Things you should think about before applying

Before applying for any of our courses, it might be helpful to ask yourself the following questions:

1. Why do you want to follow the course you are applying for?

We have found that sometimes students do not have a clear idea of how the courses we offer will build on their previous work experience or contribute to particular career or life goals. It is important to think through your motivations for taking the course and how it might help your own personal or career development.

2. How can you effectively manage your time to allow for 16 hours of study per week (including attendance/conferencing time)?

Sometimes with family and work commitments as well as study, students can find themselves rather over-stretched. So it can be helpful to draw up a realistic timetable of how you can fit the study requirements into your existing commitments before applying for the course.

3. How comfortable are you with independent study?

While there is some group work involved in all our courses and you will develop close relationships with other students during your time of study, you will also be required to spend time working alone on coursework or in the library. As we are offering postgraduate level training, we do expect students to be self-motivating, proactive and work without close guidance. Is this a style that would suit you?

4. How familiar are you with the general area you wish to study?

If you are successful in the application process, you will be asked to attend an Admissions Day where you will find out more about the course content and structure. However it is helpful if you have a broad idea of the general scope of the course content and how it might help you understand your organization and individuals within it before you apply. Read around this website to get some idea of what we cover on the course and look up some general textbooks in the area (e.g. Psychology at Work, edited by Peter Warr; Penguin Publications) to make sure this kind of material and these ways of thinking appeal to you. Think about how these ideas and concepts might apply to your own workplace.

5. What experience do you have of research methods and conducting research projects?

A substantial component of the MSc courses is the study of research methods and the completion of a major research project. We do not necessarily expect new students to have much prior experience of this (particularly in terms of research design and statistics), but you should be aware that this is an important area of study on all our courses and some prior basic knowledge of data collection and analysis will help you get the most out of the course.