables you to develop the critical thinking, resilience, and self-awareness essential for effective counselling practice.

From the outset, you will benefit from an extended induction designed to help you transition smoothly into postgraduate study. Throughout the course, you will have access to a dedicated personal tutor who will support your academic development and career planning, as well as Faculty Enabling Tutors who can assist with additional learning needs or adjustments. Study skills support is available throughout the week, and all learning materials are clearly communicated and accessible through our virtual learning environment. For students who require extra help with academic skills or digital tools, assisted software and tailored resources are available to ensure that learning remains accessible and manageable.

Assessment support is embedded into every module. You will be introduced to each assessment early, with opportunities to attend assessment unpacking sessions, Q&A discussions, and one-to-one appointments to help you prepare with confidence. Formative assessments provide timely feedback, while seminars, workshops, and online activities offer continuous opportunities to reflect on your progress. Digital tools are also used to help you monitor your understanding and build confidence in key areas.

Your wellbeing is central to your success, and pastoral support is available through your personal tutor and the University’s Student Life services, which offer guidance on mental health, wellbeing, accessibility, and inclusion.

Most importantly, your voice plays a vital role in shaping the course. We actively seek your feedback through module evaluations, student representatives, and year lead meetings, using your insights to refine teaching, enhance support, and ensure the learning experience remains relevant, responsive, and empowering for both current and future students.

Student Support:

The University provides a wide range of academic and pastoral support to help students succeed in their studies and personal development. This includes access to the Library and Skills for Learning service and tailored advice from the Careers and Enterprise teams. Students also benefit from 24/7 wellbeing support through WLV Student Life Connect, pastoral care via the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and assistance from the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. Those living in university accommodation have additional access to Residential Life support, and all students can engage with the Students’ Union for advocacy, societies, and further peer-led services.

Currency:

The MSc Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy is designed to remain current, relevant, and responsive to the evolving landscape of therapeutic practice. The curriculum is reviewed regularly to ensure that it reflects the latest research, emerging theories, and contemporary issues affecting individuals, communities, and the wider mental health sector. This commitment to continual renewal means that your learning experience is shaped by up-to-date evidence, current debates, and the real-world challenges facing today’s practitioners.

Throughout the course, you will engage directly with research, including studies conducted by academic staff at the University of Wolverhampton. Research informed teaching is embedded across modules, giving you opportunities to explore contemporary findings, evaluate evidence, and develop your own critical inquiry skills. As you progress, you will learn how to analyse complex information, question assumptions, and apply theory creatively to therapeutic practice. Your dissertation provides a further opportunity to deepen your research expertise by investigating a topic that aligns with your interests and professional aspirations.

The course encourages you to think critically and imaginatively about the challenges facing modern counselling and psychotherapy, including issues related to sustainability, social responsibility, and the changing needs of diverse communities. You will explore how therapeutic practice intersects with wider societal concerns and how counsellors can contribute to ethical, inclusive, and socially aware approaches to mental health support.

The University's Graduate Attributes are woven throughout your learning. You will develop the mindset of a global citizen by engaging with diverse perspectives and understanding the cultural contexts that shape client experiences. You will become a knowledgeable and reflective practitioner through exposure to contemporary theory and evidence based practice. Professionalism is nurtured through supervised placements, ethical decision making, and reflective practice, while digital fluency is strengthened through the ethical use of digital tools, research software, and emerging technologies relevant to therapeutic work.

Interdisciplinary thinking is encouraged across the programme, helping you draw on insights from psychology, health, social care, and related fields. This broad perspective supports your development as a flexible, future ready practitioner who can adapt to new challenges and continue learning throughout your career. You will be kept up to date with changes to PSRB requirements and safeguarding and ethical legislation. By engaging with a curriculum that evolves alongside the profession, you will graduate equipped with the insight, creativity, and critical awareness needed to contribute meaningfully to the future of counselling and psychotherapy.

Personalisation Opportunities:

Your learning on the MSc Counselling and Psychotherapy is designed to be personal, meaningful, and closely connected to your own interests, goals, and lived experiences. We recognise that every student brings a unique perspective to the therapeutic profession, and the course provides space for you to discover your own model of integration while developing the skills and confidence needed for professional practice.

Throughout the programme, you will have opportunities to tailor your learning within modules by selecting topics, case material, or areas of focus that resonate with your personal or professional aspirations. Many assessments allow you to choose themes that reflect your lived experience or emerging therapeutic identity, helping you to build a portfolio of work that feels relevant and authentic. As you progress, you will also be supported to make informed decisions about your placement setting and your research project, both of which offer significant scope for personalisation. With guidance from experienced staff, you will design and carry out a research study on a topic of your choice, enabling you to deepen your expertise in an area that inspires you and aligns with your future career plans.

The course is built on an inclusive curriculum that values diverse perspectives and student identities. You will engage with theories, practices, and discussions that reflect the varied experiences of clients and practitioners, helping you develop cultural sensitivity, self awareness, and a reflective approach to therapeutic work. Learning materials are presented in multiple formats to support different learning preferences, and reasonable adjustments are available for students who require them within the scope of PSRB requirements.

Reflection is a central part of your development as a counsellor. Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to evaluate your growth, consider your strengths, and identify areas for further development by engaging in deep exploration of self via reflexive practice. Academic guidance, supervision, and personal tutoring all play a role in helping you shape your professional pathway and make choices that support your long term goals.

By engaging actively with these opportunities, you will graduate with a strong sense of your professional identity and a clear understanding of how your personal experiences and values can enrich your work as a counselling practitioner.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

Your MSc Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy has been designed to support your development into a confident, ethical, and employable practitioner. From the beginning of the course, you will be encouraged to explore the wide range of career pathways available within counselling and psychotherapy, and you will be supported to build the skills, experience, and professional identity needed to pursue the direction that feels right for you. The programme integrates academic learning with real world practice, helping you understand how therapeutic theory translates into meaningful work with clients and communities. You will be able to apply your interpersonal skills, ethical decision making and safeguarding to other professions, such as education and healthcare.

Professional standards and high expectations around safeguarding, inclusion, and ethical practice, are embedded throughout your modules, placement experiences and assessments. This ensures you understand what is required in the workplace and can demonstrate competence and confidence in order to demonstrate you meet standards by the end of the course.

Practice placements play a central role in your professional development. These placements are more than observational experiences—they are structured partnerships between you, the University, and placement providers. You will work in safe, supportive, and inclusive environments where you can apply your developing skills, receive supervision, and begin shaping your identity as a practitioner. A dedicated placement officer will guide you through each stage of the placement process, ensuring you feel prepared, informed, and supported.

Throughout the course, you will build a portfolio of transferable skills that reflect the expectations of employers and the professional standards set by bodies such as the BACP. You will engage in supervised skills practice, reflective work, and experiential learning that help you understand your strengths and areas for growth. Regular feedback from tutors, supervisors, and peers will help you monitor your progress and identify opportunities to deepen your learning.

Professional development is embedded across modules. You will have opportunities to practise key employability skills such as communication, ethical decision-making, teamwork, and problem-solving. Careers support is available throughout your studies, including sessions on CV writing, interview preparation, and navigating the next steps after graduation. Your personal tutor will work with you to explore your career goals and help you make informed choices about your research project, placement setting, and any areas of special interest you wish to pursue. You can engage in a variety of self-sourced CPD that we will direct you to) and that helps offer a framework for practice that is expected of a fully qualified BACP registered practitioner.

By the end of the programme, you will have gained meaningful experience across a variety of therapeutic contexts, developed a strong sense of your professional identity, and built the confidence to enter the counselling and psychotherapy field as a reflective, competent, and future ready practitioner.