

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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Please check the Programme Directory for the most up to date version:

[UG Programme Directory](#)

[PG Programme Directory](#)

Section 1 Regulatory Details

Awarding body	Wrexham University
Teaching institution	Wrexham University
Final award and programme title (Welsh)	MSc Cwnsela
Final award and programme title (English)	MSc Counselling
Exit awards and titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling Postgraduate Certificate in Counselling
Credit requirements	MSc Counselling (180 credits) Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling (120 credits) (Mandatory 100 hour Placement Completion to qualify with PG Dip) Postgraduate Certificate in Counselling (60 credits)
Does the programme offer Foundation Year route?	No
Placement / Work based learning	Compulsory Work Placement
Length and level of the placement	100 hours
Faculty / Department	FSLS – Counselling and Psychology
HECoS Code	100495
Intake Points	September per year
Mode of Attendance	Part time
Normal Programme Length	2 Years (with potential for an extra year to complete placement hours/dissertation)
Mode of Study and Location of delivery	Campus based - Plas Coch Campus
Language of delivery	English
Welsh Medium Provision	The programmes will be delivered through the medium of English. Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh. There is also the potential to source placements in the Welsh language.
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation	The course is not accredited under a PSRB, however it is aligned to the BACP's framework for training Counselling professionals. This information is correct at the time of validation, please refer to the PSRB register for current accreditation status.
External reference points	<i>Guidance – please list the relevant:</i> QAA Subject Benchmark Statement s for Counselling and Psychotherapy https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-

	code/subject-benchmark-statements/counselling-and-psychotherapy QAA Characteristics Statements for Master's Degree Higher Education Credit Framework CQFW PSRB accreditation guidelines
Entry Requirements	The University website sets out the approved entry requirements for each programme, including minimum qualifications and English Language requirements Minimum 2:1 degree in social sciences subjects or 2:2 with relevant experience.
Record of Prior (Experiential) learning	Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure Applicants may enter the programme at various levels with Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or Recognition of Prior Experiential learning (RPEL) in accordance with the University Academic Regulations. The course complies with BACP requirements that not more than one third of a course can be considered for RPL. This means only the first year of the programme can be considered for RPL. RPEL is awarded at the discretion of the programme team, following assessment in accordance with Wrexham University RP(E)L procedures.
Is DBS check required on entry?	Yes All applicants successful in being offered a place on the programmes will be subject to a satisfactory DBS clearance undertaken by Wrexham University. The required type of check is Enhanced Check for adult workforce.
Does the Suitability for Practice Procedure apply to the programme?	Yes
Derogation to Academic Regulations	No
Date of Approval	June 2025
Date and type of Revision	September 2025: Change the delivery semester for four modules (v2)

Section 2 Programme Details

Aims of the programme

- To provide a contemporary person-centred counselling training for people who seek to qualify to work as counsellors of adult individual clients.
- To provide sufficient master's level training hours for those who may seek individual accreditation with BACP or NCPS in the future.
- To evidence a minimum of 100 hours of clinical supervised placement practice.
- To provide a firm foundation for further professional development.

Programme Structure Diagram, including delivery schedule

Part-time delivery

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2)	Year of Study
Level 7	COU701	Research Methods	20	CORE	1	Y1
Level 7	COU702	Counselling Theory 1	20	CORE	1 & 2	Y1
Level 7	COU703	Counselling Skills 1	20	CORE	1	Y1
Level 7	COU707	Research Project	60	CORE	1 & 2	Y2
Level 7	COU704	Counselling Theory 2	20	CORE	1 & 2	Y2
Level 7	COU705	Counselling Skills 2	20	CORE	2	Y1
Level 7	COU706	Advanced Counselling Practice	20	CORE	1 & 2	Y2

Programme Learning Outcomes

- *K* – Knowledge and understanding.
- *I* – Intellectual skills
- *S* – Subject skills
- *P* – Practical, professional and employability skills

No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	PG Cert	PG Dip	MA/MSc	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
1	Evaluate theoretical knowledge for the principles and methods in Person-Centred Counselling.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	
2	Assess and develop a critical understanding of how theory may be applied with clients, ensuring ethical and professional practice.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	
3	Create and design a research project which identifies the aims and objectives of applied research, demonstrating the ability to collect, organise, and critically and systematically present a research project.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
4	Evaluate own ability to make effective use of clinical supervision to reflect on and improve practice.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	
5	Arrange an appropriate relationship between agency and University to demonstrate critically informed decision making and ethical practice, integrating both organisations' policies and procedures.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	
6	Develop own skills in working within a person-centred counselling approach.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	
7	Develop skills in working both independently and as part of a team.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	
8	Develop skills including time-management, active listening, project management, and personal reflexivity that enhance employability.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	
9	Develop a critical awareness of the history of ideas, the cultural context, philosophical basis, social and political theories that inform and influence the development of counselling and psychotherapy.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	

Learning and teaching strategy

Theory lectures and workshops / seminars:

This is where the theory of counselling and psychotherapy (Person-centred and experiential in the main), all professional and academic matters will be presented and explored. It is also where more experiential workshops will be offered.

Advance reading is strongly recommended so that students can be involved in group discussions to test out and refine developing understanding of new ideas.

Normally only one tutor is present for seminar / lecture sessions, but where possible 2 will be present.

Skills Practice groups

The initial purpose is to provide an opportunity for students to practice therapeutic listening and therapeutic skills development with each other. Counselling Skills (Year 1) and Practice Improvement (Year 2) will be small groups or triads as necessary.

Supervision and support groups (Clinical Practice Improvement) (Year 2):

These groups are for the purpose of improving clinical practice in order to benefit clients. They will normally contain a maximum of 12 members and will involve live counselling practice and the playing of audio client / counsellor sessions to the group for constructive feedback. This group will involve self, peer and tutor assessment of clinical practice.

Experiential / Personal Development groups:

The experiential and personal development groups will run throughout the Masters programme with 1 hour per week allocated to them. They will usually contain a maximum of 12 participants as required by BACP. The personal development groups will be facilitated by someone who is an experienced person-centered practitioner but is not otherwise part of the training team (where possible) as required by the BACP. The hours will be flexibly delivered to enable the optimum student experience; this may mean groups run on alternate weeks for two hours rather than hourly each week. Attendance at Personality Development groups is a compulsory element of the programme.

Pattern of attendance:

Students attend one day per week in Year one and one day per week in Year two. The teaching day is 8 hours including provision for breaks.

Residential weekends

Residential weekends are a common feature of counsellor training, there will be one residential weekend per year. Attendance at residential weekends is compulsory as it forms a part of the core training hours which required for successful completion of the course and any future application to BACP for individual accreditation. The residential will be held on the University campus, so as to ensure a reduced cost for students.

Clinical Placements:

In year two of the Diploma of Higher Education clinical placements and supervision will commence after completing a readiness to practice exercise. This is a placement of a minimum of 100 hours supervised counselling practice. This will be agreed between the student, placement provider and supervisor and approved by the Programme Leader (or member of the Programme Team).

Assessment strategy

Assessments are designed to reflect a person-centred philosophy of learning. This means that a student's own evaluation of work, along with feedback from peers and tutors will form part of assessments. However, this is also a course which seeks to provide the highest standard of professional education and tutors take very seriously their obligation to trainees, potential future clients and the profession as well as to their own integrity. To this end assignments are also purposefully designed to reflect the professional standards required of practicing counsellors / psychotherapists in line with the BACP Core Curriculum.

A variety of assessment strategies will be used, in order to support the Universities approach to working with AI, this will include the use of presentations and video/audio recording equipment.

Assignments will include theory essays, skills transcriptions and evaluations of recorded material as well as live practice with peers in group settings. Case studies and portfolios of reports evidencing clinical practice as well as logs of client contact hours will form evidence of clinical competence. Practice sessions of recorded client material will be rated for level of competence in in key person-centred practice skills.

Disclaimer

Throughout quality assurance processes we have ensured that this programme engages with and is aligned to:

Academic Regulations: <https://wrexham.ac.uk/academic-regulations-policies-and-procedures/>

The University Skills Framework: <https://wrexham.ac.uk/careers/skills-framework/>

Welsh Language Policy: <https://wrexham.ac.uk/about/welsh-at-wrexham-university/>

Equality and Diversity Policy: <https://wrexham.ac.uk/about/equality-and-diversity/>

The Student Union offers support for students, please access their website
<https://www.wrexhamglyndwrsu.org.uk/>