



Applied Creative Psychology MA

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Awarding Institution: Plymouth Marjon University

Teaching Institution: Catalyst – Institute of Creative Arts and Technology

Location: Berlin **Mode of study:** Full-time (1 year)

Language of instruction: English

Final Award Title: Master of Arts

Overview

Explore the psychology of creativity, wellbeing and human development

The MA in Applied Creative Psychology is a one-year (full-time) or two-year (part-time) postgraduate programme that unites artistic practice with evidence-based psychology.

Tailored for creatives, wellbeing practitioners, educators and organisational leaders, this MA responds to the growing need for **non-clinical, applied creative psychology education** that enhances both creative and professional effectiveness. As **Europe's first Master's dedicated to the psychology of creativity, personal development and wellbeing**, the programme unites artistic practice with evidence-based psychology to explore how creativity shapes human growth – and how to apply that knowledge in real-world contexts.

At its heart, the programme rests on three core pillars:

Creative Exploration – using artistic practice, play and experimentation to deepen self-expression and personal insight.

Psychological Insight – engaging with contemporary research in human development, positive psychology, wellbeing and leadership.

Applied Practice – bringing your knowledge into the world through service learning, community projects, and a capstone portfolio that demonstrates your mastery.

You'll learn through experiential workshops, collaborative projects, and reflective practice, supported by a diverse international cohort and expert mentors. Instead of traditional exams, you'll build a portfolio of creative and applied work that positions you for careers in expressive arts, wellbeing, leadership, education or research.

Rather than passively learning theories, this programme focuses on testing ideas in the studio, classroom and community, helping you develop the skills, networks and confidence to make creativity a catalyst for transformation in your life, career and society.

What is Applied Creative Psychology?

Applied Creative Psychology is an interdisciplinary field that explores how creativity can be used as a practical, evidence-based tool for psychological insight, personal growth, and social wellbeing. It sits at the intersection of psychology, neuroscience, the arts, and education and uses creativity not only as a subject of study, but as a method of change by asking:

- How can creative expression support mental health and emotional resilience?
- How do flow states, improvisation, and collaboration shape the brain and nervous system?
- How can we design learning or therapeutic environments that nurture curiosity, courage, and emotional intelligence?

This field brings together insights from psychology, neuroscience, the arts, and education to explore how creative engagement can support wellbeing, unlock potential, and respond to the complexities of life with emotional depth and clarity. And that's where creative flourishing comes in.

Creative flourishing means living and working in a way that is both psychologically grounded and creatively expansive. It's the process of gaining clarity, resilience, and purpose not just for your own life, but in service of others. Through hands-on projects, reflective learning, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, you'll develop your capacity to facilitate creativity in others while nurturing your own creative voice and psychological insight. You'll examine how creative practice can foster resilience, empathy, agency, and meaning—not as abstract ideals, but as embodied outcomes you can design and deliver. This is a space where art meets values. Where critical thinking meets emotional intelligence. And where your practice becomes a tool for personal flourishing and collective care.



By the end of the course, you'll have:

- **A portfolio of original applied projects** that demonstrate your integration of creativity and psychology.
- **Advanced research and reflective practice skills**, preparing you for professional practice or doctoral study.
- **Confidence as a facilitator and leader**, able to design and deliver creative interventions across diverse contexts.
- **Practical experience through service learning**, applying your work with real communities, organisations or cultural partners.
- **Professional positioning** in the growing fields of creative health, applied psychology, education and leadership.

Berlin as your living laboratory

Berlin is more than a backdrop – it's an active partner in your journey as an applied creative psychology practitioner. With its long history of radical art movements, community healing, and cross-cultural experimentation, the city offers fertile ground for testing ideas, creating impact, and growing meaningful work at the intersection of art, mental health, and social change.

You won't just study in Berlin—you'll participate in shaping its creative and psychological landscape. This city invites action, not observation.

Across Berlin, you'll find:

- Grassroots art collectives, trauma-informed spaces, and socially engaged residencies tackling everything from gender justice to climate grief.
- Progressive festivals and cultural events that blend art, activism, and wellbeing—such as the Month of Performance Art, CTM Festival, and transdisciplinary gatherings at places like Floating University.
- Community-focused spaces that integrate therapeutic practice, coaching, movement, and creative facilitation—from artist-run studios to initiatives supporting migrant mental health and queer healing.
- Public funding and open-access initiatives that support experimental and socially beneficial projects—through the Goethe Institute, district cultural funds, and independent artist networks.

Whether you're drawn to co-facilitation in community arts settings, mental wellness initiatives, or educational and cultural programmes, Berlin is a rare city where emerging ideas in creative psychology are not only welcome—they're needed.

Berlin is a city where you can test your voice, build your methodology, and connect with a global community of creatives and educators working toward more empathetic futures.

“Most importantly, it is what you do with the resources that are given to you that makes each study experience unique. This is a space where [you] have a certain autonomy and can explore [your] creative desires. You're in charge!”

– Pablo Diserens aka Òtone, music producer and Creative Production (Music) MA alum

[[Click here to book a visit →](#)]



Learning by doing

Our learning framework for advanced creatives

Why we teach this way

As with all our programmes, the MA is built on practice-based learning. We apply a postgraduate twist to this progressive approach to education: greater autonomy, higher responsibility and much deeper potential for research. It's a framework that challenges you to take creative risks while giving you the support to turn them into meaningful outcomes.

In practice, that means: you'll

- Treat the classroom as a laboratory, exploring each subject through games, initiatives, creative challenges, outings and workshops.
- Build a portfolio rather than relying on essays, with assessments focused on creative responses, reflective writing and artefacts that showcase your growth.
- Apply your skills in the real world through service learning and placements in community health, cultural or educational organisations.
- Deliver a capstone thesis project, a substantial applied contribution that integrates creativity, psychology and your chosen specialisation.

Facilities and resources for your professional development

At Catalyst, creative psychology is something you practice, not just study. Our spaces are designed for co-creation, reflection, and experimentation—from quiet zones to collaborative studios and off-campus work in schools, communities or cultural organisations across Berlin.

As an MA student, you'll be fast-tracked through inductions and invited to shape your own workspace. You'll also have access to our wider creative campus at Funkhaus, Berlin's iconic broadcasting centre turned thriving arts hub—home to sound studios, editing suites, performance spaces and communal areas.

This programme is part of the School of Creative Human Development, working alongside Catalyst's Schools of Music & Sound, Film & Visual Media, and Acting. Interdisciplinary collaboration is part of everyday life—your next collaborator might be a filmmaker, performer or musician.

You're also encouraged to connect with Berlin's grassroots scenes—through placements, partnerships and research—and when you're ready to share your voice, Etikett Radio, our student-run platform, is yours to broadcast it.



Your creative community

As part of the MA in Applied Creative Psychology, you'll join a diverse, multidisciplinary network of creatives, facilitators, and changemakers exploring the intersection of psychology, creativity, and personal growth.

Through shared inquiry, collaboration, and reflection, you'll develop your practice alongside peers from over 70 countries—each bringing unique perspectives and lived experiences. Our interdisciplinary campus at the Funkhaus connects you with students across music, film, acting, and human development, offering rich opportunities for cross-pollination and creative exchange.

By joining Catalyst's creative community you'll be tapping into a vibrant ecosystem where bold ideas grow and lasting connections form.

A future-proof creative toolkit

This programme goes beyond academic theory to equip you with the **practical and professional tools** needed to thrive in today's evolving creative and psychological landscapes. Whether you aim to work in mental health, education, social innovation, or community practice, you'll gain **support** in:

- Funding applications and grant writing for research or practice-based initiatives
- Proposal development for workshops, residencies, exhibitions, and social impact projects
- Portfolio building tailored to therapeutic, educational, and interdisciplinary settings
- Career strategy coaching to help you clarify your direction and position your work with purpose

In parallel, we'll support your development of key creative life skills—such as self-direction, emotional intelligence, reflective practice, and collaborative communication. These soft-skills are essential for working meaningfully with others and sustaining your personal growth as a creative professional.

Alongside your academic and creative development, Catalyst offers a range of support services to help you navigate challenges, build confidence and stay creatively focused:

- **One-to-one counselling and coaching** – confidential sessions with qualified professionals to support emotional wellbeing, anxiety, creative blocks, conflict resolution and life transitions
- **Flourishing Fortnights** – immersive two-week workshop series focused on topics like creative collaboration, healthy boundaries, communication and emotional self-awareness
- **Self-Development & Leadership Course** – an optional deep dive into how you perceive yourself, others and your creative role in the world
- **Practical wellbeing support** – help accessing medical resources, therapy referrals, diagnosis pathways and other essential life services
- **Everyday check-ins** – a wellbeing team that's visible, approachable and part of the day-to-day campus life

Workshops and programme outcomes

This programme supports you in creating a life and practice that is intentional, connected, and purpose-driven. Through coaching, creative experimentation, and applied psychological tools, you will:

- **Build inner resources** for self-awareness, resilience, and personal growth.
- **Navigate complexity** with clarity, confidence, and artful communication.
- **Foster creative wellbeing**, from managing stress to cultivating flow and purpose.
- **Strengthen your leadership**, collaboration, and global impact as a facilitator or changemaker.
- **Grow your sense of agency**, systems thinking, and ability to act with intention.

How You'll Be Assessed

Assessment on this programme is **inclusive, rigorous and supportive** – designed to help you grow and succeed as both a creative and a practitioner. You'll receive **personalised feedback** focused on strengths, improvement areas, and your future development.

Your work will be assessed through a variety of formats, including:

- **Essays** – Demonstrate your understanding of key theories through structured academic writing.
- **Creative Responses** – Express ideas through original artistic or multimedia outcomes.
- **Critical Reflections** – Analyse your own process and learning through reflective writing.
- **Presentations** – Share your research or project in a verbal or visual format.
- **Community Case Studies** – Examine real-world practices to deepen contextual understanding.
- **Portfolios** – Compile a curated body of evidence that captures your growth and learning.
- **Research Projects** – Complete an in-depth study or practical project tailored to your interests.

These assessment types reflect the interdisciplinary, applied and reflective nature of the programme – preparing you to work creatively and meaningfully in diverse professional contexts.

Your Programme Structure

You'll complete 5 core modules across three semesters, combining coursework, real-world application and a final capstone project:

Semester A

Creative Lifespan Development · 30 Credits

Explore how creativity evolves throughout a lifetime. You'll examine key psychological theories and develop tools to support growth, identity formation and personal development across different life stages.

Expressive Arts, Health & Wellbeing · 30 Credits

Investigate the therapeutic and transformational power of creative expression. This module blends theory with practice to explore how art supports mental health, emotional regulation, and holistic wellbeing.

Semester B

Optimal Experience & Peak Performance · 30 Credits

Delve into the psychology of flow, motivation and meaning-making. You'll learn how to design environments and practices that foster deep engagement, creativity, and performance across disciplines.

Creative Leadership & Global Impact · 30 Credits

Focus on leadership, collaboration and systems thinking. This module helps you develop inclusive, values-driven approaches to creativity that can lead change in organisations, education, and communities.

Semester C

Fellowship & Capstone Portfolio · 60 Credits

Bring together everything you've learned in a culminating final project. This long-term thesis serves as your capstone portfolio and is developed throughout the programme. You'll design a project—either a single large-scale initiative or a series of smaller connected works—that reflects your personal specialisation and creative psychology practice.

Drawing from literature, short-term modules, and professional experience gained during the fellowship, this project is your opportunity to demonstrate mastery, insight and real-world relevance. It should reflect your growth, creative voice and capacity to lead change through applied creative psychology.



Admissions Guide

Here's everything you need to take the next step in your application:

Get to know us better

Virtual Open Days → Get a virtual overview of what we're all about, held over Zoom.

In-Person Open Day → Get a first-hand feel of our school and educational programmes.

Campus Tours → Come see our facilities and creative spaces at one of our regular tours.

Virtual Taster Workshops → Join a programme-specific info event or masterclass

Admissions Open Hours → Book your one-to-one application support on-demand.

Admissions Guidance

1. **Course fees & payment plans**
2. **Early Enrolment Bonus – save €3,000 off total tuition**
3. **Scholarships**
4. **Application deadlines & Visa requirements**
5. **How to apply**
6. **Contact us**

1. Course fees & payment plans

We believe creative education should be accessible, transparent and free from hidden costs. Our tuition plans are flexible – you decide to pay monthly, per semester, annually or in full with discounts. Extended payment options let you spread costs beyond your programme.

Plan type - Full Time	Standard	€1,000 Early Enrolment Bonus	With €2,000 scholarship	Payment Plan Duration	Notes
By semester	€3,885	€3,552	€3,218	1 years / 3 sem.	Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Annually	€11,305	€10,305	€9,305	1 year	3% discount by paying each year upfront. Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
12 Instalments per Year	€1,055	€971	€888	1 year	Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Extended Yearly	€6,150	€5,650	€5,150	2 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee in final year
Extended Instalments	€545	€503	€462	2 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee in final year

Enrolment fee

This non-refundable fee of €895 per study year is due before the start of each academic year and secures your place. No enrolment fee is charged in the post-graduation year if you choose an Extended Payment Plan.

Extended payment plans

In addition to single or installment payment options, we offer Extended Payment Plans. This spreads tuition payments over an additional year, resulting in smaller monthly payments that continue for one year after graduation.

Enrolment confirmation & billing

- **Enrolment fee:** due within 14 days of receiving your offer.
- **Billing cycle:** tuition installments begin **1 July 2026** and are billed on the first of each month until your chosen plan ends.

2. Early enrolment bonus

Apply by our **priority deadline** to secure your place, save €1,000 off your total tuition and access visa support sooner.

- **Visa-required applicants:** apply by 28 February 2026
- **EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants:** apply by 31 March 2026

3. Funding opportunities and Catalyst scholarships

As an accredited higher education provider, our students are eligible for a variety of national and international financial aid schemes. This includes the German state funding stream BAföG, which is open to citizens of Germany, EU countries and some non-EU citizens too. Depending on which country you are a citizen of, this may also open up funding from other programmes supporting further-education. [Read more about the various funding opportunities on our website.](#)

We also offer our own [€2,000 scholarships](#) for eligible Master's students. Scholarship recipients are embedded into the Catalyst community by taking an active role in collaborative projects and event support. Read more about the various funding opportunities on our website.

1. **Community Healers Scholarship:** This scholarship is for students who have worked in grassroots mental health or community wellness and are bringing this experience into their academic and creative practice.
2. **Perspectives in Psychology Scholarship:** This scholarship is for students integrating lived experience of identity and marginalisation (including queer perspectives) into their psychological or creative practice.
3. **Lifework Reimagined Scholarship (Career Switchers):** For students who are transitioning into psychology from another career and want to merge their past experiences with future impact — through mental health, creativity, or community-based work.

4. Application deadlines

Visa-required applicants

- Priority: 28 February 2026 (includes bonus & visa support)
- General: 30 April 2026 (subject to processing time and availability)

EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants

- Priority: 31 March 2026 (includes bonus & guaranteed spot on preferred course)
- General: 5 June 2026 (granted on a rolling basis)
- Late: until 28 August 2026 (subject to availability)

Visa requirements

- **Visa-required:** If you require a visa before entering Germany (e.g. citizens of India,

Brazil, Mexico, China, Turkey), you must apply at a German embassy before arrival. Our Visa Support Service (included in the enrolment fee) supports you with paperwork, appointments and timelines. Visa processing can take 3–6 months, so early application is essential.

- **Post-arrival visa:** If you're from a country that allows visa-free entry (e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea), you can enter Germany without a visa and apply for your student residence permit after arrival.
- **Visa-exempt (EU/EEA/Switzerland):** If you're a citizen of the EU, EEA or Switzerland, you don't need a visa or residence permit to study in Germany.

5. How to apply

Our application process is straightforward – just follow these seven steps:

1. **Check deadlines** – especially if you need a visa to enter Germany or financial support.
2. **Prepare your portfolio** – requirements vary by course, check our “How to apply” page.
3. **Submit your application** at catalyst-berlin.com/apply, including personal and educational details, a motivation statement, your portfolio and supporting documents such as transcripts or proof of language ability.
4. **Apply for a scholarship** (if eligible) – by completing the additional Scholarship Form, which requires an additional motivation letter and background information.
5. **Wait for our response** – we'll be in touch within around two weeks. Sometimes we'll ask for follow-up information or invite you for an interview. Keep an eye on your inbox.
6. **Confirm your place** – once you receive an offer letter, secure it by paying the enrollment fee within 14 days.
7. **Get ready for Berlin** – once your enrolment fee is paid, you're officially enrolled. Next you'll set up your payment plan, receive your welcome package and access preparation materials for your studies. We recommend finding accommodation as soon as you're sure that you're studying with us, and arriving one month before your classes begin.

Contact us

Reach out to our Admissions team by email at admissions@catalyst-berlin.com or book a call [here](#).