



# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

**Programme Title:** Certificate in Advanced Counselling Studies

**University of Plymouth Programme Code:** TBA

**Partner Faculty:** Academic Partnerships, University of Plymouth

**Partner Delivering Institution:** Cornwall College

**Start Date:** September 2020

**First Award Date:** July 2021

**Date of Approval:** 23 January 2020

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**UNIVERSITY OF  
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## 2. Programme Details

<b>Awarding Institution:</b>	University of Plymouth
<b>Partner/Teaching Institution:</b>	Cornwall College
<b>Accrediting Body (date of reaccreditation and a summary of any conditions/regulations):</b>	N/A
<b>Language of Study:</b>	English
<b>Mode of Study:</b>	Full Time
<b>Final Award Title:</b>	Certificate in Advanced Counselling Studies
<b>Intermediate Award Title:</b>	N/A
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	B942
<b>HECoS Code:</b>	100495
<b>Relevant QAA Benchmark Groups:</b>	Subject Benchmark Statement – Counselling and Psychotherapy 2013 FHEQ – Framework for High Education Qualifications
<b>Date of Programme Approval:</b>	23 January 2020

## 3. Distinctive Features of the programme and the Student Experience

- This is the only HE Level 4 programme of this nature in Cornwall.
- Upon successful completion of this programme graduates are able to progress to the Diploma in Person-Centred Counselling and Therapy; which provides a professional qualification. It is the only HE Level 5 professional qualification in Counselling in Cornwall with British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) Gold Standard Accreditation.
- The Certificate offers a thorough grounding in the Person-Centred approach to counselling; in line with the paradigm which underpins the Diploma.
- This programme explores the core humanistic, theoretical underpinning of Person-Centred counselling. It encourages self-reflective practice and the development of counselling skills as well as embracing the professional standards needed to become a professional counsellor.
- A self and peer assessment structure is utilised, in keeping with the Person-Centred philosophy of the programme, supporting students to develop evaluative skills which are both autonomous and collaborative.
- The programme is staffed by a range of tutors and guest speakers, all of whom maintain current practices in counselling and supervision.
- The BACP framework for Ethical Practice underpins the programme.

#### 4. Programme Structure

<b>College</b>	Cornwall College	<b>Programme Title</b>	Certificate in Advanced Counselling Studies
<b>Academic Year</b>	2020-2021	<b>Mode of Attendance</b>	Full Time
<b>Plymouth Programme Code</b>	0963	<b>Course Duration</b>	One Academic Year
		<b>Total Credits</b>	120

FHEQ Level 4 – Certificate in Advanced Counselling Studies				
F/T Route Year	When in Year? (i.e. Autumn, Spring etc)	Core or Optional	Credits	Module
<b>FHEQ - Level 4 (120 credits) Year 1</b>				
FT	All year	Core	20	CORC1263 Personal development
FT	All year	Core	20	CORC1264 Counselling Theory
FT	All year	Core	20	CORC1265 Counselling Practice
FT	All year	Core	20	CORC1266 Professional Development
FT	All year	Core	20	CORC1267 Counselling Contexts
FT	All year	Core	20	CORC1268 Ethical issues in Counselling

## 5. Programme Aims

1. To offer opportunities to develop your understanding of and practical competence in the use of counselling skills within a Person-Centred framework.
2. To give you the opportunity to practice these skills in order to become more effective as a helper.
3. To promote personal, professional and academic development within the field of counselling.
4. To introduce the contexts in which counselling skills are utilised.
5. To help you gain an awareness of your strengths and limitations, academically and practically through counselling skills development.
6. To enable you to develop evaluative skills.
7. To help you develop the capacities needed to continue your professional development and to deepen your understanding of the profession of counselling.
8. To explore, from a variety of perspectives, the nature of the individual in a social context.

## 6. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

### 6.1 Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion graduates will have developed an understanding of:

- a) The core model of Person-Centred counselling and the Person-Centred concept of Self.
- b) The BACP Ethical Framework for Good Practice
- c) Current and historical cultural issues of relevance to the field of counselling.

### 6.2 Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed an ability to:

- a) Analyse and evaluate person-centred theory in relation to counselling skills.
- b) Demonstrate the ability to utilise a range of learning resources to inform learning and practice.
- c) Explore ethical issues in relation to personal beliefs, assumptions, attitudes and values.

### 6.3 Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:

- a) Communicate more clearly in written and oral forms, researching and presenting work in an appropriate format, and meeting agreed deadlines.
- b) Relate to others and self with respect, empathy and authenticity.
- c) Demonstrate awareness of own internal process.

### 6.4 Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed an ability to:

- a) Assess current professional competence and apply relevant professional boundaries
- b) Demonstrate the ability to put into practice various counselling skills related to person-centred counselling.
- c) Identify appropriate sources for referral purposes.

### 6.5 Practical Skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed an ability to:

- a) Identify, reflect upon and evaluate their use of counselling skills.
- b) Engage in collaborative relationships, developing insight into their own attitudes, beliefs, assumptions and values.
- c) Identify, understand and apply a code of ethical practice.

## 7. Progression criteria for final and intermediate awards

*Approved "progression route(s)" are those where successful achievement in this programme enables direct alignment to join a stage of another programme. This is an approach employed primarily for Foundation Degree students to "top-up" to complete a bachelor's degree, but may be employed for other award types.*

*This is in part an automated admissions criterion and therefore progression may be impacted on by availability of a position on the progression award; however progression opportunity, if not available in the first year of application, is guaranteed within 3 years.*

*Progression arrangements with institutions other than the University of Plymouth carry an increased element of risk. It is necessary for the delivering partner institution to obtain formal agreement from that institution to guarantee progression for existing students on the programme. For progression to the University of Plymouth, should there be the need to withdraw the progression route programme(s) then either this will be delayed to provide progression or appropriate solutions will be found. This arrangement is guaranteed for existing students that complete their programme of study with no suspensions or repeat years and who wish to progress immediately to the University.*

Upon successful completion of the Certificate in Advanced Counselling Studies students will be able to progress to the Diploma in Person-Centred Counselling and Therapy at Cornwall College. It should

be noted that students who do progress to the Diploma will be expected to have in place DBS certificate.

The contribution of marks from prior levels of study to the progression award is governed by University of Plymouth regulations.

## 8. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

## 9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Services arrangements

Entry Criteria (Qualifications)	Details
Functional Skills  GCSE (or equivalent)	L2 Literacy and L2 Numeracy  Minimum of Grade C/grade 4 in Maths, English Language and Science (if science based programme)
Counselling Related Qualifications	A Level 2 qualification which includes counselling skills. (Remote training courses are not eligible). This level is required to evidence that a candidate has been observed and assessed in counselling skills practice which allows the programme team to have confidence in an applicant's basic ability to work safely and professionally with peer skills practice. This puts all applicants on a level playing field regardless of other entry qualifications.
AS/A Levels	48 UCAS tariff points to include at least 32 points from A2 level in appropriate subjects – this would have to include observed counselling skills practice.
BTEC National Diploma/Extended Diploma  BTEC L3 Diploma  BTEC 90 Credit Diploma/Subsidiary Diploma	48 UCAS tariff points – PPP grades in an appropriate subject - this would have to include observed counselling skills practice.  48 UCAS tariff points – MP grades in an appropriate subject - this would have to include observed counselling skills practice.  48 UCAS tariff points – in an appropriate subject and considered only with combination of other relevant level 3 qualifications - this would have to include observed counselling skills practice.
Access to HE Diploma	Successful completion of Access to HE Diploma with at least 45 credits at level 3 in an appropriate subject - this would have to include observed counselling skills practice.

Entry Criteria (Qualifications)	Details
Irish/Scottish Highers	48 UCAS tariff points to include at least 32 points from Scottish Advanced Highers/Irish Highers - this would have to include observed counselling skills practice.
Other Level 3 qualifications	Will be taken into consideration and dependent upon subject area and number of units studied - this would have to include observed counselling skills practice.
Mature Applicants (over 21)	Mature applicants with relevant experience but without the stated entry qualifications will be considered individually at interview
Accreditation of Prior Learning	<a href="http://www.plymouth.ac.uk">www.plymouth.ac.uk</a>
Independent Safeguarding Agency (ISA)/Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance required	No
Capability statement	<p>The College is very support of students with disabilities, and year-on-year are making adjustments to assist these students throughout their studies. On notification of any registered disability or need for learning support, Admissions will notify the Programme Manager and Student Services to ensure that applicants are aware of the support available. Students Services will contact applicants about how to apply for support and guide them through the process to ensure that support is in place at the start of the academic year. The Programme Manager will check prior to commencement of the programme and ensure that appropriate adjustments are undertaken (if necessary). It should be noted that students will be expected to film each other in dyad and triad counselling practice with their peers. This will allow them to observe their own counselling skills, to reflect on how effective they are and to evaluate areas for development.</p> <p>The broad entry requirements enables applicants from a range of backgrounds and disciplines the opportunity to apply. All applicants will be interviewed.</p>

## 10. Programme Specification Mapping (UG)

Core Modules		Programme Intended Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 6)															Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use UNISTATs definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical
		Knowledge & understanding (6.1)			Cognitive & intellectual skills (6.2)			Key & transferable skills (6.3)			Employment related skills (6.4)			Practical skills (6.5)				
		a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c		
Level 4	CORC1263	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓					✓		N	CW 70% / P1 30%
	CORC1264	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓						Y	CW 100%
	CORC1265		✓		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	N	CW 100% P1 P/F
	CORC1266		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		N	CW 100%
	CORC1267	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	Y	CW 50% / P1 50%
	CORC1268		✓				✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	Y	CW 100%
Level 4 LOs		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Confirmed Award LOs																		

## 11. Transitional Arrangements

All new applicants to the programme will enrol onto the newly updated version. There are currently no students on suspension. Any student who fails the academic year at the end of 2019-2020 who could potentially be on a repeat of the academic year will be expected to enrol onto the newly updated version but will be able to APL previously achieved credits. (This statement will be removed and replaced with N/A from September 2021)