

network:training

In partnership with the  UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Certificate of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling

Subsidiary award: Certificate in
Pastoral Counselling Skills

Prospectus 2011

Network Counselling & Training
Wesley College, Henbury,
BRISTOL BS10 7QD

Tel: 0117 – 950 – 7271
E-mail: info@network.org.uk

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

Contents

Contents	Page no.
1. Training with Network	2
Equal opportunities policy	3
The training team	3
Codes of Ethics and Practice	3
Venue and resources	3
Course ethos	5
2. Certificate of Higher Education in pastoral counselling	6
Introduction	6
A(P)EL application	6
Core theoretical model	7
Course aims	7
Course curriculum	8
Listening placement	9
Structure of the course	10
Assessment	10
Entrance requirements	11
3. Frequently asked questions	12
4. Course fees	13
5. Funding sources	14
6. Application and interview process; open evening	16
7. AP(E)L application procedure	17
8. AP(E)L assessment criteria	18
9. Course dates	
Year 1 course dates	19
Year 2 course dates	20

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

Since 1997, Network Training has been offering a broad range of well-established part time courses for those who wish to develop their listening and counselling skills. These include introductory courses in listening skills; substantial Higher Education certificate and diploma courses in pastoral counselling (all validated by the University of Gloucestershire) and a continuing professional development programme of 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.

Our particular interest as a training organisation lies in the integration of faith, spirituality and counselling practice. In addition to covering the same ground that is covered by comparable humanistic courses, therefore, our courses will also give you the opportunity to deepen your understanding of human spirituality – both religious and non-religious – and to develop the ability to work as a counsellor with the spiritual dimension of people's experience.

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

Why Train with Network?

- We train in partnership with the University of Gloucestershire and our four year counselling training programme is validated by the University. Qualifications achieved are therefore nationally recognised. 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 Higher Education courses in pastoral counselling in the South West.
- We are able to offer an excellent staff-student ratio which, particularly in relation to our certificate course, is significantly higher than many other comparable courses.

- There is an equal emphasis in our courses on counselling theory, counselling skills and personal development work, both at certificate and diploma level. It is rare for substantial personal development work to form an integral part of certificate level training to the same degree.
- We are the only Bristol-based Higher Education counselling course to include a primary focus on human spirituality in our curriculum.

Equal Opportunities Policy

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

While the ethos of our courses is a Christian and person-centred one (see page 5 for a full statement of this), the training we offer is open to anyone irrespective of whether or not they hold religious beliefs or are committed to a particular faith community.

The Training Team

Members of the training team come from a range of spiritual backgrounds and bring to the course considerable training experience and counselling expertise. Teaching is undertaken by members of the Network core teaching staff, supported by appropriately trained and experienced part time group facilitators. The core teaching staff have all undergone extensive counselling training to Diploma or MSc level, are experienced counsellors in their own right and have considerable previous experience of involvement in counselling training at this level.

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 therefore 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. 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, quiet study space on-site and DVD and DVR recording facilities.

What do our students think?

'This has been the best learning experience that I have ever had.'

'More than anything, the thing that has made the course outstanding is the way that the course leaders have modelled the person-centred core conditions with students, and this in turn has encouraged us to do it for each other. There has been a very powerful and life-giving group dynamic at work.'

'This is a powerful learning environment where you are accepted as a person, encouraged, believed in and not compared with others.... I have not felt manipulated, controlled, pressured or

condemned. Rather I have been allowed to try to be what I can, to make choices and to learn to say 'No'. I have felt empowered as a person and as a woman.'

'The course has surpassed all expectations. It has been a privilege to be part of it, and a blessing. It is more than a learning experience. It has encouraged me to become the self God intended me to be. The course has set me on a journey of lifetime learning and spiritual development.'
'My learning needs were very effectively met. This is a life-changing course.'

'Excellent course leadership and facilitation. The quality of course material, notes and resource sheets is also excellent.'

'It is the integration of faith and practice which makes this course unique... It has helped me to integrate parts of my life which seemed separate and irreconcilable – to be able to walk with God *and* to learn from Carl Rogers, the humanist.'

'This is the most thorough, self-reflective, deep-thinking challenging course I've ever done.'

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 course represents a special offering in the counselling/psychotherapy community, producing practitioners who are spiritually astute and clinically sound. It has been a great pleasure to be involved in such a high quality practitioner training.'

Margaret Bazely
MBACP Accredited Counsellor/Psychotherapist
MBACP Senior Accredited Trainer
2009 - 10

Course ethos

Ethos and values statement

The Christian person-centred ethos of Network is the underlying motivation for all of the work we do, both as a counselling agency and as a training organisation. It is rooted in faith in God which is understood on a personal level. It rests on a commitment to live out God's grace, unconditional love and compassion for all human beings in everything we do. It also rests on the belief that people learn, grow and develop when they experience relationships which are characterised by the three core conditions of unconditional acceptance, empathy and genuineness. As a professional training organisation whose primary purpose is the provision of a professional pastoral counselling training service, our ethos is also shaped by and consistent with the core values and ethical principles of the counselling profession as outlined in the BACP Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling and Psychotherapy.

In our relationships with each other, we seek to live out the core values of the Christian faith and person-centred philosophy that shape our way of being in the world. These core values are as follows:

1. **Equality:** we believe in the fundamental worth and equality of all human beings, irrespective of age, gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, physical and mental capability or any other attribute. This calls for an attitude of profound unconditional acceptance and valuing of each individual without exception.
2. **Inclusivity:** we value diversity and inclusivity and seek to embrace and live out these core values by welcoming, involving and working alongside people from all walks of life. We believe in the importance of creating a community that is willing and able to embrace all others, to offer them hospitality and to recognize and value the skills and resources they have to offer.
3. **Transformational learning:** we believe that there is within people a God-given potential and capacity for learning, growth and development and that we are therefore always in the process of actualising our potential. We seek to create a learning organisation in which everyone has the opportunity to realise his or her full potential and is supported and encouraged to become all that he or she can be.
4. **Well-being:** we believe that all aspects of our human nature – body, mind and spirit - are closely inter-related and inter-dependent. We therefore seek to care for each other as whole persons and to create a community which is deeply committed to enhancing the well-being of all those whose lives it touches.
5. **A person-centred community:** as an organisation, we are committed to enabling people to experience a sense of belonging, of being accepted and valued, of being heard and understood, of being trusted and of having a voice in the process of decision-making. We are also committed to open, honest and respectful communication with each other at all levels of the organisation. We seek to deal with difficulties and disagreements between us with tolerance, sensitivity and compassion.

These core values provide a coherent and consistent framework for both study and practice and they permeate every aspect of the course.

Certificate of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling

Providing institution	Network Counselling & Training
Validating body	University of Gloucestershire
Award	Certificate of Higher Education
Level and credits	Higher Education Level 1 120 credits
Subsidiary award	University Certificate
Level and credits	Higher Education Level 1 60 credits
Delivery	One or two years part time One day a week (9.00 am – 2.30 pm) over three or six 10 week academic terms
Venue	Henbury, Bristol, UK
Training hours	Around 160 (Year 1) or 320 (Years 1 and 2) staff-student contact hours
Core theoretical model	An integrative person-centred model of counselling
Counselling skills practice	35 hours of listening skills practice over two years (5 in Year 1)

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

This well-established course has broken new ground in counselling training in the UK. It is the equivalent of the first year of a University degree and is suitable not only for students wishing to train as counsellors, but also for those wishing to develop their listening and counselling skills for use in other roles and settings such as pastoral care, nursing or teaching. It will equip you to apply for diploma level counselling training and, as a diploma student, to function safely and competently as a volunteer placement counsellor in a range of settings – for example, voluntary counselling agencies or counselling services based in faith communities.

What makes this course different is its emphasis on the integration of faith, spirituality and counselling practice. In addition to covering the same ground that is covered by comparable humanistic certificate courses, this course will also give you the opportunity to develop your understanding of human spirituality – both religious and non-religious - and to explore the interface between your own developing spirituality and your practice.

Certificate in Pastoral Counselling Skills

If you do not wish to pursue a full two years of training, you can choose to complete the first year only – the Certificate in Pastoral Counselling Skills – and to exit the programme at this stage. You will then have completed 600 hours of training (including around 160 staff-student contact hours) and will receive a University Certificate carrying 60 credits at Level 1.

AP(E)L application

Applicants who have completed one year of certificate level counselling training with another training organisation may apply for entry to the second year of the Cert HE course on the basis of AP(E)L - Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning. Both previous counselling training and any counselling experience will be taken into account.

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

The Core Theoretical Model

The core theoretical model is an integrative person-centred model. It is fundamentally person-centred in that it draws heavily on the work of Carl Rogers and other person-centred writers and shares with its humanistic counterpart many of the philosophical assumptions and theoretical hypotheses that shape person-centred theory and practice. It is also person-centred in that it rests firmly on the belief that 'the relationship is the therapy' (Mearns & Thorne 2000) – in other words, that it is the quality of the relationship between counsellor and client that lies at the heart of the effectiveness of the counselling process.

It is, however, also an integrative model. Firstly, it is integrative in that it seeks to draw together the person-centred and the spiritual in a meaningful synthesis. It rests firmly on the assumption that all human beings are spiritual beings and that the spiritual dimension of human nature and experience is a fundamental part of what it means to be human. It sees human beings as complex living unities of body, mind, soul and spirit in whom the various aspects of being and experiencing are closely interwoven and hence recognises the importance of being willing and able to address this dimension of human experience in the counselling room.

It is also integrative in the sense that it seeks to draw together relevant insights from psychology, counselling theory, philosophy and theology. Because the ethos of the course is Christian, it inevitably draws to a greater extent on the thinking of such Christian writers as Cassidy, Nouwen, Oden and Thorne. It also seeks, however, to incorporate at times aspects of writings which come from a wider variety of spiritual and religious traditions.

The Aims of the Course

The course aims:

- to enable students to develop a sound working knowledge and understanding of the concepts and principles of an integrative person-centred model of counselling and the ability to evaluate them
- to enable students to develop their capacity to engage in the process of philosophical/theological reflection from the perspective of their own faith or spirituality and to begin to integrate their theology with an understanding of the counselling process
- to enable students to develop the capacity to form and sustain an effective therapeutic relationship
- to enable students to develop a basic level of competence in a range of foundational counselling skills and to equip them to use these skills safely, competently and ethically in a wide range of roles and settings
- to facilitate students' ongoing personal and professional development and to enable them to develop a basic level of awareness and understanding of themselves
- to encourage in students a commitment to ongoing self-evaluation, and to enable them to begin to develop the capacity to be a self-reflective practitioner and to evaluate their work critically

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 two years.

1 Theoretical teaching

The majority of the theory teaching takes place in weekly theoretical seminars lasting one and a quarter hours. It covers three key areas:

- the core theoretical model and related counselling theory
- faith and spirituality
- counselling ethics

The first year

During the first year, you will study key aspects of the core theoretical model in depth and will be encouraged to reflect critically on it and to explore your own personal reactions to it - the degree of 'fit' between your own values, attitudes and beliefs and those inherent in the model.

You will learn about the process of doing philosophical and theological reflection and you will be encouraged to explore in depth the particular personal faith or spirituality you bring to the counselling relationship. The course does not aim to teach or convert you to a particular philosophical or theological position, but rather to challenge you to clarify and explore your own thinking and to give you the tools to do this effectively. Your study will involve an exploration of human nature, wholeness and brokenness; of human beings as relational beings who are in relationship with self, others and the transcendent; and of the way in which we make sense of human suffering. The course will also enable you to deepen your understanding of human spirituality and will invite you to explore individual differences in spirituality. In addition, you will explore the ways in which the resources of your own spiritual tradition (such as sacred texts and prayer) may be used effectively within the context of the counselling relationship.

Your study of counselling ethics will involve an introduction to the fundamental moral principles which underpin and inform codes of ethics and practice and the different levels of moral reasoning drawn upon by counsellors in resolving ethical dilemmas. You will study existing codes of ethics and practice and explore their relevance for and impact on counselling practice. Finally, you will also explore the importance of value systems in counselling and will look at your own value system in depth, reflecting on how this impacts on your practice.

The second year

During the second year, the theory teaching will focus primarily on enabling you to develop an understanding of the core theoretical model's assumptions concerning the origin and maintenance of psychological and spiritual problems and to develop the ability to apply this model to your counselling practice. Again, as part of the process of assimilating the model, you will be encouraged to explore your own personal reactions to it – the 'degree of fit' between your own values, attitudes and beliefs and those incorporated in the model. You will explore in greater depth some of the difficulties that may occur in the counselling process and will look at some of the key issues clients often bring to the counselling relationship –for example, the experience of depression and bereavement and issues relating to anger, guilt and shame, forgiveness and sexuality.

During the second year, you will also explore the existential-spiritual dimension in the problems people present in counselling. You will look at ways of working with clients' spiritual/theological

problems and will examine further the role that the resources of your spiritual tradition may play within the counselling process.

Finally, your study of counselling ethics will enable you to explore some of the common ethical dilemmas encountered in counselling practice. You will also study the key legal issues which are of relevance to the counselling process.

2 Practical counselling skills training

One of the course's primary aims is to enable you to develop your competence in a range of foundational counselling skills and to equip you to use these skills safely and effectively in your work setting. Practical skills training is therefore an integral part of the course and is designed to link closely with the theoretical framework. You will work throughout the two years in small skills training groups of up to eight students and will experience a range of interactive and experiential activities, including the use of audio-visual equipment.

The first year

The skills training focuses on identifying, learning and practising a range of foundational person-centred counselling skills, while seeking to understand the relationship of these skills to the stages of the counselling process. The course will also train you to use the resources of your own spiritual tradition in a sensitive, appropriate and disciplined way within the context of a wide range of helping relationships.

The second year

During this second year, you will study a broader range of the foundational counselling skills and will be given further opportunities to practise and develop your competence in these skills. You will be enabled to begin to develop your awareness and understanding of process and you will develop further your ability to use the foundational skills effectively in working with such difficulties as resistance, transference and 'stuckness'.

You will also explore in greater depth the appropriate use of the resources of your spiritual tradition within the context of the counselling relationship. Finally, the course also covers such practical areas as dealing with ethical and legal issues.

The Listening Placement

During the first year of the course, you will be required to complete a placement of a minimum of 5 hours of practice in the context of a listening placement. This will not take the form of formal supervised counselling practice, but will involve the use of the foundational listening and counselling skills in another role or setting such as pastoral care, support work, mentoring, social work, community psychiatric nursing etc. By the end of the second term, you will need to ensure that you have made satisfactory arrangements for your listening placement and that these are acceptable to the course.

During the second year of the course, you will be required to complete a minimum of a further 30 hours of practice.

3 Personal development work

The first year

The course aims to encourage a commitment to personal and professional development and hence, 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 and to explore the balance of your interpersonal strengths and areas for 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

Throughout the year, the course also makes explicit provision for personal development through work in small personal development groups of up to eight students.

The second year

This personal development work will continue throughout the second year during which you will be encouraged to develop further both your interpersonal skills and your awareness and understanding of yourself. In particular, you will be invited to explore the ways in which your past experiences have shaped you as a person. You will continue to attend personal tutorials, to keep a personal learning journal and to work together in small personal development groups.

The Structure of the Course

In total, the course involves 1200 hours of teaching and private study, around 320 of which involve contact with the course staff. There are six ten week academic terms over the two years, with a four and a half hour teaching session each week. The sessions are held on the same day each week and last from 9.00 am to 2.30 pm.

In addition, you must attend an initial induction day, two weekend workshops at the beginning and end of the two year course – and one additional 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 progress, 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.

There are no formal examinations. You are, however, required to complete a number of written and practical assignments over the year. These are designed to demonstrate your growing theoretical knowledge and understanding, your developing competence in the use of the foundational counselling skills and your personal development. You will learn how to evaluate both your own and other's work as well as being assessed by members of the core teaching staff.

Entrance Requirements

Applicants will be expected to show evidence of:

- some prior training in basic listening/counselling skills at an introductory level *N.B. Under certain circumstances, this requirement may be waived.*
- the ability to meet the academic demands of the course through undertaking and sustaining a course of study at an appropriate level. Where applicants have no formal academic or vocational qualifications at A level or equivalent, they may be required to submit a short piece of written work as part of their application.
- previous or current experience of being in counselling and/or the willingness to undertake counselling for themselves during the course should the need arise.

No previous listening or counselling experience is required.

For AP(E)L entrants into the second year of the Cert HE, the entrance requirements are as follows:

- the completion of a one year part time certificate course in counselling skills which is equivalent to the Network Certificate in Pastoral Counselling Skills course.
- the ability to meet the academic demands of the course through undertaking and sustaining a course of study at an appropriate level. Where applicants have no formal academic or vocational qualifications at A level or equivalent, they may be required to submit a short piece of written work as part of their application.
- previous or current experience of being in counselling and/or the willingness to undertake counselling for themselves during the course should the need arise.

Some previous listening or counselling experience will be an advantage.

Where Next?

Those students who wish to train as professional counsellors and who have successfully completed our two year Certificate Course or its equivalent, will then be eligible to apply for a place on our two year part time Diploma in Pastoral Counselling. This leads to a nationally recognized Diploma of Higher Education with an award of 120 credits at level 2 (the equivalent of the second year of a university degree).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the Network Certificate course valid for counsellor accreditation purposes?

Yes. 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 and may also be counted towards meeting the training requirements for counsellor accreditation by the Counselling Society and the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC). In addition, you would, however, need to complete a further 130 (BACP and Counselling Society) to 180 (ACC) hours of training to meet their current training requirements. Normally this would require the completion of a diploma level training course.

Network Training in conjunction with the University of Gloucestershire offers a two year part time Diploma course in pastoral counselling which provides a further 1200 hours of counselling training, 450 of which are staff-student contact hours.

2. How does the Network Certificate course curriculum compare with other certificate level courses?

Much of the ground covered is very similar, and on completion of the course, you will have covered the key elements that are generally present in all good certificate level courses. The key differences between the Network course and other certificate courses are:

- the provision of a more intensive and demanding training than is offered by the majority of certificate level courses
- the integrative person-centred approach which forms the core theoretical model
- the focus on integrating faith, spirituality and counselling practice
- the inclusion of substantial personal development work
- the focus on spiritual development, both at a theoretical and personal development level

3. Will the fact that I have done a Certificate in *pastoral* counselling prejudice my chances of gaining access to humanistic Foundation degrees or diploma courses or of finding 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 and Spiritual Care and Counselling (APSCC) - one of the founding organisations of the BACP.

It is our experience that students who have been trained at certificate level in pastoral counselling have had no difficulty either in gaining places on humanistic diploma or foundation degree courses or, once they have completed such training, in finding work as a counsellor both in secular and pastoral settings.

Certificate Course Fees

Fees 2011 - 2012

The fee for both years of the course starting in September 2011 is £1600. 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 course.

The outstanding balance of £1400 for the year can be paid in one of 3 ways:

➤ **Single payment:**

One payment of £1400 made in September 2011

➤ **Three payments**

Three payments: £467 (autumn), £467 (spring), and £466 (summer), to be paid by the first day of each term

➤ **Monthly instalments**

Ten monthly payments of £140 to be paid by Standing Order.

Students who choose this option will be required to complete a Standing Order provided by Network, and give/send the completed Standing Order to Network in time for the initial payment to be made to Network on 1st October 2011.

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 **Tuesday 29th November 2011**: liable for the deposit and Term 1 fees
2. Withdrawal by **Tuesday 20th March 2012**: liable for the deposit and Terms 1 and 2 fees
3. Withdrawal after **Tuesday 20th March 2012**: liable for the deposit and full fees for that year

Possible Funding Sources to Help with the Cost of the Certificate 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

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 – 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

If you are a member of a church or other faith community, you could approach the community you belong to, 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 2011

An open evening for those interested in applying will be held at Network at 7.30 pm on:

Tuesday 26th April 2011

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 certificate level counselling training
- view our training premises and resources
- meet with the course tutors and 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

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

If you are unable to make this date 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, the Head of the Training Department, if you would like to:

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

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

The deadline for receipt of application is **Monday 23rd May 2011**.

Late applications

Applicants who apply after this deadline 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 in Pastoral Counselling skills may be admitted to Year 2 of the Certificate course on the basis of Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning. Previous counselling training and listening/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 a personal referee).
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 Year 2 of the Certificate course (see the section entitled 'Accreditation of Prior Learning Criteria p. 17).
3. You are also required to submit a **DVD or audio tape of a counselling session** (minimum length 15 - 20 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 Year 1 of the Certificate of Higher Education in Pastoral Counselling, you 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 modules such as the faith and spirituality module.

1. Counselling theory

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- evidence of a basic understanding of person-centred counselling approaches

- evidence of a basic understanding of the counselling process and of how it facilitates change and growth

2. Pastoral theology

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- a basic understanding of the process of philosophical/theological reflection and of its importance in the counselling role

- a developing awareness of and ability to articulate their own philosophical/theological framework and an understanding of how this impacts on their counselling practice

3. Counselling skills

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- a developing capacity to form and sustain an effective therapeutic relationship

- a basic level of competence in a range of foundational counselling skills

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 a developing awareness of personal and inter-personal strengths and areas for further development

Cert. Year 1 Course Dates 2011 – 2012

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

AUTUMN TERM 2011

Induction day	Tuesday 13 th September
Introductory workshop	Friday 16 th – Saturday 17 th September
Term dates	Tuesday 20 th September – Tuesday 29 th November
Half term	Tuesday 25 th October
Saturday workshop	Saturday 19 th November

SPRING TERM 2012

Term dates	Tuesday 10 th January - Tuesday 20 th March
Half term	Monday 14 th February
Saturday workshop	Saturday 3 rd March

SUMMER TERM 2012

Term dates	Tuesday 24 th April – Tuesday 3 rd July
Half term	Tuesday 5 th June
Saturday workshop	Saturday 23 rd June

Cert. Year 2 Course Dates 2011 – 2012

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

AUTUMN TERM 2011

Induction day	Monday 12 th September
Term dates	Monday 19 th September – Monday 28 th November
Half term	Monday 24 th October
Saturday workshop	Saturday 8 th October

SPRING TERM 2012

Term dates	Monday 9 th January – Monday 19 th March
Half term	Tuesday 13 th February
Saturday workshop	Saturday 10 th March

SUMMER TERM 2012

Term dates	Monday 23 rd April – Monday 9 th July
May Bank holiday	Monday 7 th May
Half term	Monday 4 th June
Saturday workshop	Saturday 28 th April
Closing workshop	Friday 13 th – Saturday 14 th July