

Guide to Advanced Clinical Year Costs (2024/2025) – for students new to the Link Centre in October 2024.

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 £3125 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 27/09/24 | Term 1 Payable by 27/09/24 | Term 2 Payable by 10/1/25 | Term 3 Payable by 10/4/25 | Total |
|--|------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Option 1 Lump sum | £300 | £2825 | - | - | - | £3125 |
| Option 2 Termly | £300 | - | £1000 | £950 | £950 | £3200 |
| Option 3 Monthly | £300 | 10 monthly payments of £298 due on 27 th of each month from Sep 24 to June 25 - to be set up by direct debit) | | | | £3280 |
| <i>All figures above are inclusive of VAT where applicable</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>Account Name: The Link Centre</i> | | <i>Santander Bank</i> | | <i>Sort Code: 09 01 50</i> | | <i>Account No: 04365984</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.)

Therapist Fees

In addition to attending the course, you are also required to undertake 40 hours of therapy per year of training with a UKCP registered psychotherapist. This will ensure that all training and accreditation routes through to UKCP registration remain available to you.

For any trainees who have already considered this and are certain that they only wish to pursue the Level 6 Diploma in Counselling and gain NCPS registration, then only 30 hours of therapy are required per year of training with a registered counsellor. **We strongly recommend that you do not take this option unless you have discussed this with a Link Centre partner first as it will impact the options available to you at a later date.**

Costs of personal therapy, vary from approx. £45-£85 per session and attending a therapy group can reduce this cost a little. The counselling sessions should be undertaken between your date of acceptance of the place and the start of the next academic year in October 2025.

Trainee Membership Fees

It is likely that you will need to take out one or two **trainee 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:-

- **The Link Centre**

As a trainee, membership of the Link Centre will be a requirement throughout your training and the cost of the membership will be folded into the core training fees. It will come with a full membership package benefits and means you won't have to be a member of UKATA to receive UKCP accreditation- as that will happen directly by training with us.

- **National Counselling and Psychotherapy Society** (<http://www.ncps.com>)

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 and Psychotherapy 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 2024 (for those on an accredited training course) is £30. This may increase slightly ahead of the next academic year.

- **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 join 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

You will also need to attend 30 hours of counselling skills training to gain your Level 6 Diploma. The Link Centre offer a 30-hour counselling skills course to meet these requirements but you can also obtain counselling skills training through other providers.

For those aiming for the Diploma in Counselling and/or the Advanced Diploma in Psychotherapy you will also need to attend 30 hours of counselling skills training. We run a range of courses and to give an example our 30 hour counselling skills course in September 2023 cost £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 (e.g. 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.

Exams Costs

Diploma in Counselling - this is only relevant if you are planning to submit your portfolio for the Counselling Diploma after at least 3 years training. The current fees are set at £160. This fee is also payable in the event of resubmission or retake.

Advanced Diploma in Integrative Psychotherapy – this is only relevant if you are planning to submit your portfolio for the Advanced Diploma in Integrative Psychotherapy after at least 4 years training. The current fees are set at £170. This fee is also payable in the event of resubmission or retake.

The Link Centre registration assessment (UKCP)

The final requirement for gaining UKCP registration will be to undertake the Link Centre's UKCP registration assessment process. This consists of a combined written case study of 12000 words and attending an oral viva examining a taped piece of your clinical work with the same client. The full costs are under review but we expect the joint assessment fee to be £975.

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