

## PART 3 OF THE APPLICATION FORM

Applications to the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy clinical training must be accompanied by a portfolio evidencing pre-clinical learning and experience in the following areas:

- Relevant clinical experience
- Psychiatric experience
- Successful completion of the Infant Observation, Work Discussion and Classical Theory Pre-Clinical Courses offered by SIP or equivalent courses or learning.

The following paragraphs summarise what should be included in the portfolio in each of these areas. More details of SIP's Pre-Clinical Courses may be found in *The Pre-Clinical Courses Handbook*; more details of the psychiatric placement requirements may be found in *The Psychoanalytic Clinical Training Handbook*. Both of these are available from the SIP Administrator on request.

Students registered on SIP's Pre-Clinical Courses are advised to discuss their ongoing learning with their Personal Tutor.

All applicants are strongly advised to discuss their readiness to apply with the Admissions Advisor at an early stage.

### CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

**Requirement:** Applicants are required to have relevant experience of psychodynamically or psychoanalytically oriented clinical work with individuals. This is necessary in order to have gained adequate clinical experience in preparation for taking on a three times a week training patient during the first year of training. The experience may often have been gained professionally and be in the context of an existing mental health qualification.

Potential applicants who do not have this clinical experience should arrange either an honorary placement in an appropriate NHS setting or a voluntary placement in an appropriate organisation, in order to gain sufficient experience. Such potential applicants may wish to engage SIP's help in finding an appropriate placement; students of SIP's pre-clinical courses may arrange a placement alongside undertaking the courses and can approach their personal tutor or the course co-ordinator for help; others may contact the intake co-ordinator to ensure that the placement will provide what they need.

Placements will be considered individually and the experience in a placement will vary with the context, but where possible the experience should include 1 year of continuous weekly work with one or preferably two patients out of a small caseload, under supervision. This is in order to offer

suitable preparation for working more intensively over the longer term and this level of experience should have been gained prior to the start of the clinical training, although some candidates may choose to extend the placement alongside the training. Whether supervision is individual or group or both will vary with the context of the placement, but it must be psychodynamic or psychoanalytic. Where there are opportunities for case discussion in addition to supervision this would be a welcome addition.

**Evidence to be included in the Portfolio:** The applicant should include a statement of no more than 500 words, giving details of the clinical work they have done in the occupations and/or placements they have listed in question 5 of the application form. They should include details of what kind of clinical work they did, their aims and style of working and say what they have made of that experience. The statement should demonstrate sufficient experience of psychodynamically or psychoanalytically oriented clinical work with individuals.

## PSYCHIATRIC EXPERIENCE

**Requirement:** All applicants are required to have some experience of working in a psychiatric setting, either from current or previous employment or through undertaking a psychiatric placement. Applicants should contact the psychiatric placement co-ordinator (contact details available from the SIP administrator or the intake co-ordinator) to discuss whether or not their experience is sufficient to apply for the clinical training. If required, the applicant, in consultation with the psychiatric placement co-ordinator, must arrange a suitable placement and on its completion, write a report and submit it to the psychiatric placement co-ordinator.

**Evidence to be included in Portfolio:** Applicants should enclose a statement from the psychiatric placement co-ordinator confirming that an assessment of the applicant's psychiatric experience has been made and stating the outcome of this assessment. Where a placement has been required, the applicant must include in the portfolio a copy of their report on the placement, and also a brief comment (about a paragraph) from the psychiatric placement co-ordinator on that report (provided to the applicant by the co-ordinator). The applicant should ask the psychiatric placement co-ordinator to complete the relevant form (see *The Psychoanalytic Clinical Training Handbook: Appendix 5*) to make both their statement and the comment on the placement report.

Where the placement has not been completed at the time of application, the applicant should include a statement about what they have covered and what is still to do during the placement. On completion of the placement the applicant will write and submit a report and the psychiatric placement co-ordinator's comment on it, as soon as possible. If this is not until after the selection process, any offer of a training place will be conditional on the satisfactory completion of the placement and submission of the relevant reports. Generally, the placement and reports must be completed prior to beginning the clinical training.

## INFANT OBSERVATION (SIX TERMS)

**Requirement: Completion of SIP's Infant Observation seminar, including a 3000-word paper or equivalent.**

This seminar is helpful in teaching students to become receptive observers. Students are required to visit a baby once a week for an hour from birth to at least 18 months. In addition, the student will attend a seminar for six terms. An essay is written at the end and submitted to the seminar leader who writes a report.

Applicants who have completed Infant Observation seminars elsewhere should discuss with the intake co-ordinator if this may be considered as equivalent\*(see end note).

**Evidence to be included in Portfolio:** An applicant who has completed SIP's Infant Observation course should submit a copy of their final report from the seminar leader, a copy of their essay and a copy of the seminar leader's report on the essay.

To demonstrate equivalent learning, applicants who have completed an Infant Observation elsewhere must include in the portfolio details of the course and of both the organisation and the seminar leader delivering that course. They should include the length of the course, number of hours attended, content of the course and the accreditation of the organisation and the professional registration of the seminar leader. They should also include a report from the seminar leader confirming their satisfactory completion of the course and a copy of an essay (no less than 2500 words) giving an account of the observation, together with a report from the seminar leader on this essay.

All applicants should note that if the Infant Observation has not been completed by the time of application, then copies of the seminar leader's reports to date should be submitted and the essay and final reports submitted as soon as possible. If this is not until after the selection process, any offer of a place will be conditional on the satisfactory completion of the seminar and essay and receipt of the relevant reports. The seminar and essay must be completed prior to beginning the clinical training.

## Work Discussion (three terms)

**Requirement: Completion of SIP's Work Discussion seminar, including a 3000-word paper or equivalent.**

This seminar explores the application of psychoanalytic curiosity to the participant's work. Students may not be working as counsellors or psychotherapists but should be working in a setting in which they have direct, ongoing contact with clients. An essay is written at the end and submitted to the seminar leader who writes a report.

If an applicant has attended a similar course elsewhere or had a similar experience of presenting work in a psychoanalytic group, it may be possible to demonstrate equivalent learning\*(see end note). This should be discussed with the Intake Co-ordinator.

**Evidence to be included in Portfolio:** An applicant who has completed SIP's Work Discussion course should submit a copy of their final report from the seminar leader, a copy of their essay and a copy of the seminar leader's report on the essay.

To demonstrate equivalent learning, applicants who have attended a similar work discussion group must include in the portfolio details of that course or group and of both the organisation and the seminar leader/facilitator providing it. They should include the time frame, number of hours attended, task of the group and content of the discussion and the accreditation of the organisation and the professional registration of the seminar leader/facilitator. Applicants must also submit a report from the seminar leader/ facilitator confirming their satisfactory attendance at the group and/or completion of the course, and a case discussion essay (no less than 2500 words) together with a report on it from the seminar leader or appropriate supervisor.

All applicants should note that if the work discussion has not been completed by the time of application, then they should include copies of the seminar leader's reports to date, or a current report from the group facilitator and should submit an essay and final reports as soon as possible. If this is not until after the selection process, any offer of a place will be conditional on the satisfactory completion of the seminar and essay and receipt of the relevant reports. The work discussion and essay must be completed prior to beginning the clinical training.

## CLASSICAL THEORY (THREE TERMS)

**Requirement: Completion of SIP's Classical Theory seminar or equivalent.**

This course offers an opportunity to study the development of Freud's thought as he struggled to account theoretically for the observations he was making in his clinical work. Through a close study of his written work it can be seen that certain concepts retained their centrality, while others were jettisoned or revised. The emphasis of the course is to foster an attitude of mind which views theorising as a means of organising and making sense of clinical observations and experiences. No essay is required.

If an applicant has attended a similar course elsewhere, it may be possible to demonstrate equivalent learning\*(see end note). This should be discussed with the intake co-ordinator.

**Evidence to be included in Portfolio:** An applicant who has completed SIP's Classical Theory course should submit the course reports from their seminar leaders.

To demonstrate equivalent learning, applicants who have not attended SIP's Classical Theory course must provide in the portfolio details of the course to be considered as equivalent and of both the organisation and the seminar leader delivering that course. They should include the

length of the course, number of hours attended, a detailed description of the content of the course, including a reading list and the accreditation of the organisation and the professional registration of the seminar leader. They should also include report(s) from the course provider(s) confirming their satisfactory completion of the course.

All applicants should note that if the Classical Theory seminar or equivalent learning has not been completed by the time of application, then copies of the seminar leaders' (or other course providers') reports to date should be submitted and the final reports as soon as possible. If this is not until after the selection process, any offer of a place will be conditional on the satisfactory completion of the course and receipt of the relevant reports. The course must be completed prior to beginning the clinical training.

**\*Note on Equivalence**

Applicants' prior learning will be assessed individually but applicants may expect that a decision regarding equivalence of any particular course of learning will be made on the basis of the course length, content, psychoanalytic focus and accreditation of those delivering it, as well as the applicant's successful completion of the course.

Where an Infant Observation Course is one year, rather than two, but equivalent in other respects, it may be possible for an applicant to 'top-up' their learning by attending one further year in an SIP Infant Observation seminar.