



Parental Alienation Europe
Time To Make A Change

**Post Graduate Diploma & Masters
In Parental Alienation Studies
2025**

Prospectus 2025



Welcome to the PG Diploma & Masters in PA Studies

We would like to welcome you to the *Institute of Family Therapy Malta*. We hope that you will have a valuable and enjoyable time studying with us. It is always a challenge to start something new, we know what it means as this course is also a new venture for us. This is the first time we are running it and we learned a lot from the previous teaching and learning experiences of other courses, learning which we can apply to this course. So please contact the course coordinators Dr. Charlie Azzopardi or Mr. Brian O'Sullivan if we can be of help.

The Institute of Family Therapy Malta was set up to provide state of the art training and therapy. All teaching staff are professionally trained and relevantly qualified clinical professionals. The Institute boasts membership with the *Training Institutes Chamber of the European Family Therapy Association* and membership with the *International Family Therapy Association*. It is also listed as a registered *Higher Education Institution* and its courses are all accredited by the *Malta Further & Higher Education Authority*.

Program Overview

There is growing awareness of the widespread harm caused by Parental Alienation to children, young people, individuals, families and society at large. In an experiential and participative environment this program offers learners the opportunity to acquire key skills and theoretical knowledge to effectively engage with individuals and families experiencing Parental Alienation. The full course, Masters in Parental Alienation Studies addresses the core competences necessary for working with parental alienation including Assessment, Intervention, Legal Writing and Proceedings, Child Development, Personal & Professional Development and Research. People who do not want to pursue a Masters programme may exit at PG Certificate level or PG Diploma Level.

Who is this course for?

This course offers three levels of training, the PG Certificate, the PG Diploma and the Masters levels, and is intended to provide a sound balance of expert-based and experiential learning in Parental Alienation Studies and is a comprehensive professional training program focused upon identifying, assessing, intervening with individuals and families experiencing Parental Alienation as well as reporting effectively and researching Parental Alienation.

It is a course intended for professionals and frontliners from different fields who are, or intend to work, with Parental Alienation case work. People who benefitted from the course previously came from professions like teaching, law, psychology, psychotherapy, counselling, social work, family therapy, medicine, coaching, and more. Previous courses

The course is accredited by the:

Malta Further and Higher Education Authority and is designed to supplement learner's existing qualifications. The course is intended for professionals and others currently or considering working

with children, young people, individuals and families across the social, mental health, statutory and voluntary sectors who wish to enhance their qualifications and to gain contemporary theoretical knowledge and skills to work with those affected by Parental Alienation.

What are the benefits of doing this course?

On completion of this program. Participants will have developed an advanced competency and proficiency working with clients presenting with Parental Alienation problems. Learners will more fully understand the complex and challenging nature of Parental Alienation. Participants will be uniquely placed to influence attitudes and inform policy in the workplace, community and wider society

Course Details

Duration: 1 academic year Post Graduate Certificate
 2 academic years Post Graduate Diploma
 2 academic years Masters

Award: Post Graduate Certificate in Parental Alienation Studies

Level: 7 (Malta)

Timetable: One weekend a month Saturday and Sunday commencing May 2024

Location: Online

Modules & Assessment

| Module/Unit Title | ECTS (Figures must be whole integers and with a value of at least 1 ECTS) | MQF Level of each module | Mode of Teaching (Lectures, workshop, placement, asynchronous, forums, VLE, etc.) | Mode of Assessment (Examination, assignment, project, blog, etc.) |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Post Graduate Certificate in PA Studies | | | | |
| Module 1 Historical and Contemporary Theory of Parental Alienation | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion | Written Position Paper 3000 Words |
| Module 2 Assessment Processes in Parental Alienation: Theory and practice | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion Case Studies/Reviews Role Plays | Case Study tackling Assessment Process in PA 3000 words |

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|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Workshop | |
| Module 3 Evidence Based Best Practice Interventions for Moderate and Severe Parental Alienation | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion Case Work Role Plays Video Review | Intervention Case study 3000 words |
| Module 4 Legal Report Writing for the Family Law Courts | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion Case Studies Role Plays Workshop | Written Legal Report/Assignment 3000 words |
| Module 5 Child Development, Attachment and the Family Theory | 6 | 7 | Theoretical Presentations | Assignment Case Study 3000 words |
| Post Graduate Diploma in Parental Alienation Studies | | | | |
| Module 6 Research Methods in Parental Alienation | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion Case Studies Role Plays Workshop | 3000-word research proposal |
| Module 7 Emerging Developments in Parental Alienation Studies | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion Case Studies Role Plays Workshop | Presentation in class about key emerging narratives in PA & identifying opportunities for further research in PA or Assignment 3000 words depicting contemporary literature application |
| Module 8 Forensic Interviewing Skills | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion Case Studies Role Plays Workshop | Video presentation – 30 mins demonstrating key Interviewing competences via role play or case work. |

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|--|----------------|---|---|---|
| Module 9 Ethics in the Practice and Research of Parental Alienation | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion Case Studies Role Plays Workshop | Assignment 3000 words Ethical Dilemmas |
| Module 10 Personal & Professional Development: Themes in Self Reflexivity | 6 | 7 | Lectures Video Presentation Discussion Case Studies Role Plays Workshop | PPD Portfolio 3000 words |
| Masters in Parental Alienation Studies | | | | |
| Module 11 Dissertation/Research Project | | | | |
| Total ECTS for Programme Completion | 90 ECTS | | | |

Entry Requirements

Level 6 equivalent to Bachelor's Degree Level in humanities, Social, Legal, Educational, Mental Health, Medical, Social Work, Nursing, Psychology, Psychotherapy, Counselling or Child Care. Applicants should have the access to opportunities for client / case work in their current role and be able to apply theoretical principles and practice to their current case-load.

Overall Course Objectives

The healthy development of children is highly influenced by their relationship with parents and the quality of the relationship between parents. Therefore, when parents go through a separation and a child is deprived of a relationship with one parent, this can have negative consequences throughout childhood and later into adulthood. Parental alienation presents when a child becomes allied with one parent and alienated from the other parent with whom the child had a good relationship in the past, usually with no factual evidence of abuse or neglect. Parental estrangement, on the other hand, describes the dissolution of a parent-child relationship as the result of witnessed violence, abuse, or neglect. There is a great deal of information and a number of strategies a professional may utilize in treatment to create a healthy environment for children and parents in an alienated/estranged situation. Overall, the course is intended to provide learners with the following opportunities:

1. To familiarize oneself with contemporary issues in the literature and critically evaluate the empirical literature relating to parental alienation.
2. To gain knowledge about contemporary issues in the literature and critically evaluate the empirical literature relating to parental alienation.
3. To acquaint and equip learners with effective counterintuitive intervention methods to intervene in the severe spectrum of alienation
4. To intervene therapeutically across the mild and moderate spectrum of PA in order to prevent severe PA from developing.
5. To develop and master skills in evidence based best practices of assessment of Parental Alienation to identify its presence or absence.

6. To introduce learner to optimum legal report writing.
7. To enable learners to identify and apply relevant legal evidence based, ground breaking interventions
8. To Develop the capacity to act as court expert in relation to PA casework
9. To familiarise with existent research in PA
10. To design and implement a research project in the area of Parental Alienation.

Time Commitment

The Course is distributed over 10 monthly week-end blocks between October 2021 and July 2022. This week-end blocks system provides effective time management option for participants to cover the necessary independent study hours and assignment preparation in between blocks.

Staff Structure

Course Management:
 Dr. Charlie Azzopardi
 Mr. Brian O'Sullivan
 Mr. Isaac Azzopardi

International Visiting Tutors

Charlie Azzopardi, Brian O'Sullivan, Brendan Guildea, Padraic Gibson, Matteo Papantuono, Claudette Portelli, William Bernet, Mandy Matthewson, Geraldine O Driscoll, Karl Wright, Philip Marcus, Mandy Matthewson, Yvonne Parnell.

Course Fees

PG Certificate in PA Studies €2950.
 PG Diploma in PA Studies €2950.
 Masters in PA Studies €1950.

Payment plan Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Parental Alienation Studies

Participants can choose to pay €500-euro deposit on application and the balance in 6 monthly installments of €425 through the monthly payment plan. Please note that this plan will operate by direct debit only and is inclusive of €100.00 administration fee.

Payment Plan Masters in Parental Alienation Studies

Participants Pay 6 monthly installments of €341 through the monthly payment plan. Please note that this plan will operate by direct debit only and is inclusive of €100.00 administration fee.

Application process

- Applicants are invited to register their interest for the program at the link below.
- You will receive a copy of the application form.
- Application Forms must be completed, signed and returned to us accompanied by the following:
 - CV
 - Police Certificate of good conduct
 - Copies of relevant certificates
 - 2 Recent reference letters
 - €50 Non-Refundable Processing Fee

- Applications are processed and an interview is organised
- An acceptance letter will be sent to eligible participants
- Upon acceptance payment instructions will be provided
- Applicants are entitled to a full refund of the initial deposit if they decide to cancel within 14 days of receipt of their online registration.
- The balance of fees is payable in full before the course commences (or direct debit payment plan set up).
- Fees are non-refundable in all personal circumstances.
- All courses run subject to demand and the formation of a viable class cohort.
- A full refund will be given to all applicants if a course does not start.
- Please note that the name used on your application needs to be the same name that you have on your passport.

Dr. Charlie Azzopardi & Mr. Brian O'Sullivan
Course Coordinators