



IGA Qualifying Course in Group Analysis (Manchester)

Information for Applicants

Closing date for application for September 2019 entry: 31st January 2019



About the Course

The Institute of Group Analysis (IGA) offers a full professional training in group analytic psychotherapy. Thank you for your interest in the IGA Qualifying Course in Group Analysis in Manchester. You may be considering this as a current or previous Manchester student, or wishing to come to us having completed an IGA Diploma elsewhere. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with information about admission requirements, the content of the training and the admissions procedure and guidelines.

The Qualifying Course in Manchester is a 'block training' run over 10 weekends each year. Between weekends, students also have weekly supervision via phone or skype. The theory component of the curriculum is run over three years. Personal therapy takes place alongside other aspects of the course. This provides a particular structure where focus can be brought to how different experiences and ways of learning are integrated and how we navigate the boundaries between the different elements.

The Manchester training attracts applications from those close to Manchester and those from further afield, including overseas. Cheap flights and the block nature of the training make Manchester a good option for those near a connecting airport in the UK or elsewhere. Transport links by road and rail are also good.

You may be reading this certain that you want to apply or be starting from a more tentative place; either way, I would be very pleased to hear from you and to answer any queries you may have.

Debra Nash

Manchester Courses Director

igamanchestercourses@gmail.com

07786 546 197

Components of the Training

Personal Therapy

Personal therapy is the cornerstone of an analytic training, so as a trainee on the Qualifying Course you will join an analytic therapy group and be a member of this group throughout the training. Your group will meet for five sessions each training weekend.

Large Groups

You will also take part in two Large Groups during each training weekend. The Large Groups include the other students in the training community from the Diploma and Foundation Courses, together with members of the staff team. The Large Groups are spaces to explore the complex dynamics of social identity and social processes as they are experienced both on the training and within the wider society.

Conducting Groups under Supervision

You will be required to set up and conduct a once-weekly, slow-open psychotherapy group for a minimum of 80 sessions and this must be a new group rather than one that you are already conducting. This group can be in your workplace or elsewhere. Supervision for this is included in the course fee and takes place during the training weekends and via telephone or online conferences in-between training weekends.

If you do not have IGA Group Work Practitioner status you will be required to conduct a second training group under supervision for a minimum of 30 sessions.

Theory Seminars

You will study a broad range of topics related to group analysis, psychoanalysis, social issues and psychotherapeutic practice. In addition to the seminars that take place on the training weekends, there are four whole day workshops or 'Friday Seminars' that take place each year with a focus on applied group analysis. The Friday seminars are held in conjunction with and at the University of Manchester.

Written Assessments:

- Essay: 3,000—4,000 words, submitted in June of first year;
- Case Study: 2,500—3,000 words, submitted in November of second year;
- Dissertation: 8,000 words submitted in penultimate year;
- Qualifying Paper: 8,000—10,000 words, submitted in final year.

Course fees

The fees for 2019-20 are £7,245 and monthly payment options are available.

A limited number of bursaries are available from the Institute of Group Analysis, Group Analysis North and the Harry Guntrip Trust. In addition, the course is a registered provider for those students wishing to apply for a career development loan.

Details of the bursaries can be found:

<http://www.groupanalysisnorth.com/training.php>

<http://www.groupanalysis.org/Training/BursaryScheme.aspx>

<http://harryguntriptrust.co.uk/bursaries/>

Training Weekend dates for 2019-20

13 – 15 September 2019
11 – 13 October 2019
8 – 10 November 2019
13 – 15 December 2019
10 – 12 January 2020
14 – 16 February 2020
27 – 29 March 2020
8 – 10 May 2020
5 – 7 June 2020
10 – 12 July 2020

Course Weekend Timetable

Friday	
(3.00– 4.15)	Occasional writing seminars as required*
(4.15 – 4.35)	(Break – if required)
4.35 – 4.45	Plenary – start of courses
4.45 – 6.15	Supervision
6.15 – 6.45	Break
6.45 – 8.15	Supervision
Saturday	
9.00 – 10.30	Therapy group
10.30 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 12.00	Large group
12.00 – 1.00	Lunch
1.00 – 1.15	Student meeting (including therapy-only)
1.15 – 1.25	Students meet Administrator & Courses Director
1.30 – 3.00	Therapy group
3.00 – 3.30	Break
3.30 – 4.45	Seminar
4.45 – 5.00	Break
5.00 – 6.15	Seminar
Sunday	
8.45 – 10.15	Therapy group
10.15 – 10.30	Break
10.30 – 11.30	Large group
11.30 – 12.00	Break
12.00 – 1.30	Therapy group
1.30 – 2.15	Lunch
2.15 – 3.45	Therapy group

* Writing seminars are timetabled to support the various writing tasks. You will be informed at the beginning of the academic year of those you are required to attend.

Course Admission Requirements

Academic Requirements

Candidates with a University degree or equivalent professional qualification and experience in the field may apply. Those who do not have a degree will have been required to submit an essay for consideration as part of the selection to the Diploma Course which is a requirement for entry.

Prior Training

Applicants will have completed an IGA Foundation Course and Diploma Course prior to commencing a Qualifying Course. Students who have achieved the status of Group Work Practitioner will be required to run one training group during the Qualifying Course. Those without Group Work Practitioner status will be required to run two groups.

Prior Psychotherapy

Candidates are required to have spent at least one year in a slow-open therapy group with a Training Group Analyst usually one year before the course starts. It is advised that applicants are in their therapy group at the time of application to the Qualifying Course. Applicants who are not in their therapy group at the time of application will need to explain this to the Admissions Interview Panel and Admissions Board who will consider their circumstances. In some circumstances where an applicant has been in a group with a Group Analyst who is not a Training Group Analyst prior to applying to the Qualifying Course, the Group Analyst's experience and qualifications can be considered for suitability by the National Training Management Committee.

Students undertake a block group analysis in a patient group, with a Training Group Analyst, throughout their training. Although the duration of a personal group analysis is not stipulated - it is a matter for the student, the group and the group analyst - it must continue at least until their Qualifying Paper has been accepted.

Individual Psychotherapy Experience

Students will need to show competence in therapeutic work with individuals outside the group setting. This involves demonstrating evidence of experience of providing psychodynamic psychotherapy under the supervision of a supervisor registered with the CPJA section of UKCP or BPC. Those with insufficient individual experience will be required to treat patients for individual psychotherapy and attend a weekly supervision for this. Each patient is required to be seen for a minimum of 40 sessions. You may be requested to see one, or two patients, according to the level of your previous clinical and supervision experience. Patients may be seen concurrently or consecutively.

Psychiatric Experience

The IGA's admission panel must be satisfied that students have adequate experience of working with people with mental health problems before completion of the formal part of the training. This is because once qualified, clinicians will need to be able to recognise serious mental health problems or those in danger of becoming ill, and intervene appropriately. The Course Director can advise, prior to the admission process, those who still require such experience. While it is possible to gain this experience during the training, students are encouraged to complete as much of this as they can prior to beginning the course. This work experience can be gained in the NHS, social services or in a voluntary sector organisation. It should provide demonstrable experience of the following:

- The ability to recognise serious mental illness.
- An understanding of the risks associated with serious mental illness.
- Experience of risk assessment and management of people with severe and enduring mental health problems.
- Experience of face-to-face work with people with serious mental health problems.
- The ability to recognise serious mental health problems.
- Knowledge of services available for people with serious mental health problems.
- Knowledge of Mental Health Legislation.
- An understanding of how the statutory mental health system works.
- Experience of communication with a variety of mental health practitioners.

Course Admission Procedure

All prospective applicants must speak with the Course Director, Debra Nash, prior to submitting a formal application.

Application Form

Applicants complete an application form, which includes a personal statement outlining why they wish to train as a group analyst. Any other information, which may support the application, should also be included, e.g. a Curriculum Vitae. The application form must be submitted with a passport sized photograph and the non-refundable recruitment and selection fee (payable to the IGA) to the course administrator (Manchester) by 31st January 2019.

Clinical Interview

All applicants are required to have an interview with a Clinical Interviewer prior to the panel interview. This is likely to involve some searching questions. The purpose of this interview is to ascertain whether there are any psychological/emotional reasons why it would not be advisable for an applicant to commence training in group psychotherapy. The Clinical Interviewer will provide a report to the Admissions Interview Panel and the Admissions Board. Applicants can request a copy of this report from the Training Administrator (London).

Interview Panel

Admission Interview Panels are held normally before the end of April. A panel of three senior members of the Institute will conduct the interview. The panel uses its experience of the live dialogue and interaction in the interview as a central medium and source of information. The interview panel also draws on the following information:

- The application form (including personal statement and other supporting information such as a CV).
- References.
- The report from applicant's Diploma Course Work Reflection Group Supervisor.
- The report from applicant's Clinical Interviewer.
- For applicants re-applying – Admissions' Board letter and Admissions' Interview Panel report.

Using the above parameters the panel will assess the candidate on the following criteria:

- The applicant's capacity for self-reflection.
- The applicant's capacity for insight and self-understanding in relation to their application to train as a Group Analyst.
- The applicant's interest in, and awareness of, self in relation to others.
- The applicant's capacity for empathy with others.
- The applicant's psychic resilience.
- The applicant's awareness of power relations and the dynamic impact of difference such as race, sexuality, gender and religion.
- The applicant's capacity to be part of a group or community.
- The applicant's ability to think theoretically about clinical work and write to the required academic standard.
- The applicant's experience of working with people with mental health problems.
- Whether the applicant has been in personal group analysis with a Training Group Analyst for the required period before the course starts, and the applicant's attitude towards this requirement.
- The applicant's ability to use therapy.

The Interview panel may use other criteria as seem relevant at the time. The reasons for use of additional criteria should be clearly explained in the report, as should the reasons for omission of any of the above criteria.

Admissions Board

The Admissions Interview Panel will produce a report following the interview, which will be sent with the references to the Admissions Board. Applicants can request a copy of this report from the Training Administrator (London). The Admissions Board will then review all the reports and come to a decision about the application. A letter will then be sent informing the applicant of the Board's decision.

Offer and secure your place

Once you are formally offered a place on the course, you will be asked to sign and return an acceptance form and pay the first month's fees, in advance, by 31st May 2019.

If you wish to apply for the IGA Qualifying Course then please speak to Debra Nash, Courses Director, prior to completing your application form. Debra can be contacted by email igamanchestercourses@gmail.com or by phone on 07786 546 197.