



Unpaid Counselling Practicum

Are you a compassionate and empathetic individual looking to gain practical experience in the field of counselling/psychotherapy and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by childhood sexual abuse? The Gatehouse is delighted to offer an enriching unpaid counselling placement opportunity for dedicated individuals who wish to grow professionally and develop essential counselling skills.

Position Overview:

Title: Counselling Practicum Student

Reports to: Maria Barcelos, MA, RP (Qualifying), Executive Director
mbarcelos@thegatehouse.org

External Supervisor: All counselling practicum students must have a qualified external supervisor to meet CRPO standards. The Gatehouse does not reimburse for costs associated with procuring an external supervisor.

Function: Provide counselling support to individuals affected by childhood sexual abuse and assist in various aspects of the counselling program at The Gatehouse.

Hours/Days: Flexible schedule, with options for morning, afternoon, evening, and weekend placements. The counselling placements can be for 4 months (1 semester), 8 months (2 semesters), or 12 months (3 semesters) in duration.

Responsibilities:

As a Counselling Placement Student at The Gatehouse, you will actively participate in the following areas:

- Conducting individual counselling sessions under the supervision of qualified external supervision to support survivors of childhood sexual abuse.
- Conduct counselling program intake assessments, screening, and the allocation of clients to appropriate counselling services.
- Contributing to the development and implementation of therapeutic programs and interventions for clients in both group and individual settings.
- Engaging in ongoing research and professional development to stay informed about best practices and innovative counselling approaches for CSA trauma survivors.
- Participating in case conferences and team meetings to collaborate with colleagues and enhance therapeutic approaches.
- Maintaining accurate and confidential client records, ensuring compliance with ethical and legal standards.
- Collaborating with other team members to provide a holistic approach to client care and support.

- Assisting in outreach and community awareness efforts to promote The Gatehouse's counselling services.
- Supporting counselling-related administrative tasks as needed.

Required Skills & Abilities:

- Must be completing a MSW, MA (Counselling Psychology) or other Counselling/Psychology related Master's degree.
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Empathetic and non-judgmental approach to counselling.
- Ability to establish rapport and build therapeutic relationships with clients.
- Strong organizational and time management skills to manage client caseload effectively.
- Demonstrated understanding of trauma-informed care and counselling principles.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office software and computer literacy.
- Must be 18 years or older.

Desirable Skills (optional):

- Prior experience or knowledge in trauma counselling or childhood sexual abuse support.
- Familiarity with evidence-based counselling modalities and techniques including CBT, SFT, DBT etc.
- Proficiency in MS Office 365

Benefits to Placement Student:

This counselling placement offers a unique opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios, and enhance your counselling skills in a supportive and professional environment.

Orientation & Training:

Orientation and ongoing training will be provided to ensure placement students are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfill their counselling responsibilities effectively.

Application Process:

Email a current resume and a cover letter (in Word or PDF format) to Maria Barcelos, MA, Executive Director at mbarcelos@thegatehouse.org

Kindly include your school name, program name, the number of semesters required for placement, the number of hours required per semester, and the allocated days for the placement.

Selection Process:

1. Attend an interview.
2. Successful candidates will be notified in writing via email
3. A police vulnerable sector check is mandatory for all successful candidates.

After Selection:

1. Placement students will participate in an orientation session(s) and receive a volunteer handbook.
2. Ongoing supervision and support will be provided throughout the placement.
3. All students must provide a copy of their CLEAR vulnerable sector check.
4. Adherence to The Gatehouse's policies and ethical guidelines is mandatory.

If you are enthusiastic about supporting childhood sexual abuse survivors and aspire to become a skilled and compassionate counsellor, we invite you to apply for the Counselling Placement unpaid practicum at The Gatehouse. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the well-being of others while gaining valuable experience in the field of counselling/psychotherapy. Join us in our mission to empower and heal survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Apply now!