Get ready for Doctor of Counselling Psychology

Welcome to UWE and welcome to the Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology Programme. I hope you're excited to be starting the programme soon.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us.

Dr Tanya Carpenter
Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Preparing and arrival
You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Enrolment
Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Enrolment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Enrolment website.

ID card - upload your photo now
We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

How to make a successful start to your programme

Specific for your course
In previous correspondence you will have already been informed about our additional requirements which must be completed ahead of Enrolment and Induction:

- **Disclosure and Barring Service check**
- **Occupational Health clearance**

If any of these requirements are still outstanding, you must send the relevant paperwork to us, as instructed, as soon as possible.

Please be aware that Incomplete Disclosure Barring Service and Occupational Health Checks will impact on your ability to access learning materials, attend placements and complete your enrolment onto your degree programme.

Introduction to the programme:

14 September 10am – 4pm is an opportunity to meet the programme team, start preparing for the programme with an overview, including placements and Doctorate research. This will continue the following **Monday 21 September 10am – 4pm** with module familiarisation, programme structure, introducing you to PSRB's (BPS & HCPC) standards, requirements and professional conduct, and information about UWE services and departments. You will also have the Qualitative and Quantitative Methods module induction on the same day.

Terms 1 starts on **Monday 28 September at 9.30am**.

More details to follow.

Check-in and Placements

We will be contacting you soon with a **date to meet-up via MS Teams online** which is an opportunity for us all to meet each other, check-in to see how you are getting along with programme preparations including placements and answering any questions you may have. We'll also be sending you updated handbooks to support you with preparations.

Please note we have a generic email address specifically dedicated to placements, where a member of the Doctorate placement team can be reached DCPlacements@uwe.ac.uk
We can start making initial contact with your suggested placement providers and begin informal placement monitoring before September (where possible) but the 'formal' approval of placements, placement enrolment at UWE and start of placement cannot commence until DBS/OH checks are completed and confirmed and you are fully enrolled on the programme.

Engage with your programme

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Here are some of our recommended titles for you to read, to be inspired by and to understand the scope of your degree programme:

Counselling psychology

- Bor, R. & Watts, M. (eds) (2017). *The Trainee Handbook Fourth Edition A Guide for Counselling & Psychotherapy Trainees.* London: Sage, 4th. ed.
- Jacobs, M. (2013). *The Presenting Past. The Core of Psychodynamic Counselling and Therapy.* Open University Press, 4th. Ed.
- Kasket E. (2017). *How to Become a Counselling Psychologist*. Taylor & Francis Ltd.
- Kuchuck, S. (2021). *The Relational Revolution in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy.* Confer Books, London.

Research

- Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2013). Successful qualitative research: A practical guide for beginners. London: Sage.
- Companion website: http://www.uk.sagepub.com/braunandclarke/
- Field, A. (2013). Discovering statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics, 4th ed. Oxford: Sage.
- Companion website: http://studysites.uk.sagepub.com/field4e/main.htm

Counselling and psychotherapy research

- McLeod, J. (2011). Qualitative research in counselling and psychotherapy, 2nd ed.London: Sage.
- Vossler, A. & Moller, N. (Eds.), (2014). The counselling & psychotherapy research handbook. London: Sage.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

International students
The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

For any questions about the programme, of course, please contact:
Dr Tanya Carpenter via email at Tanya.Carpenter@uwe.ac.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026