**Professional Certificate in Adolescent Studies**

This certificate programme will offer participants an overview of the dynamics of development in adolescence, providing professionals with a range of relational skills, dialogic techniques and creative interventions to support young people as they navigate the adolescent years.

The programme is divided into three modules. Upon successful completion of all modules and all practical requirements, the following award will be granted:

**Professional Certificate in Adolescent Studies** awarded by **Blackfort Adolescent Gestalt Institute**

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

* Demonstrate understanding of the complex and dynamic developmental process in adolescence and emerging adulthood
* Develop capacity to establish contactful, supporting relationships with adolescents in order to create optimal developmental conditions
* Analyse and apply aspects of developmental understanding in professional settings with adolescents, identifying appropriate strategies and approaches
* Create successful professional relationships with adolescents and apply collaborative working skills which constructively engage the adolescent’s meaning-making and problem-solving capacities
* Demonstrate a consistent and positive work ethic that indicates a preparedness to take appropriate risks, explore multiple options and create opportunities for self- development in an appropriate manner
* Produce appropriate informed decisions in the context of working with adolescents in a professional setting, adapting recognised approaches to professional dilemmas, justifying chosen solutions to address complex situations
* Through engagement with adolescents, demonstrate a clear set of positive personal ethics and their effective implementation
* Create opportunities for positive personal and social change and development, using creative thinking to maximise positive change in the lives of adolescents.

**PROGRAMME STRUCTURE**

The programme is structured with three modules running concurrently. Students are expected to complete all modules. Summary details are listed below:

* + Adolescent & emerging adult development
  + Meaning-making in adolescence
  + Relational skills with adolescents

INTRODUCTION TO MODULES

**Module 1: Adolescent & emerging adult development**

This module will involve an exploration of the stages of adolescent development and the typical adult- world responses to these stages. Students will also understand the developmental impact of trauma in adolescence and how this influences both intrapsychic and interpersonal experience for the young person. Assessment skills will be developed and applied to professional settings.

**Module 2: Meaning-making in adolescence**

Students will explore the areas of shame and creative adjustment, and their influence on adolescent’s emerging capacity to self-reflect and construct a meaningful sense of self. A range of skills will be presented which will develop and extend each student’s repertoire of interventions to support the adolescent’s expanding lifespace. Adolescent meaning-making will also be understood through the lens of neuroscience, as students develop appreciation of the implications of trauma on the adolescent’s emerging sense of self.

**Module 3: Relational skills with adolescents**

Students will learn the art of establishing a developmentally attuned professional relationship, identifying appropriate relational competencies and interventions which support the adolescent’s experience. A focus of this module will be the acquisition of skills to neutralise shame and reframe adversity in a manner which empowers the young person. A range of creative techniques such as Sandspace will be presented and students will have the opportunity to apply theoretical understanding to professional situations.

**DATES & TIME COMMITMENT**

The Professional Certificate in Adolescent Studies comprises a total of 30 CPD hours. Lectures and workshops will take place over five training days, comprising both online and in-person contact. The daily training schedule will be 10.00am - 4.00pm.

**Tuesday 17 January 2023 (Online)**

**Friday 27 January 2023 (Online)**

**Thursday 02 February 2023 (Croke Park Hotel, Dublin)**

**Friday 03 February 2023 (Croke Park Hotel, Dublin)**

**Thursday 09 February 2023 (Online)**

**PROGRAMME FEES:** €900

If you would like to book a place on the training programme, please register your interest via email to Bronagh and forward payment via PayPal to confirm your place. You will require the email address bronaghstarrs@gmail.com to complete the transaction.

Please get in touch directly if your organisation requires invoicing.

All receipts and CPD certificates will be issued via email.

***Please Note: The Professional Certificate in Adolescent Studies is designed as an introductory overview in understanding and supporting adolescents. Completion of the programme does NOT deem participants qualified to undertake psychotherapeutic intervention work with adolescents. For more in-depth training, the advanced two-year Masters programme MSc Adolescent Psychotherapy, of which Bronagh Starrs is Programme Director, may be more suitable.***

**About the presenter:**

Bronagh Starrs is Programme Director for the MSc Adolescent Psychotherapy in Dublin Counselling & Therapy Centre, in partnership with the University of Northampton, UK and Founder & Director of Blackfort Adolescent Gestalt Institute.

She maintains a private practice in Omagh, Northern Ireland, as a psychotherapist, clinical  
supervisor, writer, presenter and trainer, specialising in working with adolescents. As well  
as her work as a parenting consultant with many families, schools and agencies, she is also an  
experienced therapist working with children, adults and groups.

Bronagh is a renowned adolescent development specialist and has considerable experience teaching and presenting throughout Ireland and internationally on the developmental implication of trauma on the adolescent journey. Her approach to therapeutic intervention with adolescents is both innovative and deeply relational.

She has authored numerous articles and chapters on the subject, and has contributed to the collected volume: Relational Child: Relational Brain (Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group/Gestalt Press). Her recently published book “Adolescent Psychotherapy - A Radical Relational Approach” (Routledge 2019) has received international acclaim.

**About Blackfort Adolescent Gestalt Institute:**

Blackfort Adolescent Gestalt Institute was established in Ireland in 2014. It is the first Gestalt Institute of its kind, wholly devoted to the support and study of adolescent and emerging adult process.  
Here at the Institute, we are committed to:

* Gaining a deeper understanding of the developmental process for adolescents and emerging adults
* Exploring the dynamics of therapy with these age groups
* Establishing a professional learning community who hold passionate interest in supporting young people to have a life worth living

*Blackfort Adolescent Gestalt Institute also offers a range of training programmes tailored to specific professional and organisational needs.*