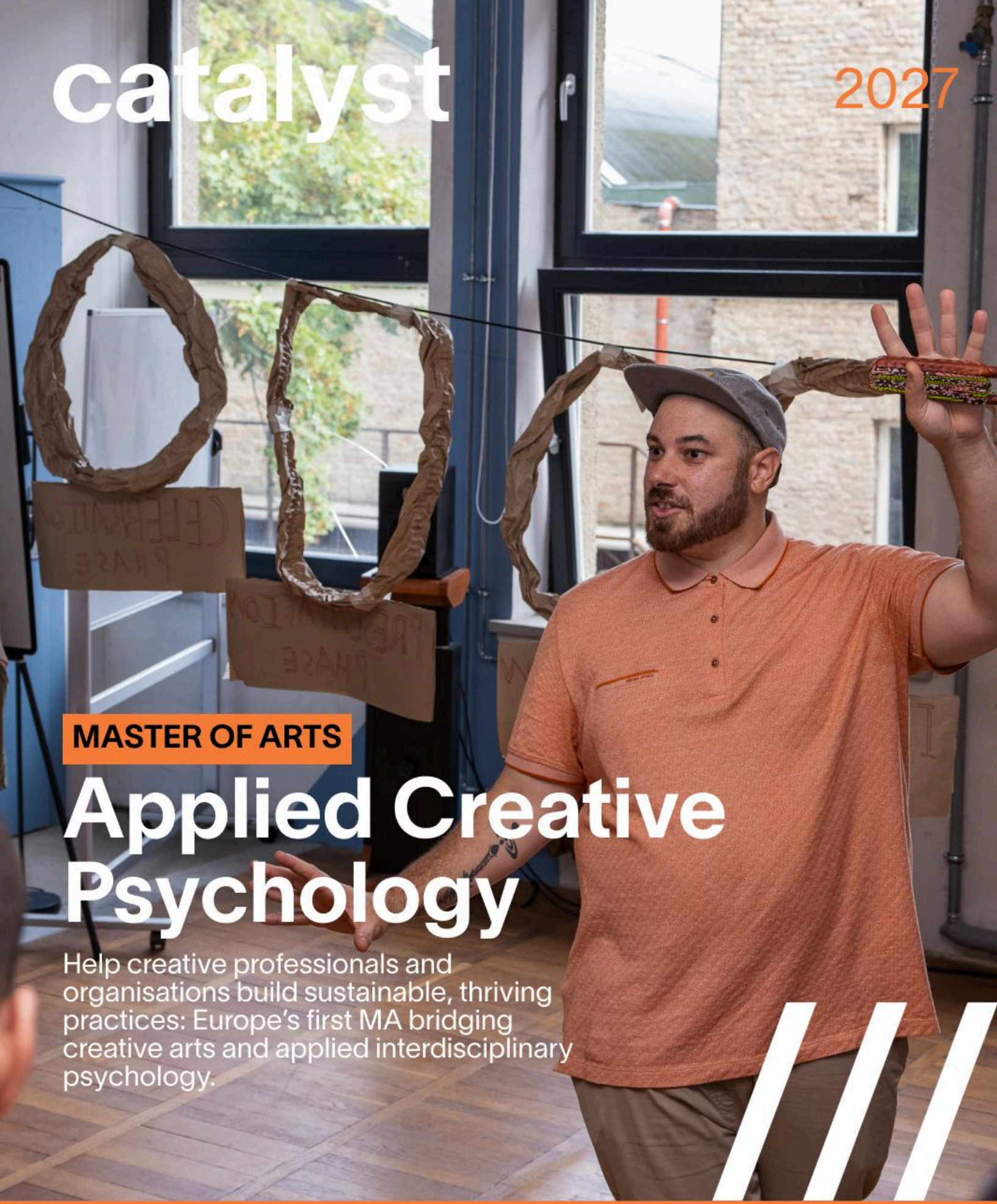


catalyst

2027

MASTER OF ARTS

Applied Creative Psychology

Help creative professionals and organisations build sustainable, thriving practices: Europe's first MA bridging creative arts and applied interdisciplinary psychology.

Institute for Creative Arts and Technology

Funkhaus, Nalepastr. 18, 12459 Berlin
catalyst-berlin.com

Overview

What is applied creative psychology?

Where you'll learn

How you'll learn

What you'll learn

Where this leads

How to apply

Teaching Institution: Catalyst – Institute of Creative Arts and Technology
Final Award Title: Master of Arts

Location: Berlin
Course start: September 2027

Mode of study: Full time
Language of instruction: English
Awarding Institution: Plymouth Marjon University

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PLYMOUTH MARJON UNIVERSITY

Overview

Research and design evidence-based human development practices that help people, organisations and communities flourish through creativity

The MA in Applied Creative Psychology is a one-year (full-time) postgraduate degree in the interdisciplinary field of applied creative psychology, the study of how creativity intersects with human development, wellbeing and performance. It is the only postgraduate programme in Europe built specifically at this intersection: sustained engagement with psychological theory and empirical research on one side, and a year of creative and applied practice that tests that theory against real work, on the other.

The programme is intended for practitioners already leading creative or facilitative work, whether as artists, facilitators, educators, organisational leaders or wellbeing professionals, who are seeking a formal theoretical and empirical foundation for that practice. Graduates are trained to design, deliver and evaluate evidence-based creative interventions, and to conduct original research that contributes to the field.

This MA is designed for:

- Artists and creative practitioners seeking a theoretical and empirical foundation for practice they already lead: performance, sound work or facilitation developed through experience rather than formal study.
- Workshop facilitators moving from intuitive programme design toward evidence-based design.
- Wellbeing practitioners and therapists seeking frameworks developed specifically for creative populations and creative contexts.
- Organisational professionals developing cultures in which creative work and psychological wellbeing are mutually reinforcing rather than in tension.
- Leaders responsible for designing teams and structures around the actual psychological dynamics of creative work, rather than assumptions about it.

What is applied creative psychology?

Applied creative psychology is an interdisciplinary field combining psychological research on creativity, human development and performance with practical application in real-world contexts. It sits at the intersection of several established research areas:

- **Developmental psychology** How creativity evolves across the human lifespan.
- **Positive psychology.** Optimal experience, motivation, meaning and flourishing.
- **Creativity research.** How creative processes work and can be supported.
- **Neuroscience.** Brain function during creative states and the physiological aspects of expression.
- **Performance science.** Flow, peak performance and expertise development.
- **Educational psychology.** How people learn and develop creative capacities.

The "applied" in applied creative psychology denotes a specific emphasis on practical application:

- Designing evidence-based interventions, such as workshops, programmes or
- organisational initiatives, grounded in psychological research rather than intuition alone.
- Facilitating creative development, working with individuals, groups or communities to support creative growth using frameworks from human development theory.
- Conducting practice-based research to test psychological frameworks with real populations, evaluate programme effectiveness and contribute to the field's evidence base.
- Translating research from psychology, neuroscience and creativity studies into approaches that function in educational, community and organisational contexts.

This is not a clinical psychology degree and does not confer a licence to practise therapy. It is postgraduate training in applied psychology for creative, organisational and community contexts: non-clinical, evidence-based and assessed entirely through a portfolio of applied and research work rather than written examination.

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.

"One of my projects explored the relationship between memory, sound, and environment. It was inspired by the idea of emotional geography, how certain places hold echoes of who we have been. Using field recordings, layered textures, and fragments of spoken word, I built a soundscape that felt like a map of both place and feeling. The course helped me approach this with intention and depth, combining theory and intuition in a way that felt completely authentic to me"

Dom Frazer, artist and Creative Psychology alumni

Where you'll learn

Our creative campus

The Applied Creative Psychology MA sits within Catalyst's School of Creative Human Development, on a campus shared with the School of Music & Sound, the School of Film & Visual Media and the School of Acting. You'll have access to quiet rooms for reflective writing and one-to-one supervision, collaborative studios for group workshops and the wider campus itself: cinema, performance spaces, soft-floor studios, our very own student-led radio station and more. You'll share a campus with musicians, film students, actors and other creatives – the perfect backdrop for conducting research and testing new methods.

"I learned that creativity is essential. I was so blocked in corporate grown-up life that I thought creativity was frivolous and I don't have time for it, but it really is crucial."

Larissa Wiens, Creative Psychology alumna

Berlin as your living laboratory

Berlin gives you somewhere to test ideas and grow your network. Grassroots art collectives, trauma-informed spaces and socially engaged residencies across the city work on gender justice, climate grief and community healing. The city is full of progressive festivals and gatherings that treat art, activism and wellbeing as one conversation rather than three. Community spaces across the city integrate therapeutic practice, coaching, movement and creative facilitation, including initiatives supporting migrant mental health and queer healing. Whether your interest sits closer to community mental health, organisational culture or your own artistic practice, Berlin is where an early instinct about what matters to you has room to become an actual initiative.

[Click here to book a campus tour (or explore online) →]








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How you'll learn

Our learning method

There are no written exams at Catalyst. Every module is assessed through work you actually produce: essays that demonstrate theoretical understanding, creative responses that use art as a method of inquiry, critical reflections on your own process, presentations to different audiences, community case studies, portfolios that document your development and research projects shaped around your own interests. Progress is measured by what you make and how you respond to critique, not by how you perform in a room under exam conditions.

Creative practice as method, psychological research as ground

Coursework is built so that artistic practice and psychological theory develop together, not one after the other. You're not asked to set your practice aside while you study the research, then pick it up again afterwards. Modules draw on developmental psychology, positive psychology, neuroscience, performance science and leadership theory, and every module asks you to apply that research to work you're actually making, testing what the theory predicts against what you observe when you facilitate a group, run a workshop or perform.

- **One-to-one supervision.** Regular sessions to test your method against your own practice and your developing thesis direction.
- **Guest sessions.** Practitioners working across creative wellbeing, community arts and organisational psychology lead workshops and lectures throughout the year.
- **Service learning placements.** Apply your work directly with schools, community organisations or cultural partners across Berlin, not as a simulation of practice but as practice itself.
- **Portfolio development.** Structured support for building the applied projects and reflective writing that make up your final portfolio.
- **Public presentation.** Present your research and applied work at the MA Symposium, Catalyst's annual public-facing research showcase.
- **Outward connection.** Direct contact with Berlin's grassroots collectives, socially engaged residencies and community organisations working across gender justice, migrant mental health and climate grief.

Your Programme Lead



Cordele Glas holds a BA in Applied Developmental Psychology from UCLA and an MA in Positive Developmental Psychology from Claremont Graduate University, and his research focuses on creative process, identity, wellbeing and human development. Alongside his academic work, he performs internationally as an electronic producer and is one of the highest-ranked competitive live beatmakers in the world.

Your module tutors



Carolina Mauricio
Creative Lifespan Development. Counselling psychologist and psychoanalyst based in Berlin, with over 18 years of engagement with psychoanalytic practice and institutions.



Eva van Dijk
Optimal Experience & Peak Performance. Berlin-based music producer and Programme Coordinator for the School of Creative Human Development.



Kadri Arula
Expressive Arts, Health & Wellbeing. Music therapist trained at the University of Roehampton, working across private practice, forensic settings, neurorehabilitation and schools.



Malisa Zymberi
Creative Leadership & Global Impact. Psychologist and visual artist who has worked with more than 800 clients across projects with UNHCR and the Red Cross.

We've got you every step of the way

Your **tutors** are practising researchers and facilitators, not academics who have only ever taught. That shows up in the specificity of the feedback you get and the real-world grounding of the direction they offer.**One-to-one tutorials** run throughout the year, giving you regular space to reflect on your development and refine your direction with someone who understands where you're trying to go.

You'll also be supported by your **peers**: creatives from over 70 countries, studying alongside musicians, filmmakers and actors across the same campus. That range shapes the room in ways no reading list can replicate.

Our **wellbeing team** is part of everyday campus life. One-to-one counselling and coaching sessions with qualified professionals support emotional wellbeing, creative blocks and life transitions. Workshops led by Berlin-based professionals and therapists on topics including creative collaboration and emotional self-awareness. Practical wellbeing support helps with medical resources, therapy referrals and other essential life services when you need them.

Skills that carry beyond any one role

None of this is really about mastering a single model or methodology. The specific frameworks you study, and the field itself, will keep developing after you graduate. So the emphasis throughout, in supervision, in service learning, in the capstone project, is on what carries you through that change: self-direction, reflective practice, the ability to design evidence-based interventions rather than intuitive ones and the judgement to translate research into practice in a setting you've never worked in before.

[Click here to learn about our student experience →]

A typical week at Catalyst

Monday

Absorb (6 hour workshop)

- Introductory workshops on the topic of the module, occasionally with guests.
- Explorations of practical topics including practice-based research, post-graduate writing and reading, library techniques, artistic vs scientific research, writing artist statements, professional pathways etc.

Tuesday

Apply (3 hour workshop)

- Attempt to answer a question that you have about the topics explored on Monday. Apply what you've learned on Monday to your own portfolio, thesis, or personal creative projects.
- Reflect on what works for you, what doesn't, and any other insights you can glean about the subject matter through your own direct experience.

Wednesday

Explore (6 hour workshop)

- Weekly Topic workshop with module tutor
- One-on-one supervisor meetings
- 1 Office Hour/ Supervision Module Every Week (Wed)
- Meetings with Supervision Peer Groups, coworking application time
- Design plans, timelines and strategy for thesis project and assignments

Thursday

Apply

- See Tuesday's description

Friday

Reflect

- Discuss, analyze, and critique the literature for the week
- Reflect on how application has gone across the week

Saturday

Free creative time

- Our campus is open on Saturday during the semester if you need to pick-up some equipment or make use of an editing suite.

Please note: programme timetables and content are subject to change.

















What you'll learn

Course structure

The MA in Applied Creative Psychology runs across three semesters and five core modules totalling 180 credits, culminating in a capstone thesis project.

Where you start from shapes how the year works for you. If you're coming from an established creative practice, the degree builds you a research foundation for facilitating others, not just working through your own material on instinct. If you're coming from an organisational, educational or wellbeing background, it gives you specific psychological grounding to work at the intersection of creativity and human development, alongside people doing the same from the opposite direction.

Please note that the following curriculum is non-binding and subject to change.

Semester A

Module 1: Creative Lifespan Development · 30 credits
Examine how creativity evolves across a lifetime. Weekly topics include building a foundation in creativity development, developmental research methods, creative systems and developmental cascades, developmental neuroscience and the creative brain, childhood and adolescent creativity development and creative development in adulthood and elderhood.

Module 2: Optimal Experience & Peak Performance · 30 credits
Study the psychology of flow, motivation and meaning-making. Weekly topics include creative process research methods; curiosity and creative attention; flow states and creative personalities; the creative process and productivity; expert performance and managing creative burnout; and meaning, purpose and peak experiences.

Semester B

Module 3: Expressive Arts, Health & Wellbeing · 30 credits

Study the therapeutic and transformational power of creative expression, blending theory with practice. Weekly topics include arts and health research methods, mindful making, neuroaesthetics, movement and embodied creativity, eco-art and artistic resilience.

Module 4: Creative Leadership & Global Impact · 30 credits

Focus on leadership, collaboration and the social and cultural dimensions of creativity. Weekly topics include socio-cultural research methods, building trust through communication and feedback, leadership and followership styles, group flow and group problem solving, cross-cultural and neurodiverse creative collaboration and community engagement.

Semester C

Module 5: Independent Thesis Project · 60 credits

Most people begin this project with a feeling more than a finished plan: a sense of what matters to them, not yet a method for it. That's the right place to start. A proposal is due partway through Module 1, and from there, supervision through to Semester C is built to take that early instinct and shape it into a defined, evidenced piece of applied practice, whether that ends up as one large-scale initiative or a series of connected works.

Drawing on the literature, modules and service learning experience from earlier in the year, you work independently with regular supervision and a supervision peer group. The programme concludes with a reflection retreat and a public portfolio showcase.

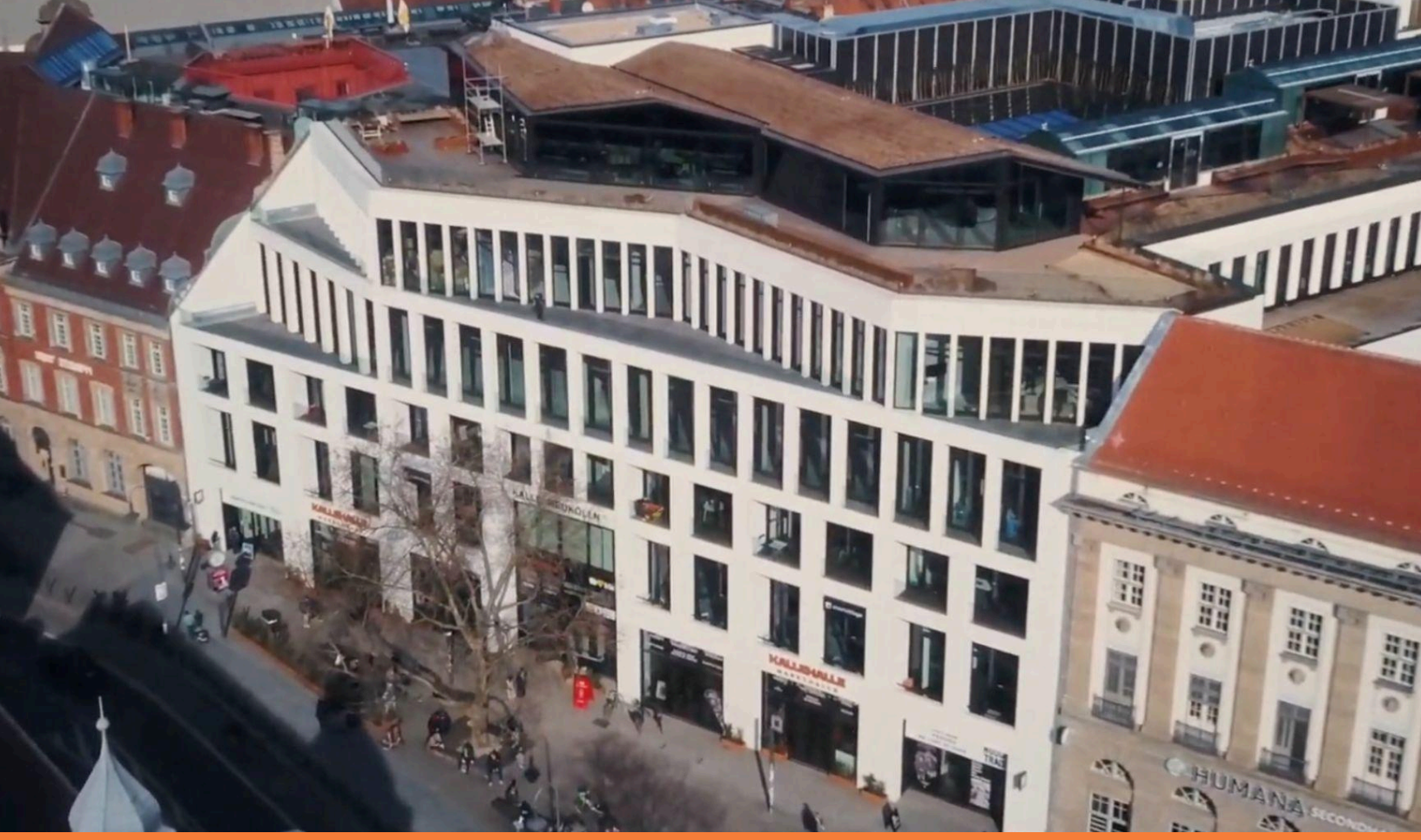
Where this leads

Where this leads depends on where you started. If your background is in creative practice, the degree gives you the research foundation to facilitate others, designing evidence-based interventions instead of working from instinct alone. If your background is organisational, educational or in wellbeing practice, it gives you the specific psychological grounding to work rigorously in creative contexts.

Applied Creative Psychology is roughly where sports psychology was in the 1980s: an established research base, growing organisational demand and roles that are still emerging rather than already crowded. Fifty-eight per cent of UK creative organisations now have a dedicated wellbeing role, up from twelve per cent in 2019, and 71% of musicians report anxiety or panic attacks (International Federation of Musicians, 2021). The demand is ahead of the supply of people trained to meet it.

Graduates may go on to work as:

- **Expressive arts facilitators**, designing and delivering arts-based programmes in community, health or educational settings, from refugee integration work to school-based creative confidence building.
- **Creative wellbeing consultants**, building creator support programmes for organisations, festivals or creative industry companies.
- **Educational programme designers**, developing curriculum or workshops for schools, museums or cultural institutions.
- **Creative leadership coaches**, running 1:1 coaching and team workshops for creative professionals and organisational leaders.
- **Community arts practitioners**, leading community-based creative projects that address specific social challenges, from gender-based violence prevention to migrant mental health.
- **Social entrepreneurs**, building initiatives or organisations that use creative practice to drive social change.
- **Applied researchers or academics**, studying creativity, development or performance for universities, think tanks or foundations, often as a route into doctoral study.



How to apply

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 community.
Campus Tours → Come see our creative spaces at one of our weekly 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 Guide

1. **Course fees & payment plans**
2. **Early enrolment bonus**
3. **Funding opportunities**
4. **Application deadlines**
5. **Visa requirements**
6. **How to apply**

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PLYMOUTH MARJON UNIVERSITY

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.

Applied Creative Psychology Tuition Plans 2027-28				
Plan type - Full Time	**Standard**	**€1,000 Early Enrolment Bonus**	**Payment Plan Duration**	**Notes**
By semester	€6,500	€6,000	1 year / 2 instalments	Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Annually	€12,610	€11,610	1 year	3% discount by paying upfront. Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
12 Instalments per Year	€1,174	€1,090	1 year	Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Extended Yearly	€6,890	€6,390	2 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee in final year
Extended Instalments	€618	€576	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 2027 and are billed on the first of each month until your chosen plan ends.

2. Early enrolment bonus

Apply by our **early enrolment deadline** to secure your place, save €1,000 off your total MA tuition.

- **Visa-required applicants**: apply by 26 February 2027
- **EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants**: apply by 31 March 2027

Please note that to be eligible for the **early enrolment bonus**, you must pay the enrolment fee within the two week deadline as presented in your offer letter.

> 🖤 **Apply before the new year for an extra goodie!**
> Whatever your applicant category, apply by 31 December 2026 to secure a guaranteed spot and a free hoodie when classes start, on top of your early enrolment bonus above.

3. Funding opportunities

As an officially accredited higher education institute based in Berlin, Catalyst offers access to a range of national funding opportunities for eligible students available across Germany and the EU. Please note: support from BAfoG (German Federal Student Aid) is not yet available for the Applied Creative Psychology MA programme. 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.**

4. Application deadlines

Visa-required applicants

- Priority: 26 February 2027 (includes early enrolment bonus)
- General: 30 April 2027 (subject to processing time and availability)

EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants

- Priority: 31 March 2027 (includes bonus & guaranteed spot on preferred course)
- General: 4 June 2027 (granted on a rolling basis)
- Late: until 31 August 2027 (subject to availability)

5. Visa requirements

- **Visa-required**: If you require a visa before entering Germany (e.g. citizens of India, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, China, Turkey), you must apply at a German embassy before arrival. After enrolment, we send you a guide which helps you through the visa application process. 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. After enrolment, we send you a guide to help you secure an appointment.
- **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.

6. 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. **Check entry requirements and eligibility criteria** – including age, English language level and educational qualifications. You can find these on the Admissions FAQ page on our website and our How To Apply page.

Eligibility Criteria
In addition to meeting Catalyst's general postgraduate admissions requirements, applicants to the MA in Applied Creative Psychology should demonstrate the following:

- **A strong interest in the intersection of creativity, psychology and human development.**
  We welcome applicants from a wide range of backgrounds, including creative practitioners, educators, coaches and community organisers, as well as anyone curious about how creativity can support individual and collective growth.
- **Some experience working with a creative medium or expressive practice.**
  Professional artistic training is not required, but applicants should have some experience engaging with a creative or expressive form such as

visual arts, music, writing, movement, design, theatre, facilitation or community arts. This can be through personal practice, study or community involvement.

- **A completed undergraduate degree (BA or equivalent), ideally in a relevant field.**
  Relevant fields include the creative arts, psychology, education, social sciences, design and the humanities. Applicants from other academic backgrounds may also be considered if they can demonstrate suitable experience and motivation.
- **An openness to reflective, experiential and collaborative learning.**
  This programme emphasises critical thinking, self-inquiry and practical application. Successful candidates are those who are willing to explore personal and interpersonal dynamics and to engage actively in both creative and psychological processes.

3. **Prepare your submission requirements –** In the application form, you will be asked to elaborate on the following 5 questions about yourself and your practice:

Primary Creative Medium

- What is your primary creative medium? Which creative practices or mediums do you feel most connected to? Which medium(s) would you aim to work with to explore the topics from each class?

Creative and professional background

- What is your creative and professional background? How do you already use creativity to solve problems?

What is your focus for this course?

- Do you plan to focus your application primarily on yourself or primarily as support for others? In either case, in what specific areas do you hope to improve?

How does this course support your personal/professional goals?

- How do you see yourself applying creativity psychology to your practice or work through this course? Where do you want to apply the evidence-based practices you'll learn in this course?

What do you want to get out of the programme?

- When you're finished with the course, provided you learn everything you hope to learn, in what ways do you see yourself continuing to apply the Psychology of creativity?

4. **Submit your application** at catalyst-berlin.com/apply, including personal and educational details, a motivation statement, your work sample(s) and supporting documents such as transcripts or proof of language ability.
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 enrolment 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 pack 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. The welcome pack has lots of information to help you find accommodation and get settled in Berlin.

Get in touch. We're here to help.

Reach out to our Admissions team by email at **admissions@catalyst-berlin.com** or book a call **here**.