

## DCU Professional Diploma in Clinical Supervision (DC768)

The DCU Professional Diploma in Clinical Supervision (PDCS) is a university-accredited one-year part-time professional supervisor training programme (level 9 NFQ, 30 credits). The PDCS programme provides training in the dominant theoretical approaches, conceptual models and modes of clinical supervision, taking an integrative, relational and evidence-based approach to supervision practice.

### Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How is the course accredited?** The PDCS is accredited by Dublin City University, providing an internationally recognised Postgraduate Diploma qualification on satisfactory completion of the programme. Of relevance to counsellors and psychotherapists, where professional standards and requirements apply for supervisor training and accreditation, the PDCS programme is in line with IACP (Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) and IAHIP (Irish Association for Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapy) criteria for supervisor training (see <https://iacp.ie/How-do-I-become-an-Accredited-Supervisor> and [https://iahip.org/Supervision\\_Accreditation/](https://iahip.org/Supervision_Accreditation/)).
- 2. How and when are PDCS course days scheduled?** The course is delivered in person in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health in DCU <https://www.dcu.ie/snpch> (Glasnevin campus, Dublin 9, Ireland), with one or two class days delivered online. All teaching is supported by Loop (Moodle) as its online learning platform.

The PDCS programme involves 100 hours of in-class training in DCU over 16 days (10am-5pm) in two modules across one academic year (8 days per module). Course days are normally on Fridays and Saturdays and the timetable will be available in advance of programme commencement (normally from June when places are being offered). The DCU academic calendar runs over two semesters, each semester typically running over a 12-week period (from September to late November/early December in semester 1, and January to April in semester 2). Each semester will have four two-day (Friday and Saturday) teaching blocks – a sample timetable is provided below, the dates being illustrative only and subject to change. As this is a professional training programme, students are **required to attend a minimum of 80% of each of the two PDCS module classes across the academic year.**
- 3. What are the entry requirements and how do I apply?** Applicants seeking direct entry into the Professional Diploma in Clinical Supervision will:
  - Hold a minimum of a relevant undergraduate degree (Level 8 qualification/min. H2.2) or equivalent (e.g., in psychotherapy, counselling, psychology, mental health, nursing, community development, social work, social care, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, education, or similar);
  - Have a minimum of four-years recent relevant professional experience (e.g., in psychotherapy, counselling, psychology, mental health, nursing, community development, social work, social care, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, education, or similar);
  - Successfully undertake a selection interview.

All applicants should apply through <https://dcuie.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/> using the application code **DC768**. The application portal is normally open from November of the previous year and the closing date for applications is normally the end of May. Applicants who successfully meet programme eligibility criteria will be invited for interview, which will typically be in June and may be in a group format.

The usual intake to the PDCS is a class of 15 students. One of the two PDCS modules is shared with second year DCU Doctorate in Psychotherapy (DPSY) students so this involves a combined class of approximately 30 students. It is worth noting that a significant advantage of having completed this shared PDCS/DPSY module enables PDCS graduates who go on to do the DPSY programme to apply for and complete an alternative non-attendance module in their second year with reduced fee and assessment requirements.

4. **Can I still apply if I don't meet the exact entry criteria?** It isn't possible to compensate for not having the required professional experience but if you do not have a relevant level 8 degree, it is possible to apply for consideration of other relevant qualifications, learning and experience through completing a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) application. The RPL application is submitted only after successful online application and interview for the PDCS. However, it is important to closely review what is required in the RPL application form before submitting your online application to the PDCS and to include in your submitted personal statement your intention to apply through RPL, and on what grounds. The RPL application form is available from the PDCS programme administrator, Catherine Timmins ([catherine.timmins@dcu.ie](mailto:catherine.timmins@dcu.ie)).

As an RPL applicant you will be required to:

- Have accreditation/registration with a recognised professional body in the field of psychotherapy, counselling, psychology, mental health, nursing, community development, social work, social care, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, education, or similar; and
- Have a minimum of four years' recent relevant professional experience in one of the above areas or similar.
- Demonstrate evidence of the equivalence of level 8 (min H2.2.) academic study.

5. **What are the fees and are there any additional costs?** The fee for the Professional Diploma in Clinical Supervision is €4,000 for EU students (2025-26 academic year; fees can be subject to revision from year to year). Students will also need to pay separately for 5 hours of external supervision consultation. Fees for non-EU students are available on the DCU PDCS webpage, as well as further information on the programme and the application process:

<https://www.dcu.ie/courses/postgraduate/school-nursing-psychotherapy-and-community-health/professional-diploma>

There is also an additional cost for a small number of external clinical supervision consultation hours, as noted below.

6. **What supervision practice will I have to do, and will I get help with sourcing supervisees?** In addition to attending course days in DCU, students are required to undertake 25 hours of external supervision practice and to attend 5 hours of external supervision consultation for that practice. Students also undertake 25 hours of internal supervision practice in class with fellow students (50 hours of supervision practice in total is required on the programme). You will be supported to explore options for the external supervision practice, and will be guided regarding contracting for this practice, including the option of contracting with colleagues in your current work settings. Past PDCS students have also worked with volunteer supervisees from our MSc in Psychotherapy programme for some of their practice hours. Typically, students will gain their 25 external practice hours with 2-3 individual supervisees; some group supervision practice hours can also be included where relevant.
7. **Can I supervise trainees or professionals from other disciplines?** The 25 hrs of external supervision practice can be with practising helping professionals of any discipline, either in training

or fully qualified/accredited/registered with a professional body. However, when contracting for this supervision, it must be clearly specified that you are a trainee supervisor – this means that if the supervisee is in training or needs supervision from an accredited supervisor, their supervision with you will be additional to their own supervision requirements.

8. **Do I need professional insurance for my supervision practice?** Yes, once you start supervisor training and practice on the PDCS, you will need to update your professional insurance policy to include supervision work if that is not already included.
9. **Are there specific requirements for my external supervisor?** For DCU, the 5 hours of external supervision consultation can be with any qualified supervisor who is accredited/registered with a professional body and has professional insurance for supervisory work. However, you are advised to check with the professional body that you intend to apply to for supervisor accreditation so that you follow their specific requirements (e.g., IACP require that the external supervisor is IACP, IAHIP or BACP accredited).
10. **Can I do my external supervision practice and attend my external supervision consultation outside of Ireland?** Yes, it is possible to do your external practice hours and external supervision consultation with professionals in another country. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have professional insurance for the country you are practising in. It is also possible to do some of your supervision practice hours online, although you will also need to gain experience of in-person supervisory work during your supervisor training (currently there is no required ratio).
11. **What professional disciplines can do the PDCS?** Once our entry requirements are met, we welcome practitioners from across the helping professions onto the PDCS, including (but not limited to) psychotherapy, counselling, psychology, mental health, nursing, medicine, community development, social work, social care, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and education. Having a disciplinary mix on the PDCS programme enhances the learning experience and offers opportunities to develop skills in transdisciplinary clinical supervision.
12. **Can I undertake the programme if I am a non-EU student or if I'm not a native English speaker?** DCU welcomes international students. Students applying from outside the EU are advised to contact the international office <https://www.dcu.ie/international> to have their qualifications verified by the university and to get information on living and studying in Ireland prior to application. Non-EU fees apply to international students (check the link to fees information on the PDCS webpage). Guidance regarding English language competency requirements and testing/certification are available at this link: <https://www.dcu.ie/registry/english-language-requirements-non-native-speakers-english-registry>  
International students applying to take the programme should check their national requirements for training and practising as a clinical supervisor as standards vary from state to state.
13. **Is there any advance reading I can do before starting the PDCS?** Two core textbooks we recommend are:
  - Hawkins, P., & McMahon, A. (2020). *Supervision in the helping professions* (5th ed.). McGraw Hill Open University Press.
  - Page, S., & Wosket, V. (2015). *Supervising the counsellor and psychotherapist: A cyclical model* (3rd ed.). Routledge.

These books will be available to you in the DCU library once you have registered as a student.

Further enquiries regarding the PDCS are welcome to the programme administrator, Catherine Timmins ([catherine.timmins@dcu.ie](mailto:catherine.timmins@dcu.ie)) or the programme chair, Dr Aisling McMahon, [aisling.mcmahon@dcu.ie](mailto:aisling.mcmahon@dcu.ie).

**Sample PDCS timetable (NB: dates are illustrative only and subject to change)**

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Module coordinators/Lecturers</b>
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10am-5pm	Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Supervision PST1032	Dr Aisling McMahon
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10am-5pm	Professional Supervision Practice PST1034	Dr. Stephanie Finan
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10am-5pm	Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Supervision PST1032	Dr Aisling McMahon
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10am-5pm	Professional Supervision Practice PST1034	Dr. Stephanie Finan
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10am-5pm	Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Supervision PST1032	Dr Aisling McMahon
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10am-5pm	Professional Supervision Practice PST1034	Dr. Stephanie Finan
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10am-5pm	Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Supervision PST1032	Dr Aisling McMahon
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10am-5pm	Professional Supervision Practice PST1034	Dr. Stephanie Finan
<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Module coordinators/Lecturers</b>
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan <b>ONLINE</b>	10am-5pm	Professional Supervision Practice PST1034	Dr. Stephanie Finan
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan <b>ONLINE</b>	10am-5pm	Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Supervision PST1032	Dr Aisling McMahon
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10am-5pm	Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Supervision PST1032	Dr Aisling McMahon
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10am-5pm	Professional Supervision Practice PST1034	Dr. Stephanie Finan
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10am-5pm	Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Supervision PST1032	Dr Aisling McMahon
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	10am-5pm	Professional Supervision Practice PST1034	Dr. Stephanie Finan
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> April	10am-5pm	Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Supervision PST1032	Dr Aisling McMahon
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> April	10am-5pm	Professional Supervision Practice PST1034	Dr. Stephanie Finan