



IGA

The Institute of
Group Analysis

IGA Diploma in Groupwork Practice

Information for Applicants

Closing date for applications for September 2026 entry: Friday 22 May 2026



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 leaflet 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 as well as those attending the weekends for therapy only.

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**. We have included an example of a timeline on page 4 which outlines the steps required to gain groupwork practitioner status.

For those wishing to go on to full membership of the IGA, the diploma course is the first year of the IGA Qualifying Course in Group Analysis 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 2 theory seminars which take place at each the training weekends, there are also 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 2 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 3 pieces of written work on the course:

An optional 2000-word essay

4,000-word theory essay

2,000-word reflective 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. Examples of the types of groups previously run by students include: Reflective Practice Group, therapy group, Personal development and self-awareness group, private therapy group, Balint group, therapeutic community group, Art psychotherapy group, online therapy group. Suggested groups will be discussed in the work reflection group and can include groups which are already running, which meet the criteria.

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 2026-27 are £7,205 (group therapy fees included) with an early bird rate of £6,479 for applications received by 31st March 2026. The fee for organisational funded places is £7,810.

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 (for those living or working in Yorkshire). Details of bursaries can be found:

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

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

Training Weekend dates for 2026-27

18-20 September 2026

16-18 October 2026

13 – 15 November 2026

11-13 December 2026

15-17 January 2027

12 - 14 February 2027

19-21 March 2027

23-25 April 2027 NLE – venue to be confirmed

7-9 May 2027

11-13 June 2027

9-11 July 2027 (10 July 2027– whole community graduation evening)

Friday Seminar dates for 2026-27

23 October 2026

20 November 2026

29 January 2027

26 February 2027

12 March 2027

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 digital photograph, and a non-refundable selection fee of £250.00 to Bethan Marreiros, Training Administrator, Group Analysis North, administrator@groupanalysisnorth.com

Interviews will be held online on Wednesday 3 June 2026 and Thursday 4 June 2026 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 Friday 12 June 2026. 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 support seminars. 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.
(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 – 1.20	Training community meeting with Courses Director and administrator
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

Diploma Course/Groupwork Practitioner timeline

Students join the diploma course in September.

Student discusses potential group in the work reflection group (**WRG**)

When the student has a suitable group, a **proposal form** is completed, shared, and discussed with the WRG supervisor in the WRG.

Once agreed with the WRG supervisor, the completed **GWP proposal form** is submitted to the Courses Director who informs the student and WRG supervisor if the form, the group and work place supervision arrangements are accepted.

The decision is ratified by the Manchester Courses Committee (**MCC**) at its next meeting.

A letter is sent to the **student's workplace supervisor** – informing them of the course requirements and sending the report to be completed at 10 and 30 group sessions.

At 10 sessions and 30 sessions, students prompt their workplace supervisor to send the standard report to the course.

The reports are submitted to the next meeting of the **MCC** for approval.

Once 30 sessions have been successfully completed, reported, and ratified, the IGA writes to the student offering **Associate Membership** of the IGA and confirming **Groupwork Practitioner** status.

Certificates are presented at the annual graduation ceremony.

Any student who has not completed 30 sessions of their group by the time the course ends must complete a form which is submitted to the Courses Director outlining their continued supervision arrangements.

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 – online or in person.

Contact for Further Details

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

(In Spring 2026, a Course Convenor will be appointed to provide enhanced support and guidance to diploma course students, in recognition of the rich training experience that the year offers.)

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

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

Wednesday 25 February 2026, 6pm – 7pm (Online).

Sessions are free but booking required – contact administrator@groupanalysisnorth.com or phone 07792775301