

# SPECIALIST COUPLE THERAPIST

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE TRAINING?**

Applicants who have a qualification in Counselling /Psychotherapy at Level 7 RoI , Level 5 UK and have completed 200 supervised client hours (100/120 as part of training and 100 post-graduation) and have an ongoing supervised caseload can apply for the Certificate training.

### **WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?**

Once the closing date has passed (April 30th 2026), a paper selection process based on the course criteria takes place.

Applicants who are successful in the paper selection process are invited to a selection day (online) likely to take place in May or June 2026, date to be confirmed.

On the selection day applicants meet individually with a psychologist, an experienced couples counsellor and a representative of Accord and also take part in a facilitated group discussion.

Applicants will be informed after the selection day if they are being offered a place on the course or otherwise.

### **HOW MUCH ARE THE COURSE FEES?**

Accord CLG pays course fees.

### **WHEN DOES THE COURSE COMMENCE AND WHAT ARE THE COURSE DATES?**

Starting in Sept 2026 for 8 months. Training takes place over weekends, one per month on Saturdays and Sundays. Dates to be confirmed. In Year 2 there will be 2 consolidation weekends, dates to be confirmed.

### **HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK IS THE COURSE OVER?**

One weekend monthly. Course days commence at 9.15am and end at 5.15pm

### **WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE TRAINING, I.E. FACE-TO-FACE OR ON-LINE?**

Training takes place face to face over a weekend, monthly in Maynooth.

### **WHAT IS THE CURRICULUM?**

The course includes working in the person centred way. Knowledge of theoretical approaches, evolving strategies and interventions appropriate to couples work, Clinical Skills essential to couples work, Self- Awareness exercises specific to the needs of couples counsellors. In depth knowledge of the handling of Infidelity, Trauma, Addiction, Neurodiversity, Physical & Mental Illness, Sex and Intimacy, Step and Foster Family Dynamics, Diversity, Parenting Issues, the impacts of Family of Origin and Attachment, and Conflict and Domestic Abuse in the couple context.

### **HOW MANY PLACEMENT HOURS ARE REQUIRED?**

100 placement hours are required to graduate. Ideally, they are completed within a 12-month period from the commencement of placement (subject to client demand)

**WHEN DOES PLACEMENT COMMENCE?**

Placement commences in month 7 of the training following a successful outcome to the practical assessment of skills by the course tutors and external examiner.

**WHO PROVIDES SUPERVISION FOR MY ACCORD CLIENT WORK WHEN I AM DOING MY PLACEMENT ?**

Accord funds the cost of supervision for your 100 placement sessions at the ratio of 1:10 (Supervision to Counselling) with an Accord approved supervisor.

**WHAT TYPE OF ASSESSMENT/ ASSIGNMENTS ARE REQUIRED ON THE COURSE?**

Students complete a Reflective Learning Journal on an ongoing basis over the 8 training weekends which is submitted at the end of the course. A 2,500 essay is completed by students and an open book Ethics Exam. There is ongoing practical assessment of skills in couples work and a formal Practical Assessment of skills prior to placement. Tutors conduct an ongoing/continuing assessment of students throughout the training course.

**WHO PROVIDES PLACEMENTS?**

Accord CLG will provide placements in its network of centres throughout the country. Accord CLG also offers online counselling. Further specific training in online counselling is required before commencing online counselling with Accord clients.

Client hours are always subject to client demand for counselling services.

**WHAT COMMITMENT TO ACCORD IS REQUIRED ON COMPLETION OF TRAINING?**

Candidates are asked to commit to a three-year period following graduation in either a voluntary or employee capacity.

**WHEN TRAINING IS COMPLETED IS THERE CPD AVAILABLE WHEN I AM COMPLETING MY PLACEMENT?**

Accord provides role relevant approved CPD opportunities for its counsellors when they have completed their training course.

**IS THIS A CATHOLIC/RELIGIOUS PROGRAMME?**

No, it is not a religious programme. It is a university validated professional couples therapy training programme equivalent to Graduate Standard Certificate.

**WHAT AM I AWARDED WHEN I GRADUATE ?**

Students eligible to graduate are awarded a Certificate in Couples Therapy from the Pontifical University, Maynooth.