

### Programme Specification

1	<b>Awarding body</b>	University of London							
2	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	<b>Birkbeck College</b>							
3	<b>Programme Title(s)</b>	<b>MA Psychoanalytic Studies</b>							
4	<b>Programme Code(s)</b>	TMAPSAIP_C on-campus study TMAPSAON_C online study TMAPSAMX_C flexible study TMAPSANJ_C January start							
5	<b>UCAS code</b>	N/A							
6	<b>Home Department</b>	Psychosocial Studies and History, Classics, Archaeology							
7	<b>Exit Award(s)</b>	PG Cert/PG Dip							
8	<b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>	1 year FT or 2 years PT							
9	<b>Mode of Study</b>	FT	X	PT	x	DL-FT	X	DL-PT	X
10	<b>Level of Award (FHEQ)</b>	7							
11	<b>Other teaching depts or institution</b>	This programme is co-taught by the departments of Psychosocial Studies and History, Classics and Archaeology. It additionally offers as an option a module taught by the British Psycho-Analytical Society.							
12	<b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b>	N/A							
13	<b><a href="#">QAA Benchmark Group</a></b>	N/A							

14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>								
	<p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <p>The MA Psychoanalytic Studies takes psychoanalysis as its object of study. It examines the clinical and theoretical developments of the tradition of thought and practice pioneered by Sigmund Freud, and considers the wider relationship between psychoanalysis, culture and history in the modern age. The programme explores how psychoanalytic thought has been used to illuminate pressing social and political concerns and examines the controversies that have surrounded its application outside the clinical setting. It focuses on the interface between psychoanalysis as an evolving clinical practice, as a form of knowledge, and as a mode of critique. It is not part of a clinical training and teaches no clinical skills, but it does provide a strong theoretical grounding for students who might go on to train in psychoanalysis or psychoanalytic psychotherapy.</p> <p>The core teaching staff group for the programme brings together researchers in psychosocial studies, historians and practising clinicians. The aim is to enable students to study closely the numerous modern developments within psychoanalysis, from Freud through to contemporary psychoanalytic theory and practice; to examine its key concepts in detail; to</p>								

	<p>place those concepts in context; and to explore the methodological, epistemological and ethical issues that have resulted from diverse elaboration and extension of psychoanalytic ideas, not only in a clinical setting but particularly in social and cultural inquiries and in the interpretation of the historical past.</p> <p>The MA programme has good links with the British Psychoanalytical Society through its teaching staff and also because the Society’s Foundation Course in Psychoanalysis can be taken as an option module by students on the MA. For students with strong clinical interests, this arrangement provides an exceptional opportunity to be taught psychoanalytic theory by some of the most senior and eminent psychoanalysts in the country.</p> <p><b>Aims:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide postgraduate level teaching addressing the intersection of psychoanalysis with cultural and historical issues, with a focus on British, American, Latin American and Continental European psychoanalysis as it has developed in the past 100 years.</li> <li>• To provide an opportunity for students to engage critically with key psychoanalytic concepts and to understand them in their historical and cultural context.</li> <li>• To introduce students to the history of psychoanalysis as it has developed from its European base, including some coverage of psychoanalysis outside Europe and America.</li> <li>• To critically explore applications of psychoanalysis to the understanding of culture and history.</li> </ul>
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15	<p><b>Entry Criteria</b></p> <p>Usually a minimum of an upper second class honours degree or its equivalent in any discipline relevant to the course. These will include most humanities and social science disciplines, for example Psychology, Sociology, Politics, philosophy, History, Cultural Studies, Anthropology, English, Film Studies. In exceptional circumstances, the Admissions Tutor will consider applicants who do not meet this criterion but who have substantial professional experience (e.g. teaching, social work, counselling and psychotherapy, mediation, development work, etc) and who can demonstrate that they have the required academic abilities to complete a Masters level course.</p> <p>In order to undertake the optional module at the British Psychoanalytical Society, students will be required to attend an additional interview with the BPAS.</p>
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16	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
	<p><b><i>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate a firm grasp of a range of interdisciplinary theoretical approaches to understanding the development and impact of psychoanalysis in its historical and cultural context.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate understanding of central psychoanalytic concepts</li> <li>3. Demonstrate the capacity to apply psychoanalytic ideas to key cultural and historical problematics and phenomena and to evaluate the strengths and limitations of such applications.</li> <li>4. Demonstrate a conceptual grasp and practical understanding of psychosocial epistemologies and methodologies for empirical and theoretical research</li> <li>5. Carry out a piece of independent research (either empirical or theoretical) on a topic of their choice relevant to the programme.</li> <li>6. Manage their own independent reading and learning outside staff contact-time so as to produce assignments of the required standards.</li> </ol>
17	<b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b>
	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods include:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formal teaching and lecturing by specialist staff in the Departments of Psychosocial Studies and History, Classics and Archaeology</li> <li>2. A module run by the British Psychoanalytic Society that includes formal lectures and small-group discussion of case work or work-related dynamic issues</li> <li>3. Additional lectures and other events offered by a range of external staff as part of the Department of Psychosocial Studies Summer Programme.</li> <li>4. Seminars, tutorials, group and individual supervision provided by core staff in both departments.</li> <li>5. Guided reading of core psychoanalytic texts supplemented with extensive contextual and advanced reading.</li> <li>6. Small-group presentations by students to fellow students on developing research topics.</li> <li>7. Access to a range of relevant conferences, symposia and presentations at Birkbeck, including, where possible, group visits to libraries, archives and places of relevance such as the Freud Museum, London.</li> </ol> <p>Delivery of the 'standard' model of the MA is through pre-recorded lectures, electronically available key reading supplemented by other library resources, and in-class weekly seminars (notionally 1.5 hours weekly – often more). The IRM is a Department-wide module taught through lectures and seminars followed by individual supervision backed up by seminars in</p>

	<p>term 3 of full time study (term 6 part time); currently, this is all delivered online and will probably continue as such. Online-only students will receive a weekly online seminar (90 minutes) for each module, as opposed to the on-campus seminar taken by the standard model students. Dissertation supervision and support seminars will also be conducted online.</p> <p><b>Assessment Strategy:</b></p> <p>The assessment strategy and methods are designed to test and develop a student’s capacity to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme. The assessment for the programme takes the form of a range of written pieces of work associated with each module, and a dissertation of between 10,000-12,000 words that is the culmination of the student’s independent research. Students are given formative and summative feedback consisting of written comments and numerical marks for each piece of assessed work. The weighting of the assessed components takes into account the potential development of students’ abilities during the course.</p> <p>Students produce assessed work at regular intervals during the programme, using the online discussion board as a way to test out and develop ideas with peers prior to writing formal assignments, and are offered individual tutorials during term-time to discuss their workload and to monitor student progress and identify any individual difficulties.</p> <p>Students are formally assessed through academic essays, a ‘portfolio of learning’ and the dissertation.</p>
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18	<p><b>Programme Description</b></p> <p>The programme is made up of three core taught modules, one module that students can choose from a range of options, and a double-weighted dissertation module.</p> <p>The three core modules introduce students to the main theories, epistemologies and methodologies used in psychoanalytic thinking and places them in historical and cultural context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts in Psychoanalysis</li> <li>• Psychoanalysis and Culture</li> <li>• Psychoanalysis and History (full-time 2022/3 entrants only)</li> </ul> <p>Students choose one further module from a range of Options that may include a more specialist module on key concepts in psychoanalysis or relevant modules from other Department of Psychosocial Studies or Department of History, Classics and Archaeology programmes or where available appropriate modules from elsewhere in the College. Online-only students may have a restricted choice of Option modules.</p> <p>As an alternative, ‘standard’ model students can apply to take the British Psychoanalytic Society’s Foundation Course as their 30-credit option.</p>
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	The double-weighted independent research module requires students to take the taught element, Psychosocial Research Methods, and pursue a supervised research project of their choice. It culminates in a 10,000-12,000 word dissertation.
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19	<b>Programme Structure</b>			
<b>Full Time programme (October start)</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPA103S7	Concepts in Psychoanalysis	30	Core
7	SSPA078S7	Psychoanalysis and Culture	30	Core
7	SSPA077S7	Psychoanalysis and History	30	Core
7		Optional Module (may be restricted or prescribed for online-only students).	30	Optional
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module	60	Core
<b>Part Time programme (October start)</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPA103S7	Concepts in Psychoanalysis	30	Core
7	SSPA078S7	Psychoanalysis and Culture	30	Core
<b>Year 2</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		Optional Module (may be restricted or prescribed for online-only students).	30	Optional
7		Optional Module (may be restricted or prescribed for online-only students).	30	Optional
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module	60	Core
<b>Options for in-person routes:</b>				
All level 7 modules taught in the Department of Psychosocial Studies and the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology in terms 2 and 3, plus other options in the College (e.g. AREN197S7 <i>Freud in the World: psychoanalysis, literary writing and the legacies of history</i> ) as well as the <i>Foundation Course in Psychoanalysis</i> , are available as options for students taking the programme in-person.				
<b>Options for online routes</b>				
Current examples of modules available for online students include: SSPA067S7 <i>Lacanian Psychoanalysis: Theory and Practice</i> ; SSHC458S7 <i>Me Myself and I: Identity and the Self in Europe</i> SSHC543S7 <i>Antisemitism, Holocaust, Colonialism, Gender</i> ; HICL195S7 <i>A Science of Progress? Darwin, Evolution and the Making of Modernity</i> .				

<b>Full time, January Entry – 1 year</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Status</b>
7	SSPA103S7	Concepts in Psychoanalysis (Term 1, Spring)	30	Core
7	SSPA078S7	Psychoanalysis and Culture [Term 1, Spring]	30	Core
7		Optional Module 1. Level 7 modules taught in the current Department of Psychosocial Studies in term 2 (Summer) or 3 (Autumn), plus other options in the College. Students will be particularly alerted to modules of psychoanalytic interest in the current Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing, especially modules from the MA in Medical Humanities and the MA in Applied Medical Humanities). Students can take their option in either Summer or Autumn terms.	30	Option
7		Optional Module 2. Level 7 modules taught in the current Department of Psychosocial Studies in term 2 (Summer) or 3 (Autumn), plus other options in the College. Students will be particularly alerted to modules of psychoanalytic interest in the current Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing, especially modules from the MA in Medical Humanities and the MA in Applied Medical Humanities). Students can take their option in either Summer or Autumn terms.	30	Option
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module [all year] beginning in January with the taught programme plus workshops.	60	Core
<p>Note: The <i>Foundation Course in Psychoanalysis</i> is <b>not</b> available as an option for full time January start students as it is taught at the Institute of Psychoanalysis over the whole year, beginning in September.</p> <p>Students will not be able to take an Option in term 1 (Spring) because of workload.</p>				
<b>Part Time, January Entry – 2 years</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Status</b>
7	SSPA103S7	Concepts in Psychoanalysis [Term 1, Spring]	30	Core
7		Optional Module 1. Level 7 modules taught in the current Department of Psychosocial Studies in term 2, or 3 (Summer or Aut) plus other options in the College. Students will be particularly alerted to modules of psychoanalytic interest in the current Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing, especially modules from the MA in Medical Humanities and the MA in Applied Medical Humanities).	30	Option
<b>Year 2</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Status</b>
7	SSPA078S7	Psychoanalysis and Culture [Term 4, Spring]	30	Core
7		Optional Module 2. Level 7 modules taught in the current Department of Psychosocial Studies in term 3 (yr 1) or 5 (Spring/Summer), plus other options in the College. Students will be particularly alerted to modules of psychoanalytic interest in the current Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing, especially modules from the MA in Medical	30	Option

Year of entry: 2022/23



		Humanities and the MA in Applied Medical Humanities). Students can take their option in either Autumn (y1) or Summer terms. The <i>Foundation Course in Psychoanalysis</i> is available as an option taught at the Institute of Psychoanalysis over the whole year, beginning in Term 3, Yr 1 (October).		
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module [all year] beginning in January of year 2 (term 3) with the taught programme plus workshops.	60	Core

**Note: Psychoanalysis and History is not available to students starting in January, or to part-time students entering their second year in October 2023 and these students take a second option instead.**

**Status\***

*CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module*

<sup>20</sup>	<b>Programme Director</b>	Stephen Frosh
<sup>21</sup>	<b>Start Date (term/year)</b>	October 2011
<sup>22</sup>	<b>Date approved by TQEC</b>	Spring 2011
<sup>23</sup>	<b>Date approved by Academic Board</b>	Summer 2011
<sup>24</sup>	<b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>	1 Dec 2022