



GCS POST QUALIFICATION PROGRAMME

FOR QUALIFIED COUNSELLORS AND PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

COURSE PROVIDER



ACCREDITED BY



ABOUT GCS TRAINING



The Gloucestershire Counselling Service (GCS) was established in 1980 and since its inception has trained counsellors.

GCS provides a comprehensive training programme for Diploma level trainees, working in a psychodynamic modality. Our Post Qualification Programme extends our training to encompass further professional development for all counsellors trained in all modalities, to support them in the process of professional accreditation as they become confident and independent practitioners

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Service**

PURPOSE



We are pleased to offer both recently qualified counsellors and psychotherapists an engaging and supportive programme of seminars and discussion groups to help them navigate the transition from qualification to confident and fully independent practitioner.

The Post Qualifying Programme is open to all qualified counsellors and psychotherapists, regardless of modality, although the ethos of the programme is psychodynamic.

Membership of the programme does not offer the offer of a placement with the GCS counselling service, but such placements may be advertised to Post Qualifying Programme participants.

Dates and themes for 2026 are:

Dates

Seminar topic

Friday 09/01/2026
Friday 13/02/2026
Friday 13/03/2026

Psychodynamic approaches to working with complex client presentation

Friday 08/05/2026
Friday 12/06/2026
Friday 10/07/2026

Research, evidence and practice

Friday 09/10/2026
Friday 06/11/2026
Friday 11/12/2026

TBC

PROGRAMME DETAILS



FORMAT

The Post Qualifying Programme will meet in-person on the afternoon of the second Friday of each month at Alma House in Stroud.

Each meeting will comprise:

13:00 – 15:00 Seminar

15:30 – 17:00 Work Discussion Group

Additionally, a GCS reading group will be offered from 18:00 and participants in the Post Qualifying Program are welcome to join.

The Seminar Programme will be a set of three related seminars for each term, of interest to counsellors and psychotherapists, on topics such as complex trauma and personality disorders, all developed to support your further learning. Each will be presented by a specialist on the subject and changes each term.

The Work Discussion Group is an opportunity to reflect with colleagues on the experience of moving from trainee status to that of independent practitioner and thereby find guidance and support at this new stage of professional life.

At each meeting a member of the group (or two if time allows) will be invited to bring a vignette of their experience which will then be discussed and thought about both in practical terms and from a psychodynamic perspective. The topics for discussion are determined by what group members wish to bring and they may include such matters as accreditation, finding private or employed work, leaving the training environment, and a new relationship to supervision.

The Work Discussion Group will be facilitated by a group facilitator.

PARTICIPATION AND FEES

In order that the Work Discussion Group and seminars have some continuity we ask participants to commit to and attend a full term (three sessions) of Work Discussion Group meetings and seminars to enable a structured programme. These can be booked online on our website: [Post Qualification Programme](#)

CPD certificates will be issued termly.

Fees per term are £300

ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

GCS is offering the Post Qualifying Programme in order to help newly qualified counsellors and therapists achieve professional registration. There will be an optional termly meeting on preparing accreditation applications in addition to the standard programme, and individual tutorials if required.





APPLICATIONS AND JOINING

Applications are welcome from all qualified counsellors and therapists regardless of modality.

Applications should include the following:

- Short letter explaining why you would like to join the PQP and your expectations of it
- CV, including number of counselling hours, both before and since qualification
- Professional accreditation status
- If you did not qualify at GCS, please send a scan of your relevant qualification certificates

If you have not previously trained or worked at GCS, please provide the details of one referee (preferably a supervisor) willing to comment on your counselling capability. If you are a GCS trainee or graduate, your last supervision report will be requested from Training.

Please email to training@gloscounselling.org.uk. Applicants may be invited for a short interview with the Post Qualifying Programme Course Leader before an offer of a place is made.

People may join the programme at the beginning of each term. The programme runs as an ongoing series and should not be regarded as being limited to the academic year.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE



In the event of a participant anticipating or experiencing difficulty in meeting financial obligations to GCS, he/she should contact the Diploma & Post Qualifying Programme Lead as soon as possible so that a mutually appropriate solution can be sought. An award cannot be made if there are any outstanding fees unless an acceptable arrangement for the deferred payment has been made with GCS.

GCS reserves the right to cancel a Post Qualifying Programme at any time if there are insufficient numbers of participants to make the course viable.

GCS reserves the right to terminate or extend the training agreement with a participant in the event of the participant not meeting the requirements of the Post Qualifying Programme Programme and/or those of GCS.

GCS reserves the right to refuse the offer of a place on the Post Qualifying Programme.

OTHER MATTERS

IT EQUIPMENT

GCS operates an entirely paperless distribution of counselling documentation. We also make much use of our secure internal email system for communications, counselling placement and other service matters. It is therefore important that you have access to IT, Office 365 and printing facilities. Please speak to us if this will be difficult for you in order that we know what further support to offer you.

COMPLAINTS

GCS operates a complaints policy. Complaints should be in writing addressed to the Chief Executive and will be dealt with in accordance with the complaints procedure, a copy of which is available on request.

APPEALS

Anyone wishing to appeal against a clinical decision to suspend or cease work with clients can appeal. The appeal procedure is available on request.

WORKING WITH GCS

Our Adult Counsellor Handbook and Workplace Handbook, giving details of the counselling service and administration, will be issued to PQP Counsellors who are working in the counselling service.



FIRE PROCEDURE

Upon hearing the alarm (continuous ring) please evacuate the building; close the window and door to the room you are vacating.

ESCAPE ROUTES

1st Floor

From all rooms: down the main stairs to the main entrance

Top Floor

From rooms 13 & 14: down the stairs from room 13 to the 1st floor. If stairs impassable through small Fire Door to room 9 then down stairs to the 1st floor and then down the stairs to the main entrance.

From rooms 9, 10, 11 & 12 down the stairs to the 1st floor. If stairs impassable through small Fire Door in room 9 to room 13 then down stairs from room 13 to the 1st floor and then down the stairs to the main entrance.

SESSION LEADERS/COUNSELLORS

Should make sure that:

- Attendants (trainees/clients) vacate the premises safely to the assembly point.
- You ensure that Windows and doors are closed when leaving the room as the last person
- Your group assembles at the assembly point and all are accounted for, no one is to leave or re-enter the building until given the 'all clear'

ASSEMBLY POINT: In the Shambles market area

STAY CALM but please evacuate the building as quickly and safely as possible even if you suspect it is a false alarm. DURING 'OFFICE HOURS' office staff will contact the emergency services. OUT OF 'OFFICE HOURS' should you discover a fire and the alarm has not yet been heard please raise the alarm by breaking a fire point (alarm button). On evacuation please contact the emergency services as soon as possible.

PERSONAL DETAILS & EMERGENCY CONTACTS

We ask that you provide some personal details including 2 people we can contact in case of emergency - these do not need to be your next of kin.

How do I complete the information?

The Personal Details Record Form (PDRF) is an electronic Form held on the Microsoft Forms App and you can complete it [here](#).

What do you do with the information I provide?

The information provided is stored within the Microsoft Forms App which is only accessible to Management Office Staff. In preparation for the new academic year, we will export all new information into an excel spreadsheet which is stored within the Management Office Staff group on Sharepoint. We do not share your information and will only use it if necessary.

What if my details change?

Please complete the form again using the link above.

Do I have to provide all the details?

No, your personal information is yours to distribute as you wish. However, please consider what information we would need should you be involved in an emergency.