

Programme guide

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert Psychology
and Trauma (Child and Adolescent)



Anna Freud

Overview

The Psychology and Trauma (Child and Adolescent) postgraduate degree provides students with the opportunity to explore the latest research evidence and applied practice related to the psychological impact of trauma in childhood.

This innovative and flexible programme is studied entirely online, either full-time or part-time, at postgraduate certificate (PG Cert), postgraduate diploma (PG Dip) or master's level (MSc).

Course content

This programme equips students with an up-to-date understanding of the evidence base in trauma theory and practice. Learning starts with a thorough introduction to the concept of trauma across time, contexts and developmental stages, exploring the impact of trauma exposure and developing an understanding of what trauma-focused interventions look like at individual through to population levels. Students then build their own learning journey through a range of specialist modules which look at the concept of trauma in childhood across a range of different settings, such as education, Social Care, and clinical practice. Students also have the opportunity to build an in-depth understanding of research practice in the field of trauma, exploring the ethical nuances and skills required for work in this field.

The programme takes a multi-disciplinary approach spanning neuroscience, cognitive and behavioural theories, and systems theories. One of the key strengths of the programme lies in its global perspective, fostering an exploration of trauma through cultural, systemic and international lenses. This is supported by the cohort-based model of study, in which the experiences of a global cohort of students provides opportunities to best understand how trauma is understood across settings and contexts. This ensures that graduates emerge with both advanced theoretical knowledge and the ability to adapt their expertise to varied cultural and systemic contexts.

Credit requirements by qualification



MSc: 180 credits at Level 7 (of which 105 are compulsory)

PG Dip: 120 credits at Level 7 (of which 30 are compulsory)

PG Cert: 60 credits at Level 7 (of which 30 are compulsory)

Compulsory modules

All students on the course start their learning with the module

Foundations of Trauma Studies – a Lifespan Perspective (30 credits).

Research Skills in Psychology (15 credits) is a compulsory module for MSc students. It is an optional module for PG Cert and PG Dip students.

For MSc students only the Dissertation module is compulsory (comprising 60 credits running across two terms).

Optional modules

Students can choose from six modules to make up their remaining credits:

- Therapeutic Approaches in Childhood and Adolescence (15 credits)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing: A Developmental Perspective (30 credits)
- Common and Trauma-Related Mental Health Difficulties in Childhood and Adolescence (30 credits)
- Working with Children and Adolescents on the Impact of Trauma (30 credits)
- Trauma Informed Care in Education Settings (15 credits)
- Trauma Informed Approaches in Children's Social Care (15 credits)

Please note, this module list is indicative and subject to change.

Teaching and learning

The course is delivered entirely online, with most of the week's learning completed at a time and place to suit you. The course includes lectures, readings, activities and forum discussions. Students also have weekly, virtual contact where they connect with each other and course staff in live seminars, workshops and peer tutorials.

The programme includes a wide range of assessments to help develop and reflect a range of student strengths. This includes essays, presentations, student participation, discussions, groupwork and projects.

For full time students there will be a maximum of around 25 hours of content per week, which includes around four hours of core lectures and a further four to six hours of contact time, including seminars, webinars and tutorials.

Teaching will be led by expert academics and frontline professionals who work with people affected by trauma. The voices of those with lived experience is also central to the programme. The course sits within the UCL-Anna Freud partnership, benefiting from Anna Freud's clinical, schools and research expertise.



Eligibility

The programme is relevant to those with an interest in the psychology of trauma, including students who wish to continue to deepen their understanding of psychology, and professionals seeking to upskill their learning in this area, including those working in education, mental health, social care and medical settings.

A minimum of an upper second-class bachelor's degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard is required. A lower second-class honours degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard will be considered if there is evidence of sufficient professional experience in a relevant setting.

Applicants will usually have a degree in psychology, mental health, public health, social sciences, child development, education, social work or related disciplines. Candidates with a degree in another discipline will be considered if there is evidence of sufficient professional experience in a relevant setting.



Fees



Faculty: Brain Sciences 2026–2027

Psychology and Trauma (Child and Adolescent), MSc (TMSPSYATRA01)	UK full-time:	£16,800
	UK part-time:	£8,400
	Overseas full-time:	£22,000
	Overseas part-time:	£11,000
Psychology and Trauma (Child and Adolescent), PG Dip (TPPPSYATRA01)	UK full-time:	£11,200
	UK part-time:	£5,600
	Overseas full-time:	£14,700
	Overseas part-time:	£7,350
Psychology and Trauma (Child and Adolescent), PG Cert (TCPPSYATRA01)	UK Full-time:	£5,600
	UK part-time:	N/A
	Overseas full-time:	£7,300
	Overseas part-time:	N/A

Bursaries and Scholarships

The MSc award route of this course is eligible for Anna Freud's Asquith Mature Student Bursary. Please see our [Bursaries and Scholarships page](#) for more details.

Application process 	Application deadline 	Course start date 
Applications can be made on the UCL website .	30 June 2026 (5pm UK time)	September 2026

More information

You can find full details of the course on the [UCL website](#). Please contact childpsychtrauma@ucl.ac.uk with any questions.

UCL

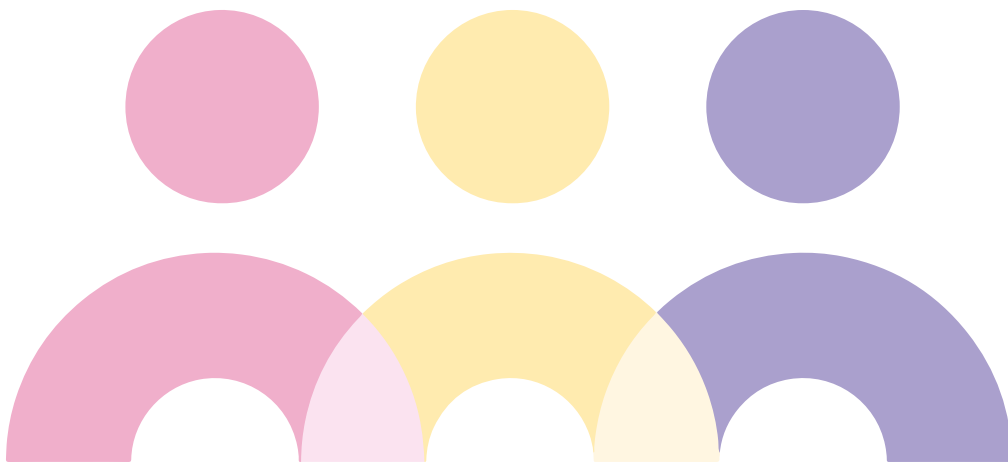
UCL is one of the foremost teaching and research institutions in the UK, named University of the Year by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024. It was founded in 1826 to provide higher education for all who could benefit from it, regardless of religion, race or class, and is both the oldest and the largest of the various colleges and institutes that make up the University of London. Psychology at UCL has an outstanding track record of innovative research and UCL is ranked first for research power in Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience by the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021).

Visit www.ucl.ac.uk for more information.

Anna Freud

Anna Freud is a mental health charity and we've been supporting children and young people for over 70 years. We listen to and learn from their diverse voices and integrate this with learnings from our science and practice to develop and deliver mental health care. This holistic approach has world-changing potential – our training, schools support, networks, partnerships and resources equip those who impact children and young people's lives with the knowledge and skills to support their mental health.

Visit www.annafreud.org for more information.





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