

# network:training

In partnership with the  UNIVERSITY OF  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

## Diploma of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling

### Prospectus 2010

Network Counselling & Training  
College Park Drive,  
Henbury Road, Henbury,  
BRISTOL BS10 7QD

Tel: 0117 – 950 – 7271  
Fax: 0117 – 950 – 7272  
E-mail: [info@network.org.uk](mailto:info@network.org.uk)

<http://www.network.org.uk>

# Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page no.</b>
1. Training with Network	2
2. Diploma of Higher Education in pastoral counselling	4
Introduction	4
Course curriculum	5
Counselling placement	7
Course structure	8
Assessment	8
Training team, venue and resources	8
Entrance requirements	9
3. Frequently asked questions	10
4. Course fees	12
5. Funding sources	13
6. Application and interview process; open evenings	15
7. AP(E)L application procedure	16
8. AP(E)L criteria	17
9. Course dates	19

# network:training

...in partnership with the



## Training with Network – a life-changing experience...

Network Training offers a broad range of well-established part time courses for those who wish to develop their listening and counselling skills – including introductory courses in basic listening and counselling skills; substantial Higher Education certificate and diploma level courses in **Christian person-centred counselling** (all validated by the University of Gloucestershire); and a programme of continuing professional development short courses and workshops for qualified counsellors and supervisors on a range of specialist topics.

Completion of our four year certificate and diploma level training programme more than meets the training requirements for counsellor accreditation with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), the Counselling Society and the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC), offering as it does over 300 hours of staff-student contact time at certificate level and 450 hours at diploma level. The course contact hours may, at BACP's discretion, be counted towards meeting part of Criterion 4 of the BACP Counsellor/Psychotherapist Accreditation scheme and may also be counted towards meeting the training requirements for accreditation by the Counselling Society and by ACC.

Our courses will be of interest not only to those wishing to train as counsellors, but also to those wishing to develop their listening and counselling skills for use in other roles and settings such as pastoral care, nursing or teaching.

The ethos and core values of the courses are Christian and person-centred and our particular interest as a training organization lies in the integration of Christian faith and counselling practice. In addition to covering the same ground that is covered by comparable secular courses, our courses will also give you the opportunity to study aspects of pastoral theology which are relevant for the work of the counsellor and to explore the interface between faith and practice.

All of our courses are based in Bristol. Network Counselling & Training rents the east wing of Wesley College, Henbury, and all of our training sessions are held on these premises.

For those students who live outside the Bristol area, it may be possible to arrange overnight accommodation at Wesley College at very reasonable rates.

We regret that we do not offer any form of distance learning course

### Why Train with Network?

- We train in partnership with the University of Gloucestershire and our certificate and diploma level counselling courses are all validated by the University. Qualifications achieved are therefore nationally recognized. Our students are registered with the University and therefore receive the benefits of a student ID card and NUS membership.
- We offer the only university validated Certificate and Diploma of Higher Education courses in Christian pastoral counselling in the South West.

- As Network Counselling & Training runs a counselling agency, we are able to offer students a placement with Network Counselling for the duration of their training. This includes the provision of free supervision.
- We are able to offer an excellent staff-student ratio which, particularly in relation to our certificate and diploma level courses, is significantly higher than many other comparable courses.

## **Equal Opportunities Policy**

The courses operate an equal opportunities policy with regard to gender, race, religion, sexuality, and disability.

While the ethos of the training offered is explicitly Christian, applicants who do not have a Christian faith will be very welcome provided they meet all of the selection criteria and are comfortable with the ethos and core values of the course.

## **What do our students think?**

‘This is an excellent course. It is stretching and challenging me far beyond my expectations and I have learnt more than I ever imagined.’

‘The most amazing experience – growth in the fast track!’

‘This course is life-changing – I am not only developing as a counsellor, but also changing and growing as a person. It is a liberating experience.’

‘This is a very thorough and well thought-out course. There is a very real sense of each individual being important and cared for.’

‘The course tutors are always accepting, affirming and encouraging and the learning environment is a very supportive one.’

‘The quality of the course notes and additional resources provided is excellent – one of the course’s main strengths.’

‘What I particularly value is the opportunity to explore the integration of my faith with my practice – this is what makes the course different and exciting.’

## **What does our External Examiner think?**

‘... the standard of the course, within the limits of what I’ve seen, is easily comparable with other similar awards and exceeds the standards of many.’

Course content is informed by experienced and well qualified staff who are also practitioners and attuned to current developments in the profession. I see evidence of the high levels of both challenge and support characteristic of the best learning environments.

The learning resources and accommodation are of a particularly high standard for this kind of course.’

Margaret Bazely  
 MBACP Accredited Counsellor/Psychotherapist  
 MBACP Senior Accredited Trainer  
 July 2009

# Diploma of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling

<b>Providing institution</b>	Network Counselling & Training
<b>Validating body</b>	University of Gloucestershire
<b>Award</b>	*Diploma of Higher Education
<b>Level</b>	Higher Education Level 2
<b>Credits</b>	120 credits
<b>Delivery</b>	Two years part time One day a week over six 10 -11 week academic terms
<b>Venue</b>	Henbury, Bristol, UK
<b>Training hours</b>	1000 hours, including 450 hrs staff-student contact hours
<b>Core theoretical model</b>	Christian person-centred
<b>Counselling practice</b>	150 hours of supervised counselling over two years

*\*This award is made in the name of the University of Gloucestershire under the authority of its Academic Board.*

This course has broken new ground in Christian pastoral counselling in the UK. It is suitable for students who have completed substantial certificate level counselling training and who wish to train as professional counsellors.

What makes this course different is its emphasis on the integration of Christian faith and practice. In addition to covering the same ground that is covered by comparable secular diploma courses, this course will also give you the opportunity to study aspects of pastoral theology which are relevant for the work of the counsellor and to explore the interface between faith and practice.

## State registration

The entry level qualification for state registration as a counsellor has currently been set at the level of a Diploma of Higher Education or a Level 5 Diploma (National Qualifications Framework). This course will, therefore, meet the training requirements for state registration as a counsellor.

## Counsellor accreditation

The course contact hours may, at the discretion of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), be counted towards meeting part of Criterion 4 of the BACP Counsellor/Psychotherapist Accreditation scheme. They may also be counted towards meeting the training requirements for accreditation by the Counselling Society (450 hours) and the Association of Christian Counsellors or ACC (500 hours).

## Progression

On successful completion of the Diploma of Higher Education in pastoral counselling you may have the opportunity to continue your studies for a further year to complete either an Honours Degree in counselling – for example, at the University of Bristol or the University of Gloucestershire – or if you are a postgraduate, an MSc in counselling. Alternatively, this course will prepare you for a variety of careers in the counselling field.

## **The Core Theoretical Model**

The counselling model which underpins the course is an integrative Christian person-centred model which was especially developed for this course. It integrates a Christian person-centred theoretical framework drawn from the work of Brian Thorne, Howard Clinebell, Henri Nouwen and Paul Tournier with aspects of secular person-centred theory and practice.

Hence the ethos and core values of the course are Christian and person-centred. These core values provide a coherent and consistent framework for both study and practice and they permeate every aspect of the course.

## **The Aims of the Course**

The course aims:

- to enable students to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of Christian and secular person-centred counselling approaches, including recent developments in person-centred theory and practice, and the ability to evaluate them critically in an informed manner
- to enable students to develop an in-depth working knowledge and understanding of the concepts and principles of pastoral counselling, an awareness of how these concepts and principles have developed and the ability to evaluate them critically in an informed manner
- to enable students to integrate their developing theology with an understanding of counselling theory and psychology
- to enable students to deepen their capacity to form and sustain an effective therapeutic relationship, and to equip them to function safely, competently and ethically as professional counsellors in their work setting
- to enable students to develop a high level of competence in the use of foundational counselling skills and to begin to develop a range of skills beyond those required for competence in the core theoretical model
- to prepare students to function safely, competently and ethically as counsellors in a variety of settings
- to enable students to understand and comply with the legal and ethical responsibilities of professional practice
- to deepen students' commitment to and ability to take responsibility for their own ongoing personal and professional development and to enable them to develop a high level of awareness and understanding of themselves
- to enable students to deepen their capacity to be a self-reflective practitioner and their ability to evaluate critically their work with clients
- to introduce students to the basic skills of research, consultation and practice evaluation
- to enable students to function effectively in the role of supervisee and to make productive use of counselling supervision

## The Course Curriculum

The course has three key elements – theoretical teaching, practical counselling skills training and personal development work – all of which are closely inter-linked and are taught concurrently throughout the year.

### 1 Theoretical teaching

The theoretical teaching on the course has four key elements: counselling theory, pastoral theology, applied psychology and counselling ethics. The curriculum consists of 8 modules. These are:

**Module 1:** The core theoretical model (Christian person-centred) – explored in considerable depth with a primary focus on applying the model to a range of presenting problems (e.g. anxiety, self-injury, eating disorders) and critiquing it.

**Module 2:** Secular person-centred counselling theory – explored in depth, including recent developments, with a focus on comparing and contrasting the secular and Christian person-centred approaches, critiquing the former from a Christian perspective and exploring relevant research findings.

**Module 3:** Human development – theories of human psychosocial development; understanding lifespan development; theories of faith development; exploring spiritual development

**Module 4:** Mental health – defining mental health/illness; classifying mental disorders; assessing the need for psychiatric help; psychosomatic disorders; working with mental health professionals

**Module 5:** Counselling ethics – codes of ethics and practice; dealing with ethical dilemmas and value conflicts; counselling and the law

**Module 6:** Pastoral theology – articulating your own theology and considering its impact on your practice; exploring relevant Christian doctrine and its implications for the counselling process; understanding the concepts of pathogenic and salugenetic religion; individual differences in spirituality; working with people from other faiths

**Module 7:** Alternative counselling models – exploring the field; understanding psychodynamic, existential and transpersonal approaches; in-depth study of transactional analysis and cognitive-behavioural counselling approaches; understanding integration and eclecticism; becoming a research practitioner

**Module 8:** The context of counselling – exploring the socio-cultural context of counselling including such issues as gender, race, class, religion and social disadvantage and difference, understanding and working with human systems; cross-cultural counselling

### 2 Practical counselling skills training

Practical skills training is an integral part of the course and is designed to link closely with the core theoretical framework.

You will work throughout the two years in small groups of up to eight students and will experience a range of interactive and experiential activities, including the use of audio and audio-visual equipment.

During the first year, the skills training will focus on enabling you to consolidate the learning you achieved during certificate level training, to achieve increasing levels of competence in the foundational counselling skills and to develop your own personal style. There will be a primary emphasis throughout on further developing the core therapeutic qualities of unconditional positive regard, empathy and congruence. The course will also seek to develop further your awareness and understanding of process through the use of such techniques as Interpersonal Process Recall.

In addition, in the second year, you will be introduced to and have the opportunity to practice a wider range of counselling skills drawn from other approaches and will be encouraged to explore how these skills might be integrated into your own approach.

### **The Counselling Placement**

During the two years of the course, you will be required to complete in total 150 hours of supervised counselling practice, either with Network Counselling\* or with another suitable alternative agency or organization. You will be required to work under close supervision, receiving a minimum of 1.5 hours of supervision per month over the two years. Before beginning the course, you will need to ensure that you have made satisfactory arrangements for your counselling placement and that these are acceptable to the course.

\*Network Counselling offers a professional counselling service to clients from Bristol and the surrounding areas, and has a large team of well-trained voluntary counsellors who work with clients on an equal opportunities basis (i.e. irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin or religion).

All Network Diploma students will be offered the opportunity to complete their counselling placements with Network Counselling.

### **3 Personal development work**

As part of your own personal and professional development, you will be asked to participate in a range of activities designed to increase your awareness and understanding of yourself, to enable you to identify and explore your own unique value, attitude and belief system, to explore the balance of your interpersonal strengths and areas for development and to relate the theoretical ideas and concepts you encounter to your own personal development, including your spiritual development.

These activities will be shaped by, and consistent with, the course's theoretical framework and will include:

- the writing of a personal learning journal which monitors self-development
- the opportunity to explore personal issues in the client role
- participation in a range of written and experiential exercises
- attendance at personal tutorials and supervision

Throughout the year, the course also makes explicit provision for personal development through work in small personal development groups of up to eight students. In particular, the curriculum will cover such areas as:

- further development of awareness and understanding of self
- exploring your 'shadow'

- exploring internal 'blocks' to communicating the core conditions, achieving mutuality in therapeutic relationships and working at relational depth
- exploring your own spiritual development and its impact on your work as a pastoral counsellor

You will, however, be largely responsible for setting and pursuing your own personal development agenda.

## The Structure of the Course

There are three ten week academic terms over the year, with a teaching session each week. The sessions are held on the same day each week and last from 9.15 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Each teaching session includes a theoretical seminar, practical skills training in small groups, large groupwork, personal development groupwork and, in the second year, small group supervision.

In addition, you must attend an initial induction day, two weekend workshops – one at the beginning and one at the end of the course – and a minimum of one Saturday workshop per term. You will also be expected to attend a minimum of one individual tutorial per term with a personal tutor so that your development, both personal and professional, can be discussed. You are expected to attend teaching sessions regularly and must achieve a minimum of 85% attendance of teaching sessions to be eligible for the award.

As well as attendance at teaching sessions and tutorials, the course demands a considerable commitment of time and energy for personal study, reflection and coursework. You will need to be able to commit yourself to **a minimum of eight hours of private study each week** during term time.

## Assessment

Co-operative working with tutors and other students is a central feature of the course. In order to help you learn and monitor your progress, informal verbal and written feedback will be given to you by staff and other students throughout the course in a variety of different settings.

In addition, you are required to complete a number of written and practical assignments over the two years. These comprise four essays, a practical skills demonstration and critical evaluation, a case study, a learning journal and a personal development profile at the end of each year. These assignments are designed to demonstrate your theoretical knowledge and understanding, your developing competence as a counsellor and your personal development. You will be asked to evaluate both your own and other's work as well as being assessed by members of the core teaching staff.

There are no formal examinations.

## The Training Team

Members of the training team are Christians from a range of traditions who bring to the course a variety of backgrounds, training experience and counselling expertise. Teaching is undertaken by members of the Network core teaching staff. All teaching staff have undergone extensive counselling training to diploma or degree level, are experienced counsellors in their own right and have considerable previous experience of involvement in counselling training.

## Codes of Ethics and Practice

Network Counselling & Training is an organisational member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP). All of Network's counsellors, supervisors, tutors and

facilitators are required to work to BACP's Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Students are also required at all times to adhere to this Ethical Framework.

## **Venue and Resources**

The training sessions are all held at the Network Counselling & Training premises, which are situated in the east wing of Wesley College, Henbury, Bristol.

For those students who live outside the Bristol area, it may be possible to arrange overnight accommodation at Wesley College at very reasonable rates. Details of charges and availability may be obtained by ringing the Wesley College Domestic Bursar on 0117 - 958 - 1127.

You will have access to our extensive Course Library throughout the week (also situated at Network) and will benefit from a range of other resources and facilities – for example, two computers linked to the Internet, private study space and DVD and tape recording facilities.

In addition, Network Training has its own website, containing regularly updated news and information, including links to other useful websites.

## **Entrance Requirements**

Applicants will be expected to show evidence of:

- one year full time or two years part time certificate level training in counselling – i.e. the Network Certificate of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling or its equivalent
- the ability to meet the academic demands of the course through undertaking and sustaining a course of study at an appropriate level
- previous or current experience of being in counselling and/or the willingness to undertake counselling for themselves during the course should the need arise

Previous counselling experience is not required.

### **AP(E)L application**

Applicants who have completed certificate level counselling training with another training organization may apply for entry to the Diploma course on the basis of AP(E)L - Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning. Both previous counselling training and counselling experience will be taken into account. It is not necessary to have completed certificate level training with a Christian training organization.

For further details of AP(E)L, please contact Kate Steele, the Head of the Training Department.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1 Is the Network Diploma an accredited course?

No. The course is currently not accredited by any of the national course accrediting bodies. It is, however, a university-validated course and as such, the training hours it offers can, at the discretion of BACP, the Counselling Society and the ACC, be counted towards the training requirements for accreditation with all three organizations. Qualified counsellors who completed their Diploma training at Network have not so far experienced any difficulty in becoming accredited with any of these organizations.

In the past, Network Training made the decision not to apply for course accreditation for the following reasons:

- (i) because the Diploma course is already university validated and thus provides a nationally recognized qualification.
- (ii) because in order to achieve counsellor accreditation, it is not necessary to have completed an accredited course as long as it is validated by a recognized validating body.
- (iii) because of the additional cost of doing so on top of university validation costs. This would further increase fees to students.

The organization is, however, now in the process of working towards course accreditation with one of the national course accrediting bodies.

## 2 Does the Network Diploma course provide sufficient staff-student contact time to enable me to meet counsellor accreditation training requirements?

The two year Network Diploma course offers in total 450 hours of staff-student contact time (excluding counselling supervision). This is in itself enough to meet the BACP and Counselling Society training requirements (currently 450 hours) and only 50 hours short of the ACC training requirements of 500 hours.

Note that as long as you have completed at least one substantial training course, **not all of the 450/500 hours required need to have been completed as part of one course.**

## 3 How does the Network Diploma course curriculum compare with other university courses?

Much of the ground covered is very similar, and on completion of the two years, you will have covered the key elements that are generally present in all good diploma level courses.

The key differences between the Network course and other university diploma courses are:

- the Christian person-centred approach which forms the core theoretical model
- the focus on integrating Christian faith/theology and counselling practice
- the focus on spiritual development, both at a theoretical and personal development level

#### **4 Will the counselling I do while on placement for my Diploma course count towards counsellor accreditation?**

In order to achieve counsellor accreditation with the BACP or the Counselling Society, you need to complete a minimum of 450 hours of supervised counselling over a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 6 years.

In other words:

- you need to have been counselling for at least three years
- you need to complete a minimum of 75 hours of counselling per year *on average* if your counselling hours are to be counted

Currently, the ACC requirement is for a minimum of 600 hours of supervised practice.

As do the majority of other University courses, the Network Diploma course requires you to complete a minimum of 150 hours over your two years of training (75 hours per year). Providing you then complete a further 300 hours over the next 4 years, you will be eligible for BACP or Counselling Society accreditation at the end of this period. In order to meet ACC requirements, you will have to complete a further 450 hours of supervised practice to achieve accreditation.

#### **5 Will the fact that I have done a diploma in *pastoral* counselling prejudice my chances of gaining paid work as a counsellor in the secular field?**

There is a long-established and well-respected tradition of pastoral counselling in this country as is demonstrated by the existence of the Association for Pastoral Care and Counselling (APSCC) - one of the founding organizations of the BACP.

It is our experience that students who have been trained in pastoral counselling have been able to find work as a counsellor both in secular and Christian settings.

# Diploma Course Fees

## Fees 2010 - 2012

**The fee for each year of the Diploma of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling starting in September 2010 is £2600.** These fees are lower than those of other comparable University-based courses in the region.

A £200 non-returnable deposit is payable on acceptance of the offer of a place on the first year of the course.

The outstanding balance of £2400 for the year can be paid in one of 3 ways:

➤ **Single payment:**

One payment of £2400 made in September 2008

➤ **Three payments**

Three payments: £800 (autumn), £800 (spring), and £800 (summer) to be paid by the first day of each term.

Students who choose this option will be required to complete a SO pro-forma provided by Network, and send the completed pro-forma to their bank in time for the initial payment to be made to Network on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

➤ **Monthly instalments**

Ten monthly payments of £240 to be paid by Standing Order.

Students who choose this option will be required to complete a SO pro-forma provided by Network, and give/send the completed pro-forma to their bank in time for the initial payment to be made to Network on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

**Whichever payment option is chosen, students must sign an acknowledgement of liability for the full fees.**

### Withdrawing from the course

Students who withdraw after starting the course will be liable **either for a portion of or for the full fees** depending on the date of withdrawal. This applies to both years of the course.

1. Withdrawal by **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**: liable for the deposit and Term 1 fees
2. Withdrawal by **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**: liable for the deposit and Terms 1 and 2 fees
3. Withdrawal after **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**: liable for the deposit and full fees for that year

# Possible Funding Sources to Help with the Cost of the Diploma Course

Network offers several methods of payment, two of which allow students to pay by instalments without any interest payments – see the Fees page.

## Government funding

This course has been designated under the student support regulations. This means that, if our students fulfil the necessary personal financial conditions, they will be eligible to apply for student grants.

For further information

- call Student Finance England on 0845 300 5090
- or visit the following website:

[www.directgovuk/en/EducationAndLearning/StudentFinance/index.htm](http://www.directgovuk/en/EducationAndLearning/StudentFinance/index.htm)

## Trusts

There are a number of **Trusts** which will support individuals who are not eligible for statutory funding. You can find **standard lists** of these in **most public libraries**. Useful publications include the Educational Grants Directory, the Charities Digest, the Grants Register and the Directory of Grant Making Trusts.

The **Educational Grants Advisory Service (EGAS)** is an independent advice agency for people who want to get funding for further or higher education.

Call their information line on 0207 241 7459 or visit the Family Action web site – [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk) – for further information.

There is a Directory of Educational Grant Making Trusts held at Network. Please ask the Administrator if you would like to consult it.

There is a Bristol-based Christian trust fund which regularly considers applications from those seeking counselling training with Network : the **St. Matthias Trust**. If you would like to apply to them, telephone 0117 906 0100 for further information.

For those living in the Henbury, Westbury and Horfield areas who are under 25 years of age, applications for funding can also be made to the **Anthony Edwards Charity** – Tel. no. 0117 909 8303

## **Guidelines on applying to trusts**

- Your letter should be no more than one A4 page.
- It *may* be helpful to include a copy of the prospectus (apart from the St Matthias Trust, which knows Network well) – but make sure that you do include exactly what the fund asks for.
- Explain how the course will benefit you and others.
- Make a clear request for the amount you need.
- It is important to state how much funding you already have in place, and to explain what other ways you are taking to get the necessary funding.
- It is good idea to include a stamped addressed envelope.

## **Other sources**

You could approach your church, particularly if you are involved in its pastoral care work. A number of our students have been funded, totally or in part, by their church. We would suggest that you talk with your church leader or treasurer.

Your employer may be interested in supporting you if what you learn could benefit the business. Another possibility is a bank loan or a Career Development Loan.

If you are successful with any ideas or Trusts, please let us know, as the information may be of help to future students.

# Application & Interview Process 2010

Open evenings for those interested in applying will be held at Network at 7.30 pm on:

**Tuesday 18th May 2010**

You will be able to:

- find out more about the particular course in which you are interested
- ask questions or raise any issues or concerns you may have about embarking on diploma level counselling training
- view our training premises and resources
- meet with the course tutors and, where possible, some of our current students
- find out for yourself whether you are comfortable with the ethos of the course and whether you think it will meet your own particular learning needs

If you are unable to make any of these dates but would like to come to Network and talk informally with one of the course tutors before deciding whether to apply for a place on one of our courses, we will do our best to arrange an alternative time for you to visit us.

Please contact Kate Steele, Head of the Training Department, if you would like to:

- find out more about the open evenings
- arrange an alternative time to visit the Training Department at Network

Note, however, that attendance at an open evening is **not** a compulsory part of the application process.

All applications should be submitted on the official form provided by Network. Those selected will be invited to group and individual interviews as follows:

<b>Deadline for receipt of application at Network</b>	<b>Date of group interview</b>	<b>Date of individual interview</b>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2010 a.m.	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July p.m. or Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2010

Reference forms will be sent to your referees as soon as your application is received at Network. Please ensure that those people you name as referees will be available to fill in a reference form and return it to Network, at the very latest **by 3 days before the relevant group interview date.**

## **Late applications**

Applicants who apply after the interviews in July will be considered subject to the availability of places. Interviews will be arranged on an individual basis.

# Assessment of prior learning procedure

Applicants who have not completed the Network Certificate of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling may be admitted to the Diploma course on the basis of Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning. Previous counselling training and counselling experience will be taken into account.

The procedure for assessing Prior Learning is as follows:

## STAGE 1

1. You are required to complete an **AP(E)L application form** complete with two references (generally from a previous counselling tutor and, where relevant, supervisor)
2. You must be able to provide evidence that you are able to meet the academic demands of the course through submitting an essay completed during your previous training or a document of around 1500 – 2000 words which outlines what you have learnt from and how you have developed as a result of your previous training. Wherever possible, you should relate this document to each of the AP(E)L criteria for entry to the Diploma course (see the section entitled 'Accreditation of Prior Learning Criteria p. 17).
3. You must submit a **DVD or audio tape of a counselling session** (minimum length 30 minutes). You may if you wish submit a recording which was completed during your previous training. In the event that this is not possible, you can arrange to complete a recorded role play session at Network Training. During the interview process, you will also be asked to comment on your handling of the session.

## STAGE 2

4. You are required to attend two interviews at Network Training – a group and individual interview.

## NOTES:

5. Other than in exceptional circumstances, you will only proceed to Stage 2 of the assessment procedure if you have successfully completed Stage 1.
6. Each assessment stage will be judged against the learning criteria outlined in the Information Sheet entitled 'Accreditation of Prior Learning Criteria'.

# Accreditation of prior learning criteria

In order to gain exemption from the Certificate of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling, applicants must be able to meet the following criteria. In certain circumstances, however, it may be possible for applicants who are able to meet the majority of the learning criteria satisfactorily to undertake additional modules of study during the course in order to cover ground which they have not previously covered during their certificate level training. Generally, this would only apply to such specific areas as theoretical knowledge and understanding of Christian person-centred approaches to counselling or pastoral theology.

## 1. Counselling theory

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

evidence of adequate knowledge and understanding of person-centred counselling theory and the ability to apply this to counselling practice

a sound understanding of the counselling process and of how it facilitates change and growth

## 2. Pastoral theology

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

an understanding of the process of theological reflection and of its importance in their work as counsellors

an awareness of and ability to articulate their own theological framework and an understanding of how this impacts on their counselling practice

an awareness and understanding of people's fundamental spiritual needs and of the existential-spiritual dimension in the problems they present

## 3. Counselling skills

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

the capacity to form and maintain a therapeutic relationship

evidence of competent use of the foundational counselling skills

a degree of awareness and understanding of process

#### **4. Personal development**

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

evidence of an adequate degree of personal soundness - i.e. an adequate self-reflective capacity (awareness and understanding of self); a high degree of personal integrity; the absence of major intra- or inter-personal difficulties which might inhibit the ability to work safely and competently with clients

evidence of awareness of personal and inter-personal strengths and areas for further development

# Dip. Course Dates Year 1 2010 – 2011

**N.B. The following dates are provisional and will be confirmed on offer of a place on the course.**

## **AUTUMN TERM 2010**

Induction day	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September
Introductory workshop	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> September
Term dates	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December
Half term	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
Saturday workshop	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> November

## **SPRING TERM 2011**

Term dates	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Half term	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Saturday workshop	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> February

## **SUMMER TERM 2011**

Term dates	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July
Half term	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Saturday workshop	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> May