

Programme Specification

PGDip Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment for Children and Young People (High Intensity) (full-time)

PFTZEBPTCYHD

For students entering in 2027/28

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	PGDip Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment for Children and Young People (High Intensity) (full-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP) - Level 2
Programme Start Dates	January
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

This one-year full-time programme has the overarching aim of introducing you to the theory and practice of collaboratively delivering evidence-based, high-intensity cognitive behavioural therapy (HI CBT), to children and young people. It is expected that you will be employed full-time within partnership services (mainly NHS but also some voluntary sector/local authority) and be training to provide HI CBT assessment, formulation and intervention to children and young people. Most students are funded by NHS England (NHSE), though some are funded through their employer direct or self-funded with self-arranged placements. Throughout the programme, you will be working within your respective employing/placement services, delivering CBT.

The aims of this programme are closely tied to the aims of the Government's programme to expand the 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies' (IAPT) scheme and to extend it to children and adolescents. The overall aim of this national programme is to up-skill the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) workforce, so as to maximise their efficiency and effectiveness, and ensure that their outcomes are measurable.

This programme follows a well-specified national NHSE curriculum. As our delivery of the curriculum also meets the high-quality minimum training standards for the BABCP level II award, University of Reading graduates from this programme will be highly employable as BABCP-accredited cognitive behavioural therapists with specialism in working with children and young people.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-PGDip Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment for Children and Young People (High Intensity) (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

LEARNING OUTCOMES	
1	Describe the core principles of accessibility, awareness, accountability, evidence-based practice and participation and how these underpin the delivery of high-quality Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
2	Engage effectively with children, young people and families presenting with a range of mental health difficulties. This involves cultural humility and anti-discriminatory practice, working with difference through curiosity and openness to varying lived experiences.
3	Demonstrate clinical skills in assessing children and young people (and their families) with anxiety disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression
4	Collaboratively develop and deliver formulations, treatment plans and interventions for working with children and young people (and their families) with anxiety disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder and depression
5	Reflect on therapy experiences using reflective practice models, supervision and routine outcome measures
6	Demonstrate robust knowledge of the evidence-based theory and research in CBT, to promote a critical approach to the subject and how the knowledge base is applied in work with children and young people.
7	Meet the minimum training standards for BABCP accreditation
8	Demonstrate effective and context sensitive written and spoken communication skills in communicating information, advice, instruction and professional opinion to service users, their relatives and carers, colleagues and others.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PYMBSC	Basic Skills	40	M
PYMCHA	Therapy for Childhood Anxiety	40	M
PYMCHD	Therapy for Childhood Depression	40	M

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

Not applicable. There is currently not a part-time route.

For NHSE funded students, this is typically a 1-year programme and these students may have contractual arrangements with their employer that mean programme requirements must be met within this timeframe (students should check with their employing services).

Placement opportunities

The programme consists of a taught component delivered via the University and also an active contribution to service delivery within the NHS. There are no opportunities for study abroad or alternative placements within the programme. NHSE funded students must be employed within a CWI partnering service for the duration of the workplace-based learning of the programme; these students may change employers during the programme but to continue the programme, the new employer must also be a partnering service in support of the student continuing their studies and their new role must also involve appropriate clinical work.

Students not funded by NHSE are responsible for arranging their own placements which must meet the programme requirements with regards to clinical and information governance (details provided/evidenced in a 3-way meeting with the programme director, the student and their clinical supervisor/line manager, which is arranged after successful interview).

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

There are no optional modules.

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be provided with a mixture of modular teaching and work-based learning. You will receive scheduled and self-scheduled teaching and learning activities at the forefront of the discipline, informed by current practice, scholarship, and research, and will work with other students to develop your knowledge through a variety of on-campus and work-based activities.

The CWI is committed to maintaining and promoting diversity in its curriculum (e.g., including teaching regarding the historic and ongoing oppression faced by minority groups within mental health care) and teaching materials (e.g., videos of clinical skills illustrated using diverse practitioners as well as diverse clients). We also work hard to ensure accessibility for students is prioritised.

As part of coursework assessment, students are required to bring recordings of their practice for review within group supervision sessions and students are encouraged to develop their feedback skills through evaluating one another's practice

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology (in line with BABCP guidelines it will be no more than 50%). Based on student feedback, clinical training literature, and our NHS/NHSE stakeholders, most of the face-to-face delivery will occur early on in the programme.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete

them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

This programme is accredited by the British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy (BABCP) at Level 2.

Assessment

Assessments will be by a variety of methods, including: (a) formative tapes of therapy sessions, rated by student and supervisor; (b) summative therapy tapes rated by markers and self-rated by students; (c) students' written reflective analyses of therapy skills; (d) written assignments on literature and on case studies, (e) a case presentation, (f) and the completion of an accreditation portfolio marked by programme team members. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

On the programme, students have the right to resubmit all coursework on one occasion (with marks capped at the pass mark for classification purposes). However, as this is a clinical programme and assessments involve real patients/clients, there is a programme limit of two pieces of coursework that can be granted 'third attempts' (known as alternative assessments) in exceptional circumstances. As a clinical programme, the University has expectations from students' employing organisations, NHSE, and professional accrediting bodies to ensure clinical competence standards are met. If there are exceptional circumstances which are likely to affect the student across a number of assessments, they are able to suspend studies, for a cumulative maximum of 2 years, in accordance with the University suspension policy.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

N/A

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment for Children and Young People (High Intensity):

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

- i. an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
- ii. Within each module:
 - every summative assessment must be passed with a mark of 50% or more (any 'auto-fails' on skills-based assessments will cause the assessment to be marked as 0 and will mean a failure of the assessment); and
 - all portfolio assignments must be passed (marked as Pass/Fail and includes a requirement for students to have attended at least 80% of the teaching days in each module).

Please note: For NHSE funded students, Completion of studies is dependent on employment within an NHS commissioned Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. Students must successfully pass all modules of the training programme and no alternative exit award is available, as this programme is nationally recognised by NHSE.

For all students, the programme completion is dependent on access to a clinical caseload and appropriate supervision. Therefore, a student's studies may be terminated if they are no longer working in an appropriate service and no longer have access to a clinical caseload or access to BABCP accredited supervision.

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

NHSE funded students are not expected to meet programmes costs; these would typically be covered by the student's employer; however, this detail will be outlined by students' employers.

For students not funded by NHSE, students may be required to cover their own travel expenses, recording equipment and/or protocol resources; however, this detail will be outlined in individual students' employment contracts.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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30 July 2026

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