

## Working with Couples: An Introduction to Theory and Practice

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**Relate Richmond, Kingston & Hounslow** has commissioned the Relate Institute to lead the Working with Couples or "conversion course" for experienced counsellors.

### Venue

1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room, Richmond CVS, 1 Princes Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1ED

The office is located close to Richmond station with fast links to Clapham Junction and Waterloo and District Line underground services.

### Dates

Friday & Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> , & 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
Friday, Saturday & Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
Friday & Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2012
Friday & Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2012

### About the course

This course aims to provide training for practitioners wishing to work as Relate couple counsellors who have previous working experience and qualifications in the field of counselling.

After successfully completing the programme students will:

- Have an understanding of aspects of psychodynamic theory, systemic theory and human sexuality, applicable to working with couples
- Have developed additional counselling skills for working with couples
- Have started working with couples at a Relate Centre.

The course takes place over three two-day blocks and one three-day block. Each day begins at 9.30am and ends at 5pm. Students will also undertake a placement at a Relate Centre comprising 40 hours of clinical practice supervised within the centre. Of the 40 hours, 25 should be with both partners in the counselling room. The second 3 day block includes DVA Awareness and Safety training after which the student is expected to start work with clients.

## **Course content**

### **Themes**

- Systemic and psychodynamic ideas relating to couple counselling
- Human sexuality
- Ethical practice in an organisational setting
- An awareness of domestic violence and abuse

### **Teaching**

The programme uses a variety of methods. These include formal lectures, structured skills development and practice, workshops and programme group meetings. As this programme is a clinical programme, there is a strong emphasis on practical and experiential work, including Personal and Professional Development groups.

An essential aspect of the Relate Institute approach to learning and teaching is the importance we place on student feedback and evaluation. We try to incorporate students' ideas whenever practicable and appropriate within the programme structure and philosophy.

### **Assessment**

Assessment will be by two written assignments, one of which will be practice based, and the other theory based.

Students are required to adhere to the BACP Ethical Framework.

### **Entry criteria**

Prospective students must:

- Hold a counselling qualification at Diploma level or above
- Have completed a minimum of 50 hours of supervised counselling practice
- Have access to a practice base in a Relate Centre or other approved clinical setting

All successful applicants will be required to have undergone a Criminal Records Bureau check at enhanced level within the 12 months leading up to the start of the programme.

Applicants are strongly advised to ensure that they have adequate word processing skills, IT skills and access to the Internet before embarking on this course.

### **Interview criteria**

Applicants will need to demonstrate personal qualities relevant to therapeutic practice and training, which include:

- Respect for and valuing of others, and their differences
- A commitment to anti-discriminatory practice
- A capacity to cope with the professional and academic demands of the course
- A capacity to be reflexive and use experience and feedback constructively

### **Quality**

The course is continuously monitored for the quality of its course content, teaching delivery, assessment and course management according to the procedures of the Relate Institute and the University Centre Doncaster.

### **Fees**

The programme fees include all tuition and tutorials. Clinical supervision may be included if the placement is in a Relate Centre. If the placement is not in a Relate Centre supervision will be the student's responsibility. The fee does not include the cost of accommodation, meals, or travel. Students will also be expected to borrow or buy their own books, journals and articles.

The full fee for the course is £1540 by cheque will be to Relate RKH.

### **How to apply**

All candidates should apply to Relate RKH directly. Places are limited to a maximum of 16 and the course will only run if 12 students are enrolled on the course and they have secured a clinical placement at a Relate centre.

Four of the 16 places have been reserved for Relate RKH who will offer bursary funding for 2 experienced counsellors who wish to commit to Relate RKH and work in the borough of Hounslow. The cost of the bursary place will be £399. Relate RKH especially welcomes applications from suitably qualified counsellors from diverse backgrounds and experience who would commit to the delivery of a further 100 practice hours after completion of their clinical placement. Relate RKH will offer a further 2 placements for students who wish to pay the full cost of the course but undertake their placement with Relate RKH.

The remaining 12 places are open to counsellors able to arrange their own placement at their local Relate centre.

Please download your application forms from the Relate Institute website [www.relateinstitute.ac.uk](http://www.relateinstitute.ac.uk) and send your completed application and reference forms to

Anna Khan  
Director  
Working with Couples Course  
Relate  
1 Princes Street  
Richmond TW9 1ED

Please download your application documents:

Application form: [http://www.relateinstitute.ac.uk/PDF/Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.relateinstitute.ac.uk/PDF/Application_Form.pdf)

Reference request forms (two needed):  
[http://www.relateinstitute.ac.uk/PDF/Reference\\_Request.pdf](http://www.relateinstitute.ac.uk/PDF/Reference_Request.pdf)

If you would like to apply for the subsidised course fee please state this in your covering letter when you return your completed application forms. If you would like further information about a placement with Relate RKH please contact [anna@relaterkh.org](mailto:anna@relaterkh.org)

You will be asked to attend a selection interview in the Richmond centre which will be conducted by staff from the Relate Institute.