

Diploma in Psychodynamic Supervision

Two years, with the option to complete after Year One with a Certificate in Psychodynamic Supervision

Two-Year Online Programme

Starting Saturday 13 March 2027 (indicative dates)
Online · Saturdays, 10:00 to 13:00 (UK time)

Applications for the March 2027 intake are now open.

Apply through the course page on the bpf website, or contact shortcourses@bpf-psychotherapy.org.uk



About the Diploma

A two-year training in psychodynamic supervision, with the option to complete after Year One.

This two-year training is designed for psychoanalytic and psychodynamic psychotherapists, Jungian psychotherapists and analysts, and psychodynamic counsellors who wish to develop their supervisory practice. It leads to a Diploma in Psychodynamic Supervision, and replaces the bpf's previous one-year Developing Supervision Skills course.

The course takes a distinctive approach: supervision is seen as a way of helping the supervisee to grasp how they work, why they work in that way, and so to evaluate how effective it is. Year One teaches the foundations of supervision through seminars and small teaching groups. Year Two introduces the Comparative Clinical Method (CCM), a clinical tool for recognising one's own implicit assumptions, and shows how to adapt it for supervision through seminars and weekly Supervision of Supervision groups.

The course is taught by experienced BPC-registered clinicians, and delivered entirely online.

2 years
Certificate in Psychodynamic Supervision after Year One, Diploma after Year Two

12
Saturday seminars: ten in Year One and two in Year Two

6
course members at most in each Year One small teaching group

5,000
words for the Diploma assessment, included in the Year Two fee

Who is it for?

The course is open to qualified therapists and counsellors who have, or are about to start, experience of supervising. This includes psychoanalytic and psychodynamic psychotherapists, Jungian psychotherapists and analysts, and psychodynamic counsellors.

Year One: you will need to be a practising psychotherapist or psychodynamic counsellor, with current experience as a supervisor or about to start supervising.

Year Two: open to course members who have completed Year One. Applicants apply in writing to the Programme Lead before the end of Year One, and need at least two ongoing individual supervisees, or one supervision group, at the time of applying.

The course is taught online in English.



How the course works

Year One runs on ten Saturday mornings between March and December 2027. Year Two follows in 2028, with two seminars and weekly small-group supervision of supervision.

Year One seminars	Ten Saturday sessions, 10:00 to 13:00. Each opens with a 90-minute seminar for up to 18 course members.
Small teaching groups	75 minutes after each seminar. In groups of up to six, course members present their own supervisory work, applying that week's seminar theme. Groups are facilitated by experienced bpf psychotherapists.
Year Two seminars	Two Saturday seminars introducing the Comparative Clinical Method and adapting it for supervision. Each has two teaching sessions and includes class exercises.
Supervision of Supervision	Weekly 90-minute groups of up to four, running across three terms (eight sessions per term, 24 per year). Course members bring their own supervisory work.
Diploma assessment	Year Two participants are assessed by default for the Diploma, through a 5,000-word submission: a verbatim supervision extract plus reflective commentary. You may opt out and finish with a Certificate. There is no separate fee.
Course materials	A reading list matched to each seminar. Materials are shared through the course's online page.

The two years

YEAR ONE · 2027

Foundations of supervision

March to December 2027

Ten seminars and small teaching groups. Completing Year One earns a Certificate in Psychodynamic Supervision.

YEAR TWO · 2028

Advanced supervision

January to December 2028

CCM seminars and weekly Supervision of Supervision groups, with the Diploma assessment.

AWARDS

Certificate or Diploma

Signed by the Programme Lead

Certificate after Year One. Diploma after Year Two, or a Certificate (Year Two) if you opt out of the assessment.



YEAR ONE · 2027

Foundations of Supervision

Year One teaches the basic knowledge and skills of supervision, from how supervision differs from therapy to ethics, organisations, difference and diversity, risk and assessment. The knowledge and skills are transferable to any client group, setting, intensity of work, and to trainee and qualified supervisees alike.

Date (2027)	Seminar	Seminar leader
Saturday 13 March 2027	From therapist to supervisor	Laurence Spurling
Saturday 20 March 2027	The boundaries and setting of supervision	Janthia Taylor
Saturday 17 April 2027	The process of supervision (individual and group)	Laurence Spurling
Saturday 22 May 2027	Transference and countertransference	Michael Halton
Saturday 19 June 2027	Supervision and ethics	Jan McGregor Hepburn
Saturday 17 July 2027	Supervising in organisations	Stanley Ruszczynski
Saturday 18 September 2027	How to help the supervisee work with difference and diversity in supervision	Joao Botas
Saturday 16 October 2027	Supervision and assessment	Jacqueline Egli
Saturday 20 November 2027	How to help the supervisee work with risk and suicide	Giles Allen
Saturday 11 December 2027	Supervision and self-reflection	Laurence Spurling

Each Saturday: 10:00 to 13:00 (UK time), a 90-minute seminar followed by a 75-minute small teaching group. There are two sessions in March and none in August.

About the seminars

From therapist to supervisor. How supervision differs from therapy, the kinds of knowledge it draws on, and the basic skills, functions and roles of the supervisor.

The boundaries and setting of supervision. Views on the boundaries and setting appropriate to supervision, and frameworks for thinking about a supervisee's level of development.

The process of supervision. Listening to a supervisee's account of a session, conveying a picture of the patient, and understanding group process, practised through worked examples.

Transference and countertransference. Helping the supervisee recognise, think about and make use of transference and countertransference.

Supervision and ethics. Helping the supervisee work with ethical issues and professional challenges, and the function of ethical codes.

Supervising in organisations. A framework, drawing on psychoanalytic and systems theory, for understanding how the organisational context shapes supervision.

Difference and diversity. Helping supervisees think about and work with social structures such as race, class and gender as they are experienced in clinical work.

Supervision and assessment. Approaching formal assessment in supervision, in terms of competencies and standards of knowledge and skill.

Risk and suicide. A psychodynamic understanding of suicide, the purpose of a risk assessment, and helping the supervisee manage their own anxiety.

Supervision and self-reflection. Helping the supervisee develop self-reflective capacity, and an introduction to Year Two.



YEAR TWO · 2028

Advanced Supervision

Year Two is an advanced year. Course members learn the Comparative Clinical Method (CCM), a tool that helps clinicians recognise and evaluate their own clinical and methodological assumptions, and how to adapt it so that supervisees can explore their own way of working.

Date	Session
Saturday 8 January 2028	Seminar One: Introduction to the Comparative Clinical Method
Saturday 12 February 2028	Seminar Two: Adapting the Comparative Clinical Method for supervision
Following the seminars (dates to be confirmed)	**Supervision of Supervision: weekly 90-minute groups, three terms of eight sessions**

Each seminar runs on a Saturday, 10:00 to 13:00 (UK time), as two teaching sessions.

About the sessions

Seminar One: Introduction to the CCM. How do we know what we are doing? The purpose of each clinical intervention, what a clinician hears in what a patient says, and the working model that underpins each clinician's approach. The second session shows the method in action through class exercises.

Seminar Two: Adapting the CCM for supervision. How to engage the supervisee's interest in the implicit assumptions behind their approach, make space for exploring the function of their interventions, and construct their working model together. Class exercises give practice in CCM-based supervision.

Supervision of Supervision. Small groups of up to four meet weekly for the rest of the year, bringing live supervisory work and applying the CCM approach.

The Diploma assessment. A 5,000-word submission made up of a verbatim supervision extract and a reflective commentary. Year Two participants are assessed by default and may choose to opt out.

Awards

Year One: Certificate in Psychodynamic Supervision.

Year Two: Diploma in Psychodynamic Supervision, or a Certificate in Psychodynamic Supervision (Year Two) if you opt out of the Diploma assessment.

Certificates are issued digitally, with a printed copy on request.



Fees and how to apply

	bpf members	Non-members
Year One fee	£2,000	£2,159
Year Two fee	£1,500	£1,659
Both years	**£3,500**	**£3,818**
Application fee (non-refundable)	£25	£25
Deposit (credited against the Year One fee)	£400	£400

Non-member fees include the current training membership fee (£159 at present). The Diploma assessment carries no separate fee. This course is not eligible for instalment plans: each year's fee is due in full before that year starts.

Please note that the figures detailed on this page will be subject to annual increases in line with inflation in the UK.

Entry requirements

Year One: a practising psychotherapist or psychodynamic counsellor with current experience as a supervisor, or about to start supervising.

Year Two: completion of Year One, and at least two ongoing individual supervisees or one supervision group at the time of applying.

Access

The course is delivered online only, via secure bpf Zoom links circulated before each session. Please contact our team to discuss your access needs.

How to apply

Applications for the March 2027 intake are now open through the course page on the bpf website.

Application fee: £25 (non-refundable).

Deposit: on acceptance of an offer, successful applicants secure their place with a £400 deposit.

Places are limited to support depth of engagement. For any questions, please contact shortcourses@bpf-psychotherapy.org.uk.

Dates, timings, fees and content are indicative and may still change.