

This programme is designed to provide students with the skills and approaches to work effectively with addiction and gain Masters Qualification. Validated by Middlesex University.

About the Course

The MSc Addiction Counselling is a comprehensive professional training course, focused on working therapeutically with people dealing with addiction. This course is aimed at graduates who are currently working, or plan to work, in addiction services, including counsellors and psychotherapists, doctors, nurses, youth workers, social carers, social workers, psychologists and those who wish to solidify and enhance their qualifications whilst gaining contemporary theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The course is validated, subject to review, by Middlesex University, designed to supplement trainees' existing qualifications and is not a stand-alone counselling qualification. This course will also serve professionals within the addiction field who wish to pursue accreditation with the Addiction Counsellors Ireland (ACI) While the ACI does not accredit courses, it does accredit individual applicants taking into account training, qualifications and experience in the field. The MSc Addiction Counselling* programme is designed to fulfil a number of these essential criteria.

On completion of the course, you will have developed an advanced competency and proficiency working with clients presenting with a wide range of addiction issues in a variety of contemporary settings. You will more fully understand the complex and challenging nature of addiction and recovery, whilst prizing the agency of the individual. You will be well placed to influence attitudes and affect policy in the workplace, community and society.

Please note that the MSc Addiction Counselling & Psychotherapy course is not a stand-alone counselling qualification, and does not qualify you as a Professional Accredited Counsellor, as it is not an accredited course.

The course is designed to give learners a working understanding of the theories, process and dynamics of addiction in an ever-changing biopsychosocial context with a strong focus on effective, evidence-based approaches to treatment and counselling. With the individual at the heart of any treatment approach, students will be equipped with a variety of clinical skills applicable to the complex presentation of addiction that spans diverse populations. The programme addresses the ever-pervasive influence of the internet and how it exacerbates the deleterious effects of behavioural addictions such as compulsive gambling, sexual addiction and gaming. The role of the family is evaluated in addition to broader mental health and dual diagnosis issues. Students will experience addiction from a multidisciplinary viewpoint during site visits and within reflexive clinical practice in addition to developing proficiency in three different talk therapy modalities.



Course Content

YEAR 1: Postgraduate Certificate – 60 Credits (equivalent to 30 ECTS credits)

- Concepts and Controversies in Understanding Addiction
- Talking Therapy Approaches 1: Essentials of Counselling and Reflexive Practice
- Biopsychosocial Aspects of Substance Use
- Talking Therapy Approaches 2: Motivational Interviewing

YEAR 2: Postgraduate Diploma – 60 Credits (equivalent to 30 ECTS credits)

- The Family Dimension in Addiction: Practice Based Considerations
- Talking Therapy Approaches 3: Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
- Contemporary Issues in Behavioural Addiction
- Dual Diagnosis: Treatment Considerations in Mental Health and Addiction

YEAR 2: MSc Component - 60 credits (equivalent to 30 ECTS credits)
Case Study and Dissertation

Additional Course Requirements

- 100 hours Clinical placement/Client work (25 hours must be completed before the end of Year 1 for those progressing to the PG Diploma)
- 25 sessions with a qualified supervisor to support client work
- 25 hours Personal Therapy
- Residential Treatment Centre Site Visit

Course Duration: 24 months; Commencing Autumn 2023 - The course will take place at weekends (Saturday & Sunday, approx. 1 weekend per month)
Venue: PCI College Dublin West

Tuition Fees:

Postgrad Cert: Year 1 - €5,040 (includes MU Registration Fee) | Year 2 - €4,400

Postgrad Dip: Year 1 - €4,940 (includes MU Registration Fee) | Year 2- €3,420

Msc Year 1 - €4,990 | Year 2 €4,450 + €1,200 MU Registration Fee*

*once off fee, paid in first year

Please note that upgrading programmes will incur additional fees

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 15th September 2023

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Send in Complete Application Form & Deposit.
- Copies of Transcripts (Confirming 2.2 on relevant Level 8 Degree or higher) or Copy of Career Portfolio with supporting evidence.
- 500-word written statement on why you believe you are suitable to the course.
- All suitable candidates will be invited to interview.
- Places are limited. Selection is based on application and interview.

Applicants should complete and return the course Application Form accompanied by an initial deposit of €80, which is deductible from course fees if the application is successful. Applicants are entitled to a refund of the initial deposit (less a processing fee of €5) if they decide to cancel within 14 days of receipt of their application, and haven't attended the interview. Please note that the name used on your application needs to be the same name that you have on your passport. Intake interviews will be arranged for suitable applicants. When an applicant has accepted a place, a binding agreement is created and all tuition fees, including deposits, shall be fully non-refundable in all personal circumstances.



Terms & Conditions

Entry Requirements:

ELIGIBILITY YEAR 1

Applicants should possess the maturity to reflect on their development as a person and have successfully completed and obtained a minimum grade 2.2 in one of the following:

- Level 8 NFQ/Level 6 UK accredited degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy/Addiction Counselling
- OR
- Level 8 NFQ/ Level 6UK degree in Social Sciences (Youth Work, Social Care, Social Work, Psychology, Nursing, Medicine, etc.)
- OR
- Accredited Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy/Addiction Counselling plus Level 8 NFQ/Level 6UK degree in an unrelated area plus submission of a clinical portfolio

Applicants who do not meet this criterion may be eligible to enter the course based on prior learning and experience in the area. Students applying based on prior learning, must provide evidence of their knowledge, skill and ability to pursue this programme of study. This should be in the form of a career portfolio outlining and demonstrating your career path as is relevant to this course (including transcripts of any relevant results, statements of prior learning based on systematic reflection) must be submitted with your application.

APPLICATION PROCESS YEAR 1

- Send in Complete Application Form and Deposit (Online / Hard Copy)
- Copies of Transcripts (Confirming 2.2 on relevant Level 8 Degree or higher) or Copy of Career Portfolio
- and 500-word written statement on why you believe they are suitable for the course.

All suitable candidates will be invited to interview

ELIGIBILITY YEAR 2

Students who hold a Postgraduate Certificate in Addiction Counselling & Psychotherapy (PCI College or equivalent) may apply for entry to Year 2 of the course.

Students who do not meet these criteria may be eligible to enter Year 2 on the basis of prior learning and experience in the area. Students applying on the basis of prior learning must provide evidence of their knowledge, skill and ability to pursue this programme of study. This should be in the form of a career portfolio outlining and demonstrating your career path as is relevant to this course (including transcripts of any relevant results, statements of prior learning based on systematic reflection) and be must be submitted with your application.

APPLICATION PROCESS YEAR 2

External Applicants - Graduates of the Postgraduate Certificate Addiction Counselling & Psychotherapy:

- Send complete year 2 application form and deposit (online/hard copy)
- All suitable candidates will be invited to interview
- Places are limited (18). Selection is based on application and interview.

External Applicants:

- Send complete year 2 application form & deposit (online/hard copy)
- Complete course comparison form including:
 - o Copy of current/previous course prospectus/course outline
 - o Transcript of results of all assessments/examinations
 - o Copy of all relevant qualifications
 - o Completed course comparison form
 - o Letter from counsellor to verify previous hours of personal therapy (if applicable)
 - o Letter from supervisor to verify hours of client work with varying presenting issues (must have completed at least 15% of the overall course requirement in the last 12 months)

Terms & Conditions

Language Requirements:

All candidates are required to satisfy the English language requirement. Candidates whose first language is not English and who are presenting qualifications other than the Leaving Certificate may satisfy the requirement through the completion of the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), or equivalent, on the basis that they obtain a minimum band score of 6, which denotes a very good skill level of English. It should be noted that these are the minimum requirements in English and PCI College may set higher requirements in each case.

Fees:

Tuition Fees are non-refundable in all personal circumstances. The balance of fees for tuition is payable, in full, before the course commences, or by availing of an agreed PCI College Direct Debit Payment Plan. Tuition Fees do not include costs of Additional Requirements such as Personal Therapy or Supervision. Once a student is enrolled on a programme of study, no part of course fees are refundable or transferable. No refund will be made in any circumstances to students who fail to attend classes or who commence a course and subsequently feel that the course does not suit him/her. Students who are having their fees paid or part-paid by a third party, should be fully aware that responsibility for payment of fees and liaison with these bodies rests solely with the student and not with PCI College.

The College makes every effort to provide the Programme as described, and to avoid altering course dates, tutors, locations etc. However, should any changes be necessary, you will be notified at the earliest opportunity. All courses run subject to demand and the formation of a viable class cohort. A full refund will be given to all applicants in the event that the class does not proceed.

All courses run subject to demand and the formation of a viable class cohort. A full refund will be given to all applicants in the event that the class does not proceed. Where a student receives a refund and chooses to keep the refunded fees on their account, this credit shall only be applicable to programmes within that programme category (e.g. counselling & psychotherapy or CPD or Psychology). Credit will remain on the students account for a period of two years only from the date of refund. PCI College reserves the right to change any of the details given.

Student Requirements:

Students are required to have sufficient IT skills and access to appropriate IT facilities to participate in the course. All students are assigned an individual email address and given access to an online Student Portal. The Portal includes course materials, an online library and College announcements and students are required to upload all written assignments online. Email is the primary communication method of the College and all students are requested to access their individual email account on a regular basis to ensure receipt of all notices.

Students with a disability may require adjustments to facilitate their learning. These adjustments will be fully evaluated by PCI College. Students are requested to make the College aware of any disability, special need or learning support requirement on application.

Garda Vetting:

Students will be requested to participate in Garda Vetting procedures in relation to programme and accreditation requirements. Please note that Year 1 fees include a €20 charge for Garda vetting process which is required prior to course entry.

Our Terms and Conditions may change and be updated from time to time. Students are requested to review the current version of Terms and Conditions on our website at www.pcicollege.ie

Partnership Description:

This programme is quality assured by Middlesex University and you will receive a Middlesex award on successful completion.

APPLICATION FORM

1. Personal Details (Please fill all fields in Block Capitals)

Forename: _____ Middle Name: _____ Surname: _____

(For Registration—please use name as appears on Passport / Bank Statements)

Address: _____

Date of Birth _____ Nationality _____ Ethnicity _____

Gender: _____ (Leave blank if you prefer not to say)

Telephone: Home: _____

Work: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Current Employment: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
ID No: _____	IT: Y/N
Deposit: _____	
Offer: _____	
Accepted: _____	

Where did you see details of this course advertised? (e.g. online search, online advert, website, e-mail-direct marketing, Facebook, Twitter, word-of-mouth, press, radio, event) _____

Please give names and addresses of two personal referees who would attest to your competence to undertake a course in Counselling & Psychotherapy: (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

1	Name:		2	Name:	
	Address:			Address:	
	Tel:			Tel:	

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence?

Yes No

If yes, please give details? _____

2. Education Background

Highest Education Achieved: Please give details of Course, Institution and Award* :

(Level 8+ in Counselling/Psychotherapy, Social Work, Sociology, Psychology, Social Care or equivalent)

Please list any other courses you consider relevant to your application: _____

* Please note you will be required to bring original Transcript of Results & copies of Relevant Qualifications to interview for verification.



3. Additional Information

If you have a disability or special need, will you require extra learning support?

Yes No

If yes, please give details?

I attach the following:

(Please note that applications cannot be processed until all information is received)

1. Fully completed Application Form
2. 500-word written statement on why you believe you are suitable for the course
3. Copy of all relevant transcripts* (Confirming 2.2 on relevant Level 8 Degree or higher)
or a Career Portfolio
4. €80 deposit (see below)

- Please note you will be required to bring original Transcript of Results & copies of Relevant Qualifications to interview for verification.

4. Declaration

I wish to register for the programme selected above. I have read and understood the terms and conditions for programme registration (as set out in page 2 of this application form & online at www.pcicollege.ie) with PCI College and I agree to be bound by those terms and conditions.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

5. Payment Options

I enclose a deposit of €80

BANK TRANSFER

BOI Account Number: 75917606

Sort Code: 90-01-21

VISA / DEBIT/ MASTERCARD Cheque Other

If you wish to pay by Visa/Debit/Mastercard we will call you once your application has been received.

Please note that your card details will be destroyed once your payment has been processed.