Institute of Group Analysis

Application to the Qualifying Course

Guidelines for Applicants

Ratified by NTMC: 2 November 2018
1) **IGA Qualifying Course Locations**
The Institute of Group Analysis has two courses, which qualify graduates for membership of the Institute. These courses are based in London and Manchester. The Manchester course has a block structure with teaching, supervision and therapy taking place during several weekends in the year. There is weekly supervision by telephone or Skype between weekend blocks. The London course has two seminars per week and students are expected to be in a twice weekly Group Analytic therapy and to meet for supervision once a week. Applicants who are unsure whether to apply to Manchester or London are advised to contact the National Director of Training to help clarify which course will be most suitable for them.

2) **Academic Requirements**
Candidates with a University degree or equivalent professional qualification and experience in the field may apply. Those who do not have a first degree are required to submit an essay for consideration as part of the selection to the Diploma Course which is a requirement for entry.

3) **Prior psychotherapy**
Candidates are usually required to have spent at least one year in a slow-open twice weekly or block therapy group with a Training Group Analyst prior to the commencement of the Qualifying Course. It is advised that applicants are in their therapy group at the time of application to the Qualifying Course. Applicants who are not in their therapy group at the time of application will need to explain this to the Admissions Interview Panel and Admissions Board who will consider their circumstances.

In circumstances where an applicant has been in a group with a Group Analyst who is not a Training Group Analyst prior to applying to the Qualifying Course, the Group Analyst’s experience and qualifications can be considered for suitability by the National Training Management Committee.

4) **Prior training**
Applicants will have completed an IGA Foundation (formerly Introductory) Course and Diploma Course prior to commencing a Qualifying Course. Students who have achieved the status of Group Work Practitioner will only be required to run one training group during the Qualifying Course. Those without Group Work Practitioner status will be required to run 2 groups.

5) **Psychiatric experience**
Qualifying Course students should have experience of work with people with mental health problems before completion of the formal part of the training. This is because once qualified, clinicians will need to be able to recognise serious mental health problems or those in danger of becoming ill and intervene appropriately. The Course Director can advise those who still require such experience and may be able to recommend where to find suitable placements in general mental health settings. It is possible to gain this experience prior to or during the training and it is a requirement that must be filled prior to finishing the training. This work experience can be gained in the NHS, social services or in a voluntary sector organisation. It should provide demonstrable experience of the following:

i. The ability to recognise serious mental illness.

ii. An understanding of the risks associated with serious mental illness.

iii. Experience of risk assessment and management of people with severe and enduring mental health problems.

iv. Experience of face-to-face work with people with serious mental health problems.
v. The ability to recognise serious mental health problems.
vi. Knowledge of services available for people with serious mental health problems.


viii. An understanding of how the statutory mental health system works.

ix. Experience of communication with a variety mental health practitioners.

6) Application Process

Applicants complete an Application Form by 31 January, which includes a personal statement outlining why they wish to train as a group analyst. Any other information, which may support the application, should also be included. This may for example be in the form of a Curriculum Vita. All applicants are required to have completed an IGA Foundation Course and IGA Diploma Course.

All applicants have a Clinical Interview prior to an Admissions Interview. This is likely to involve some searching questions. The purpose of this interview is to ascertain whether there are any psychological/emotional reasons why it would not be advisable for an applicant to commence training in group psychotherapy. The Clinical Interviewer will provide a report to the Admissions Interview Panel and the Admissions Board. Applicants can request a copy of this report from the Training Administrator.

Admission Interview Panels are held normally before the end of April. A panel of three senior members of the Institute will conduct the interview. The Admission Interview Panel uses its experience of the live dialogue and interaction in the interview as a central medium and source of information. The interview panel also draws on the following information:

i. The application form (including personal statement and other supporting information such as a CV)

ii. References

iii. The report from applicant’s Diploma Course Work Reflection Group Supervisor

iv. The report from applicant’s Clinical Interviewer.

v. Admissions Board Letter and Admissions Interview Panel Report for Applicants Re-Applying

Using the above parameters, the Admissions Interview Panel will assess the candidate on the following criteria for assessment:

i. The applicant’s capacity for self-reflection

ii. The applicant’s capacity for insight and self-understanding in relation to their application to train as a Group Analyst

iii. The applicant’s interest in, and awareness of, self in relation to others

iv. The applicant’s capacity for empathy with others

v. The applicant’s psychic resilience

vi. The applicant’s awareness of power relations and the dynamic impact of difference such as race, sexuality, gender and religion
vii. The applicant’s capacity to be part of a group or community
viii. The applicant’s ability to think theoretically about clinical work and to write to the required academic standard
ix. The applicant’s experience of working with people with mental health problems
x. Whether the applicant has been in personal group analysis with a Training Group Analyst for the required period before the course starts, and the applicant’s attitude towards this requirement.
xi. The applicant’s ability to use therapy

The Interview Panel may use other criteria as seem relevant at the time. The reasons for use of additional criteria should be clearly explained in the report, as should the reasons for omission of any of the above criteria.

The Admissions Interview Panel will produce a report following the interview, which will be sent with the references to the Admissions Board. The Admissions Board will then review all the reports and come to a decision about your application. You will be sent a letter informing you of their decision.