



IGA Diploma in Groupwork Practice

Information for Applicants

**Closing date for applications for September 2024 entry: Friday 17th
May 2024**



About the Course

Thank you for your interest in the IGA Diploma in Groupwork Practice. You may be considering this as a current or previous Manchester student or wishing to come to us having completed a Foundation Course elsewhere. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with information about the admission requirements, the content of the course and the admissions procedure.

The Diploma Course in Manchester is a 'block training course' run over eleven weekends during a year. If you choose to train with us, you will be part of a training community which includes students on the IGA Qualifying Course and IGA Foundation Course.

The **Diploma in Groupwork Practice** builds on the learning from the IGA Foundation Course, further developing your understanding of group analytic theory alongside developing the skills and techniques necessary to successfully facilitate a wide range of groups.

Successful completion of this course, together with appropriate clinical experience, can lead to the status of **Group Work Practitioner** and **Associate Membership of the IGA**.

For those wishing to go on to full membership of the IGA, the Diploma is the first year of the Qualifying Course which can also be undertaken in Manchester.

Components of the Course

Theoretical Seminars

Seminars develop your understanding of group analytic theory, including the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully run a range of groups. In addition to the theory seminars which take place at the training weekends, there are 5, online afternoon "Friday Seminars" that take place during the year with a focus on research and applied group analysis. The Friday Seminars are also attended by students from the qualifying course and students from the University of Manchester.

Work Reflection Group

The work reflection group (WRG) will have a maximum of 6 members and a supervisor. You will be asked to bring to this group, either a group you are running or a group you are participating in. Students take turns to present their work, and this is discussed from a group analytic perspective by the whole WRG, including the WRG supervisor.

Personal Group Analytic Psychotherapy

Personal therapy is an integral part of the diploma course in Manchester. You will join a therapy group, conducted by a Training Group Analyst, which is made up of diploma and qualifying course students and those attending the training weekends for therapy only. There are five therapy sessions each training weekend. Being in an analytic therapy group will help you to understand and tolerate the different levels of communication, conscious and unconscious, which emerge in any group; and the self-knowledge you gain will become part of your developing clinical resources. It is expected that while on the diploma course this will be the only therapy that you receive. If you are already in therapy, you are therefore advised to discuss this early in the application process with the Courses Director.

Large Group

There are two large groups each training weekend, conducted by the Courses Director. The groups are attended by all members of the therapy groups on the course. The experience of being in a large group helps you to explore the social context in relation to personal and professional development.

National Learning Experience (NLE)

The NLE is included in the course fee and is held at one of the IGA's course locations over a weekend, usually in April or May. Students from all IGA diploma courses come together for this intensive workshop to explore a group analytic concept intensively and in depth.

Written Assessment

There are 2 pieces of written work on the course:

4,000-word Theory Essay

2,000-word Reflective Practice Essay

There is a minimum attendance requirement of at least 80%.

Students are also required to keep a Reflective Diary (not assessed).

Groupwork Practitioner Status and Associate Membership of the Institute of Group Analysis

To achieve this status, in addition to successfully completing the other components of the course, you will need to run a group for a minimum of thirty sessions (or similar, e.g., 3 x 10-week groups) and provide evidence of satisfactory clinical practice under supervision. This part of the course requires you to have an appropriate workplace or external supervisor who will be asked to write two brief reports for you while you are running your group. Students have 2 years after completion of the diploma course to apply for Groupwork Practitioner status.

What Past Students have said about the Course

"Attending the Diploma has led to a major change in both my professional and personal development – I cannot recommend the course enough."

"The course is immensely useful for managers as well as clinicians, perhaps especially for managers of mental health clinicians who are not themselves clinicians. Hard work but well worth it."

Course Fees and Bursaries

The fees for 2024-25 are £6,700 (therapy fees included) with an early bird rate of £6,300 for applications received by 31st March 2024. The fee for organisational funded places is £7,200.

There is an additional, non-refundable, selection fee of £250 payable on application. If offered a place on the course an additional fee of £75 will be payable to GAN for a therapy group intake interview.

Fees can be paid in 11 monthly instalments.

Fees include all elements of the training:

- Work reflection groups (30 hours)
- Seminars (20 seminars)
- Personal group therapy (50 sessions per year)
- Large groups (20 per year)
- The National Learning Experience weekend
- 5 Friday online Seminars
- Membership of the Group Analytic Society (including access to *Group Analysis* journal on-line)

A limited number of small bursaries are available from Group Analysis North and the Harry Guntrip Trust. Details of bursaries can be found:

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

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

Anyone requiring help with funding bids can contact the GAN Development officer, Mandy Wildman and she will be able to provide support and assistance. Mandy can be contacted at mndywldmn@aol.com

Training Weekend dates for 2024-25

13 - 15 September 2024
11 - 13 October 2024
8 – 10 November 2024
6 - 8 December 2024
17- 19 January 2025
14 - 16 February 2025
21 - 23 March 2025
2-4 May 2025 – NLE – venue: Turvey
9 - 11 May 2025
13 – 15 June 2025
11 - 13 July 2025 (Graduation 12 July)

The Friday Seminar dates for 2024-25 are:

29th November 2024
31st January 2025
7th February 2025
7th March 2025
23rd May 2025

The Seminars run on **zoom** from 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Admission Requirements

All applicants must have completed an Institute of Group Analysis Foundation Course and have a degree or equivalent. If you do not have a degree, you will be asked to complete an essay which will be assessed to ensure that you will be able to meet the written requirements of the course.

Application Process

If you are interested in applying, you are invited to contact Chris MacGregor, the Manchester Courses Director who can answer any initial queries you may have. Following that, if you would like to apply, you should complete an application form and send this, plus a passport size photograph, and a non-refundable selection fee of £250.00 to Bethan Marreiros, Training Administration Manager, Group Analysis North, administrator@groupanalysisnorth.com

Interviews will be held online on Tuesday 28th May 2024 and Wednesday 29th May 2024 and you will be invited to attend on one of these dates. Interviews are in two parts:

- **Course interview** – 30 minutes - to discuss your application and to help you to begin to consider what might be a suitable group to bring to the work reflection group.
- **Therapy interview** – 45 minutes - to talk about you, in relation to the therapy aspect of the course.

References

A professional reference will be required.

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 2024. In addition, and prior to the course starting you will meet with the training group analyst for your therapy group for a therapy group intake interview (a fee of £75.00 is payable for this).

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 – usual start of course
4.45 – 6.15	Work reflection group
6.15 – 6.45	Break
6.45 – 8.15	Work reflection group
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	
9.00 – 10.30	Therapy group
10.30 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 12.00	Large group
12.00 – 12.45	Lunch
12.45 – 2.15	Therapy group
2.15 – 2.45	Break
2.45 – 4.15	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.

Further Training

If you wish to continue training beyond the diploma course to qualify as a Group Analyst, you can apply to undertake the **IGA Qualifying Course in Group Analysis** which is also available in Manchester. Applications should be submitted in January each year. Students can apply for the Qualifying Course while on the Diploma Course. In Manchester, as with the Diploma, the Qualifying Course is undertaken over 'block weekends'.

If, on completion of the Diploma year, you are unsure about further training you can apply to remain in your therapy group for a further year to consider this. You may also apply to continue in a work reflection group.

Contact for Further Details

Chris MacGregor, Manchester Courses Director: coursesdirector@groupanalysisnorth.com

Or visit the Group Analysis North Website: www.groupanalysisnorth.com

OR attend the informal session to meet with the Courses Director on:

Wednesday 21st February 2024 – 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. (Online). Sessions are free but booking required – contact administrator@groupanalysisnorth.com or phone 07792775301.