

Certificate in Counselling Children and Young People

Dear Applicant,

We have faced many challenges in relation to the transition to online learning as a result of the coronavirus. Not least of these challenges has been to discharge our obligations to our students in ways that meet both their needs and, in the wider field, the needs of their clients. We have been on a steep learning curve in acquiring and learning to use the technology involved in online delivery of training to ensure the continuity and integrity of both the academic and experiential aspects of our courses.

At the same time our professional bodies COSCA and BACP have collaborated with us to develop guidance and information for students and to facilitate a transition to online teaching, counselling and supervision. Both professional bodies have taken the stance that it is essential to support students to continue to complete their training.

The Certificate in Counselling Children and Young People will be delivered online until it is safe for us to meet again face-to-face. We have been working in this format since March and have found that it still enabled us to experience each other in a meaningful way as well as to do all of the things we would normally do, including working in smaller groups. The feedback has been really positive and the different way of meeting each other has not felt like a barrier either to learning or to enjoying the usual benefits of being part of a learning community.

Changes to course delivery and final Certificate

The curriculum for weekend two of Module 2 is built around non-directive play therapy skills. Unfortunately, this cannot be delivered on an online platform. It really needs to be an in-the-room, down-on-the-floor, running-around experiential day; just talking heads on video won't work.

Also, COSCA guidance on course delivery during the coronavirus period is clear that course content should not be compromised by any adaptations in delivery and we cannot risk deviating from our course learning outcomes or you will not meet the criteria to pass the Certificate. Play therapy skills are essential for any counsellor working with children and young people and a vital part of our curriculum.

We have accommodated this situation by delivering the theory of non-directive play therapy on day one of the designated two days for this content. This means that the course group will meet on just one day that weekend. When we are able to meet again face-to-face, we will schedule the play therapy experiential practice day (it will be a Saturday) so that you can complete the Certificate curriculum.

You will no doubt be concerned that this will result in a delay in receiving your Certificate, especially if you are relying on this to support any applications for jobs. We will continue with

the rest of the course online as planned so, when you have completed your written assignments and your practice hours, we will issue you with a letter stating that you have provisionally received your Certificate pending five hours to be completed and that this was due to the coronavirus pandemic. As soon as we have the play therapy skills day, you will receive your full official Certificate.

We also understand that coronavirus may have had an impact on your client work and it may take some time to accumulate your required hours of practice. Please don't worry about this. We will work with you to ensure that you can complete your Certificate.

We wish to offer you the opportunity to join the Certificate training if that is what meets your needs or to defer undertaking the course until it can be delivered face-to-face. Please note that this will be determined by the University in accordance with government guidance and may be significantly far ahead in time.

Susan McGinnis
Course Coordinator
Certificate in Counselling Children and Young People



Times Higher Education University of the Year 2012 & 2019
Times Higher Education Widening Participation Initiative of the Year 2019
The University of Strathclyde is rated a QS 5-star institution

