**Evidence to Support the Fulfilment of Admission Criteria for**

**the Graduate Certificate in Counselling course**

**Entry: September 2025**

Thank you for your initial application and interest in our course. Traditional academic qualifications are not a necessary requirement to enter the Graduate Certificate in Counselling. As the course can be emotionally demanding, and in line with the requirements of BACP, we ask applicants to demonstrate the following attributes: self-awareness, maturity and stability; ability to make use of and reflect upon life experience; capacity to cope with the emotional demands of the course; ability to cope with the intellectual and academic requirements; ability to form a helping relationship; ability to be self-critical and use both positive and negative feedback; awareness of the nature of prejudice and oppression; awareness of the nature of difference and equality; ability to recognise the need for personal and professional support; competence in or the aptitude to develop generic personal skills, including: literacy, numeracy, information technology, administrative skills, self-management skills, communication and interpersonal skills.

All applicants who meet our entry requirements are asked to complete this criteria questionnaire as part of our admissions process. Your responses will be reviewed by members of the counselling & psychotherapy course team. ***It is important that you*** ***answer these questions fully*** (even if you already provided some of this information on the application form) as we will only use your answers to these questions to assess your eligibility for the programme. Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. We will aim to be in touch within three weeks of receiving your answers.

**Name:**

**Keele Student ID (if you have one):**

**Email address:**

**How did you hear about the programme?**

1. **Can you tell us why you want to study counselling?**
2. **Can you tell us why you want to study counselling at Keele?**

1. **We are looking for students with significant life experiences so that they have a greater understanding of the experiences of others. Can you write briefly about an experience that you have had that taught you something about yourself. Describe the experience and say what you learned about yourself.**
2. **Is there anything that you think could get in the way of you studying counselling e.g. mental health condition or difficulties, traumatic experiences that still impact on you, or recent loss? If so, please tell us about this and note that any such experiences or difficulties would not, of themselves, result in you not being offered a place on the programme.**
3. **Do you have any experience of counselling as a client? If so, tell us a little bit about it and whether it was helpful or not.**
4. **The programme is a demanding one in terms of time, academic standards and personal development, as well as skills development. Can you tell us how you plan to cope with this and what personal support you have (e.g. friends, family)?**
5. **Can you think of an example of where you have experienced or witnessed prejudice or oppression? Tell us a little about it and what you feel about it.**

**The Counselling courses begin in mid-September, a week before the Keele University Semester One start date. Final confirmation of dates for the course year will be available January 2025.**

**We hold a mandatory two day *non-residential* Annual Conference (this will be over one weekend March/April 2026 date to be confirmed)**

**Would you have any problem attending any of these elements?**