

Graduate Profile of Master of Social Sciences in Play Therapy

Qualification Title	Master of Social Sciences in Play Therapy 遊戲治療社會科學碩士
Qualification Type	Master Degree
QF Level	6
Primary Area of Study / Training	Social Sciences
Programme Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide students with a critical understanding of the core theories underlying the practice of play therapy, including their historical development, as well as the current state of knowledge in the field. 2. Develop students' expertise and critical awareness of childhood needs addressed by play therapy, including mental health, special educational needs, well-being and physical health, and social and psychological development. 3. Train competent practitioners who can effectively use play therapy skills with a critical understanding of their evidence base. 4. Contribute to the development of culturally relevant theory and its application, and to conduct research into play therapy in the context of Hong Kong.
Programme Intended Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically evaluate the dominant theories and techniques in play therapy. 2. Practice play therapy professionally according to legal and ethical standards. 3. Integrate culturally relevant family models into play therapy with children. 4. Apply knowledge of theories of child development and personality psychology to play therapy in particular to children with various mental issues or special needs. 5. Demonstrate competency as a practitioner of play therapy. 6. Provide culturally relevant play therapy to children in Hong Kong. 7. Evaluate the efficacy and effectiveness of play therapy practices.
Education Pathways	<p>Academia's pathway: The university provides further study opportunities for those more interested in research than practice after the introduction of MPhil and PhD studies. Graduates of MSSc in Play Therapy are welcome to design and conduct children and play therapy related research projects. They may also apply MSSc</p>

	<p>in Counselling Psychology or MSSc in Psychology to further their development in the respective fields.</p> <p>Pathway for professional registry: Students entering their first year of study may apply for Affiliate Membership with the Hong Kong Association of Play Therapy (HKAPT), and upon entering the second year of full-time study may apply to be General Members of the HKAPT. Graduates of the programme are also eligible to apply for registration as a Play Therapist with the HKAPT once they have met the overall requirements of 250 supervised hours of play therapy practice as well as 800 hours of mental health related practice.</p> <p>Subjective to the background and practice hours of individuals, graduates can seek for registration at international professional Associations of play therapy by fulfilling their requirements, such as Association for Play Therapy (APT) and Australasia Pacific Play Therapy Association (APPTA).</p>
Employment Pathways	<p>Graduates of the MSSc in Play Therapy can work in a range of settings, such as kindergartens, schools, children’s hospitals, health care centres, centres for children with SEN, various NGOs, orphanages private agencies for families and children or any other social service centres that provide service for children who suffer from learning difficulties, abuse and neglect, bereavement, depression and anxiety, divorce and family separations, psychological problems, traumatic experiences and violence.</p>
Minimum Admission Requirements	<p>General Requirements:</p> <p>Applicants for admission to the Master of Social Sciences in Play Therapy must either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. hold a bachelor’s degree or a postgraduate conversion degree in the field of counselling, education, psychology, social work, nursing, or related fields from a recognised local or overseas university; 2. provide documentary evidence of having completed the equivalent of at least one year’s full-time experience working primarily in a helping capacity with children (some or all of which may be in the form of practicums undertaken during the undergraduate degree); <p>OR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. be in possession of a bachelor’s degree or a postgraduate conversion degree in any field from a recognised local or overseas university; 2. provide documentary evidence of having completed the equivalent of at least two year’s full-time experience working primarily in a helping capacity with children. <p><i>Notes: ‘Helping capacity’ above refers to experience involving sustained interaction with children with the purpose of supporting their cognitive and/or emotional development.</i></p>

	<p>In order to work with children as a registered play therapist, it is expected that students enrolled in the Master of Social Sciences in Play Therapy programme should be free from any criminal conviction or caution. Successful applicants to this programme need to provide a certificate of No Criminal Conviction (CNCC) issued by the Hong Kong Police Force (https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/11_useful_info/cert_no_crime.html) before they can register on the programme.</p> <p>Language Requirements:</p> <p>As the primary language of instruction in the programme is English, applicants whose entrance qualification is issued by an institution where the medium of instruction is not English should also fulfil the following minimum English proficiency requirement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall score ≥ 6.5 in International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (academic); or 2. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 600 (paper-based test) or 100 (internet-based test) or 250 (computer-based test); or 3. Other equivalent qualifications that are acceptable to the university, including degrees from a recognised English medium institution in good standing. <p>The programme includes a practicum component that requires interaction with local children and their parents; therefore, proficiency in Cantonese is preferred.</p>
Operator	<p>Hong Kong Shue Yan University 香港樹仁大學</p>