



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

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POSTGRADUATE
CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA IN
PRACTICE BASED PLAY THERAPY

Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in PRACTICE BASED PLAY THERAPY

Course Overview

The course focuses on play therapy as a method of alleviating a child's emotional, conduct, social and mental health problems using play and creative arts therapies. Through the various therapeutic processes and techniques it enables children to help themselves and enable their potential. The course builds on practical experience, enhancing the learner's skills through exposure to theory, policy, research and work-based learning. Offered in collaboration with the Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy (APAC) – course developers, this part-time blended learning course provides an opportunity to obtain

an internationally recognized play therapy qualification and to become a certified play therapist. The course has been developed to meet the Play Therapy International (PTI) standards of practice and training, in conjunction with Play Therapy Ireland (PTIrl).

Who Should Apply?

This course is suitable for those who wish to add therapeutic play skills to their existing qualification. It is aimed at individuals who work with children in roles such as counsellor psychotherapists, psychologists, teachers, occupational therapists, nurses and social workers.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should have a first or second class honours degree in one of a range of relevant subject areas including psychology, education, childhood studies, social work, or have a recognised equivalent professional qualification in a health, social services or education related field such as nursing, psychology, social work, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, counselling or teaching. Candidates are required to become registered members of Play Therapy Ireland in order that their work is governed by a relevant ethical framework.



www.nuigalway.ie/adultlearning

COURSE FACTS

ECTS: 30 (Certificate), 30 (Diploma)

Professional award (PTI): Practice Certificate in Therapeutic Play Skills (Stage 1); Certified Play Therapist (Stage 2)

NFQ: Level 9

Duration: part-time 20 months (Certificate), 20 months (Diploma)

Mode of study: Block release (summer school)

Fees:

EU: €3,700 (Certificate), €3,900 (Diploma)

Non EU: €4,200 (Certificate), €4,400 (Diploma)

Start date:

PG Certificate: Tuesday, 6 July, 2021 to Tuesday, 20 July, 2021 (inclusive)

PG Diploma: Tuesday, 6 July, 2021 to Tuesday, 20 July, 2021 (inclusive)

Applicants must also have at least 2 years experience working with children in the sector and have a working knowledge of the basic psychological theories, including child development and attachment.

In exceptional circumstances candidates without a degree or a recognised equivalent qualification, but with significant experience of working with children and other relevant qualifications, may apply. In such cases a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their knowledge and experience of the sector and an ability to study at this level will be required. An interview will also be carried out by the programme board. Non-standard applicants are encouraged to apply immediately as it may take up to 6 weeks to process your application and associated documents. Please contact the Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy for more information on this application process.

COURSE MODULES

Year One - Postgraduate Certificate

- **Orientation to setting up and developing practice-based play therapy within an integrated holistic model:** pre-requisites, equipment, ethical framework, contracts, role of clinical supervision, clinical governance
- **Using symbolic play therapy tools and metaphor safely in a non directive approach with individual children:** art – painting and drawing, clay, creative visualisation, movement, music, puppets, sand play, therapeutic story telling
- **Using creative arts therapies (as a means to processing and reaching the unconscious):** child development models, neuroscience evidence, psychological theories
- **Practicum:** clinical placement (100 hours)

Year Two - Postgraduate Diploma

- **Working therapeutically and developing skills with children:** developing metaphorical play therapy skills at an advanced level
- **Working therapeutically and representing children with severe problems:** decision taking based on deepening skills for working with more severe problems
- **Establishing a play therapy service:** critically reviewing existing materials and integrating the therapeutic tool-kit with practice and research
- **Practicum:** clinical placement (100 hours)

THIS PART-TIME PROGRAMME PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED PLAY THERAPY QUALIFICATION AND BECOME A CERTIFIED PLAY THERAPIST



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Course Structure and Delivery

The taught element of the programme is organised as a 15-day residential summer school at NUI Galway, followed by independent study, course assignments and a clinical practice component of 100 hours working with children. This workload normally requires a maximum of 20 months spanning over two academic years to complete. Students can exit the programme at the end of stage one or progress into the second stage – the Diploma phase which has a similar course structure of 15-day residential summer school, course assignments and 100 hours of clinical supervision. Students are supported in their assignment work by their course tutor and their supervisor oversees their clinical practice module.

The emphasis in course delivery is on experiential and practical training. It's what you will be able to achieve with children through play that's important – not just your theoretical knowledge. The experiential training has three important aspects:

- Understanding the therapeutic processes that children undergo
- Uncovering any personal issues that may arise for you in your work and how to manage them

- Non-directive play therapy – using therapeutic methods, play and creative arts media that the children choose to use

Learning will mainly be experiential and collaborative using pair/ group work, role-play and case presentation. The teaching team consists of experienced therapists as well as trainers who are experienced in therapeutic playroom techniques and theoretical knowledge which will inform your practice, help you to reflect and to point to ways of developing your own theoretical framework.

How can I apply?

Monika Jephcott is the Chief Executive of APAC and can be contacted for more detailed information about the programme, the application procedure and to discuss your suitability for the course. A separate application pack will be issued from APAC following your initial enquiry.

Closing date for application Monday 31st May 2021

A course offer will be made to successful applicants on a rolling basis following application. Early application is advised.



www.nuigalway.ie/adultlearning

PROGRAMME ENQUIRIES

 Maria Bayne

 contact@apac.org.uk

The Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy
www.apac.org.uk or www.playtherapy.org.uk

OTHER GENERAL ENQUIRIES

 summerschool@nuigalway.ie

 / contact@apac.org.uk



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