

Guide to Advanced Clinical Year Costs (2022/2023) – for students new to the Link Centre in October 2022.

These costs related to The Link Centre Diploma in Counselling level 6 (Foundation year plus two Advanced Clinical Years) and/or those wanting to gain UKCP Registered Psychotherapy qualification level 7 (Foundation year plus three advanced clinical years) or for those who want to gain training hours towards their CTA. It is important that you are aware of all the costs involved in the whole training process.

Course Fees

The **basic annual fee for each Advanced Clinical Year (Clinical Year 1, Clinical Year 2, Clinical Year 3)** is £2784* for full payment before the beginning of the course. There is also a termly and monthly payment scheme available which is detailed below:-

Payment Option	Non Refundable Deposit	Balance Lump sum payable by 9/09/22	Term 1 Payable by 9/09/22	Term 2 Payable by 2/1/23	Term 3 Payable by 7/4/23	Total
Option 1 Lump sum	£278	£2506	-	-	-	£2784
Option 2 Termly	£278	-	910	910	761	£2859
Option 3 Monthly	£278	1 monthly payment of £271 due by 9/9/22 followed by 9 monthly payments of £265 (due on 9 th of each month from Oct 22 to June 23 - to be set up by direct debit)				£2934
<i>Account Name: The Link Centre</i>		<i>Santander Bank</i>		<i>Sort Code: 09 01 50</i>		<i>Account No: 04365984</i>
<i>International Payment:</i>		<i>BIC/SWIFT – ABBYGB2Lxxx</i>			<i>IBAN – GB92ABBY09015004365984</i>	

Please note that on commencement of the course, you are liable for the full cost of the years training, irrespective of which payment method you choose. If a student withdraws from the course part way through the year, the full fee is still payable.

(* This normally increases by approximately the rate of inflation each year.)

Missed Training Hours

Is you are absent for any core training day, you are required to make up the missed training hours. The topic can be different from the content that you have missed and can be met in a variety of ways eg monthly 1 hour online talks (free), online event talks (entry by donation), study skills, cpd training etc. For those pursuing the Diploma in Counselling/Psychotherapy course, if you do not **attend 80%** of the course you will be required to retake the training year (currently at a reduced rate).

Therapist Fees

Throughout each year you are required to have ongoing **personal therapy** (min 30 sessions per year for the Diploma in Counselling or 40 sessions per year for Psychotherapy). If you are not in the UK then the rules are slightly different and it is strongly recommended that you have regular ongoing personal therapy. For those planning to continue (or to keep their options open) to become UKCP Registered Psychotherapist, their personal therapist must be a UKCP registered psychotherapist. For those wanting to gain the Diploma in Counselling who *definitely* do not want to continue on to the Psychotherapy qualification you can see any qualified counsellor. Costs vary from approx. £40 - £65 per session and attending a therapy group can be cheaper. Currently, for the Diploma in Counselling course, some of the therapy hours can be accrued by attending a Group Therapy Marathon which the Link Centre usually offers once per year.

Student Membership Fees

It is likely that you will need to take out one or two **student memberships** of the following organisations depending on which qualification you are wanting. Please see below which memberships you will require and further information will be given at the start of the course:-

- **National Counselling Society** (www.nationalcounsellingsociety.org)
If you are wishing to gain The Link Centre Diploma in Counselling, or keep your options open to do this, then you must be a member of the National Counselling Society for the duration of your training. If you are unsure if you want to continue after the Foundation Year, then you can decide later and join at the start of the next training year. Annual student membership for September 2021 (for those on an accredited training course) is £25.
- **UKATA** (www.uktransactionalanalysis.co.uk)
If you wish to qualify as a UKCP Registered Psychotherapist, or keep your options open for this, then you must become a member of UKATA from the start of your Foundation Year and maintain that membership at least up until qualification. This will also give you automatic membership of EATA (European Association for Transactional Analysis) Current basic student membership rate for 2021/2022 is £85.00 p/a.
- **ITAA (International Transactional Analysis Association)**
Membership to the ITAA gives access to TA Journal (really only relevant for students taking the CTA exam and even then not essential). Cost is \$90 (dollars).
- **EATA (European Association for Transactional Analysis)** for those aiming for CTA (Psychotherapy) you will need to be a member of EATA (or the ITAA). You cannot be a direct member of EATA but if you joins a national association (UKATA in the UK, or your countries national association) then you can usually gain EATA membership via them. The costs of various national associations vary considerably.

Counselling Skills Training

For those aiming for the Diploma in Counselling and/or the Advanced Diploma in Psychotherapy you will also need to attend some extra hours of counselling skills training. This can be up to a maximum of 90 hours and will depend on where you currently are in your training journey. This will be explained further in individual offer letters. We run a range of courses and to give an example our 30 hour counselling skills course in September 2022 costs £480. We may be able to count previous counselling skills training.

Supervision

In order to obtain the Diploma in Counselling, you must have 150 placement hours. It is a requirement to have supervision at a ratio of 1:6 for the Counselling Diploma. You are likely to receive free Supervision in your placement and at least 50% of your supervision must be with a Link Centre registered Supervisor. For those wanting to gain the Advanced Diploma in Psychotherapy you would need 450 supervised practice hours at a ratio of 1:6 and for those wanting CTA exam they would need 750 supervised practice hours with a PTSTA or TSTA at a ratio of 1:5. Please note that the first 150 hours are usually voluntary but once you have gained a Diploma in Counselling most people then charge for their sessions while they build up their practice hours.

For those wanting to gain the CTA (Certified Transactional Analysis) qualification, where you must gain 750 hours of placement work, 75 hours of Supervision have to be with a TA Supervisor (PTSTA/TSTA) at a ratio of 1:5. 40 hours of this need to be with your Principal Supervisor who will support you through your exam.

The cost of supervision is likely to be £50- £70 per session in the UK. If you are in a small group (of 3) you can potentially count three hours supervision for this cost. This is the most cost effective way of doing it but you also need to consider your supervision needs.

Accreditation of Prior Learning - APL

For students joining the Link Centre in Clinical Year 1 or 2, who wish to gain the Link Centre Diploma in Counselling at the end of Clinical Year 2, it is necessary to go through APL process. Two pieces of written work need to be submitted for each year of training that has been done at another college. The charge for this is £250. If one or more of these pieces are deferred, following a discussion with the Link Centre tutors, students will be asked to submit new pieces of work which will also incur a fee in line with the original APL fee.

For students joining the Link Centre in Clinical Year 1 or 2 solely for Psychotherapy training, (the Advanced Psychotherapy Diploma and/or UKCP registration) it is necessary to go through the APL process. You will need to have a discussion with Mark Head regarding the elements of your previous training that can be accredited. The APL process will require submission of an APL portfolio which will be reviewed and agreed by The Link Centre. As part of this process you may be required to submit some written work dependant on the academic level of your previous qualifications. The fee for this process is £250.

For students joining the Link Centre in Clinical Year 1 or 2 solely for Psychotherapy training, (the Advanced Psychotherapy Diploma and/or UKCP registration) who have already been on a Psychotherapy training course, leading to UKCP registration (eg a UKATA RTE), all relevant training, therapy, supervision and practice hours can be transferred across to Link Centre training with no APL fee applied. To access The Link Centre Advanced Diploma in Integrative Psychotherapy, students must have completed at least Clinical Year 3 with the Link Centre.

Exam Prep for Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy

On completion of training, an Exam Prep group (6 days per year) is offered for those focusing on exam. If you do not have a degree then this is mandatory for those doing the Diploma in Psychotherapy or CTA qualification, and for

others it is optional. Most students choose to attend this to get support in preparing for their exams. The 2021 cost for the exam prep group was £595 for all sessions.

Exams Costs

Diploma in Counselling - this is only relevant if you are planning to go on to take our Counselling Diploma exam after at least 3 years training. The current fees are set at Written Exam Submission £150 and Oral Exam £360. This fee is also payable in the event of resubmission or retake. The exam process is currently under review.

Advanced Diploma in Psychotherapy – This is under review

CTA Psychotherapy Exam – this is an external written and oral exam. In order to take the exam you need to have completed 2000 hours in total which includes training, supervision, therapy, other courses, conference attendance, and psychiatric placement hours. On completion of your four years training we anticipate that you will have at least 50% of these hours accrued, this will vary depending on when you started your placement, how many clients hours you have done, supervision arrangements, extra therapy, attendance at other workshops, training and conferences. The remainder of the hours will be gained by continued clinical practice and CPD such as exam prep, attendance of workshops etc. The approximate cost of the written exam is £375 and approximately £300 for the oral exam. Full details are in The Link Centre handbook which is given to students each year.

Professional Liability Insurance

When students start seeing clients, usually in Clinical Year 1, if not covered by their placement then they will be required to take out professional liability insurance. As a student, this is normally in the order of about £80. This will vary if you are not in the UK.

Additional Training Costs

Workshops: The Link Centre also provides a range of optional short courses throughout the year which you can sign up for if you choose. We also offer a wide range of two hour online workshops in collaboration with Onlinevents which students are welcome to join.

Conferences: Optional conferences locally, nationally and internationally.

Books: - Amount spent depends on your levels of reading and how you source your books eg Amazon, eBay.

Approximately £150 -£200 for key recommended books. The Link Centre has a library from which books can be borrowed at no cost although this is only available to those who are local to the centre.

FUNDING OPTIONS

Our course is not covered by the Government Student Finance or Career Development Loan scheme.

There are some bursary schemes available via UKATA, UKCP and EATA, and you will need to be a member of the organisation to benefit from this scheme. The Link Centre also has a Matty Atty Bursary Scheme which individuals can apply to but this is not applicable for the foundation year of training. Bursary funds are limited and, in the past, awards from these sources have ranged from £75 to £300. This source should not be relied upon to fund training. If you are not in the UK there may be other bursaries available in your own country.

Previous students have approached their employers and on occasions employers have contributed to the training costs.

(Please note: some of these costs are approximate and for guidance purposes only. Figures will normally increase by the current rate of inflation)