

**MSc in Systemic and Family Psychotherapy at The University of Birmingham, in association with AFT and Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust.**

The master's qualification is a two-year part-time programme following on from the Foundation and Intermediate level programme. On completion it leads to a clinical qualification and registration with UKCP as a Systemic and family therapist. I completed the first 2 levels at Derby University and then in 2022-2023 received part funding from FSPA for the first year of the MSc course at The University Birmingham in association with Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS foundation Trust. I have continued into the final year (self-funded) and will qualify in July 2024.

I am a specialist primary teacher by background, with experience particularly with trauma and neurodiversity. With 25-years experience in this area, I moved into the field of systemic practice to develop my ability to work with the whole family to support the child. Since 2021 I have been working privately and in a CAMHS setting, developing my systemic practice working with families.

The MSc has been an essential part of this development, providing the opportunity to develop my understanding of systemic theory, research and clinical practice.

Year 1 theoretical themes:

Theme 1: Co-Creating Cultures for Learning

Theme 2: Problems, possibilities, resources and restraints

Theme 3: Power, Prejudice and Ethics

In addition, I have had the opportunity to work alongside other professionals in a clinical setting and attend workshops presented by leading systemic thinkers including John Burham, Rashid Pendry and Arlene Vetere.

I have found systemic theory has had a profound impact on me both personally and professionally. The course has focused on the development of confident, agile, self-reflexive, ethical clinicians and the opportunities I have had as part of the MSc have enabled me to be working full time with children and families facing a range of challenges that threaten the family unit and the individual's well-being. I have very much valued this training and the funding support to complete it, as I am self-funding.