

Student Placement at The Harbour

At the Harbour we see people who are affected by physical life-threatening illness: this can be the person themselves, a relative or carer, or a bereaved person. Clients come here once a week, short, medium and long-term up to two years, and, for this reason, students will usually be asked to commit to a placement for a minimum period of two years.

Although the work of students on placement at the Harbour is unpaid, they are considered to be very much part of the team, are encouraged to contribute fully to the organisation and are subject to most of the same expectations as paid staff. The thinking and support that comes from involvement in the organisation is an important part of the work here. The weekly supervision we provide allows students to think deeply about their work and to learn more about a psychodynamic approach.

A placement at the Harbour can be enriching and rewarding but is also emotionally and practically demanding. There is a rigorous application process to ensure students feel ready to take on the challenge of the work in this context.

Requirements students need in order to apply

- experience of working therapeutically with clients.
- studying for a full professional qualification in counselling or psychotherapy which must include a psychodynamic component.
- to be in a well-established therapy
- to demonstrate a commitment to working psychodynamically and learning more about psychoanalytic and psychodynamic theory.

Please note: we **do not** take people on placements who:

- have not yet begun their training
- have no one-to-one clinical experience as a counsellor or psychotherapist
- are not yet well-established in their personal therapy.

The application procedure

Stage One

If you fulfil the above criteria, then please fill in an application form (attached).

Stage Two

If your written application is accepted, you will be invited for an interview at the Harbour with one or two clinical staff. This will be an opportunity to explore in more detail your training needs, the possible impact of the work and other issues.

Stage Three

If the outcome of the interview is satisfactory we will contact your referees. We are also required to put all applicants for paid or voluntary work through a Criminal Records Bureau check.

What a placement at The Harbour involves

1. Clinical provision

- Weekly group supervision
- Administrative support
- A senior clinical member of staff at The Harbour will oversee your placement.

2. Time commitment

- To offer a minimum of three fifty minute sessions per week
- To attend weekly supervision either individually or in a small group
- To attend monthly staff meetings. Currently these are held on the first Thursday of each month from 10.00 to 11.30
- To attend a Staff Day once a year (usually held on a Saturday in spring)

3. Professional expectations

- To adhere to the BACP code of ethics and practice and the code of ethics of your training organisation
- To maintain confidentiality and data protection
- To be committed to your professional development, including through in-house supervision and clinical discussion in team meetings.

4. Necessary administration and housekeeping

- To keep appropriate records
- To keep the appointments diary up to date, check in-tray and other notices regularly
- To take care of the building with particular attention to locking up, and any health and safety issues.