**Entry Requirements**

All applicants are considered based on suitability for the programme, irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.  S.M.I.L.E. Counselling & Training recognises the value of learning wherever it occurs, either formal through structured education or informal through involvement in employment, community activities or life experiences to meet programme entry requirements or to achieve credit towards named awards.

Entry requirements will be that applicants will normally:

* Have undertaken the COSCA certificate in Counselling Skills (SCQF Level 8) or equivalent.
* Have experience of working with people in a field relevant to counselling, and a readiness to engage effectively in a counselling placement.
* Have the capacity to work independently to ensure that they can achieve the standards necessary to complete the course satisfactorily.
* Have a willingness to engage actively in all aspects of the course, including their own personal therapy.
* It is desirable that potential students will be educated to Degree level in a related field

Applicants who have prior/experiential learning can apply to be considered under our APEL procedure and will be invited to submit a portfolio for assessment

**Further information**

Graduates of the 2-year Diploma course will have satisfied the training requirements necessary for individual accreditation with COSCA. At this point students will be qualified counsellors working towards accreditation.

For more information of accreditation, please see the COSCA website

<http://www.cosca.org.uk/our-services/accreditation/counsellor-accreditation>