

## Graduate profiles



**Linda Drennan, Ontario, Canada – MA Jungian and Post-Jungian Studies**

"I chose to study at Essex because it offered the perfect course for me; the content and the time frame were exactly what I was looking for. The Centre is fantastic; the administrative team are

extremely efficient and always willing to help; the professors set high academic standards and yet are still able to accommodate individual needs.

The highlight of my course has been in helping me to think critically and analytically. The feedback that we receive from our essays is particularly useful in developing an academic writing style and the weekly discussion forums help to solidify concepts and ideas. In addition to seminars and tutorials with the Centre's academic staff, regular weekly lectures are given by guest analysts and visiting professors from London and beyond. This has been a great opportunity to hear different scholars and analysts speak on their particular areas of interest and expertise. Also, the informal nature of the classes allows for interesting discussion and debate.

One of the most important things I will take away from my time spent at Essex is the friendships that I have developed with my classmates over the year. Due to the way the course is designed we have the advantage of belonging to a small 'core' group of students as well as combining with other departments within the Centre. We are truly an international group coming from a variety of different cultural and professional backgrounds and interests.

As this is a taught postgraduate course, it will be invaluable for either future academic or analytic training. At the same time as the course has allowed for in-depth research into our chosen areas of interest, I think it has broadened our understanding of both the historical contexts of the material and relevant twenty-first century research and scholarship."



**Dimitris Vonofakos, Thessaloniki, Greece – PhD Psychoanalytic Studies**

"After completing my undergraduate degree in psychology, I knew that the subject areas of personality development and psychopathology were the ones that interested me most.

Psychoanalysis gave me a real sense of exploration and discovery, and I soon discovered that Essex had one of the pioneering centres in this field. It was therefore a natural choice to study Psychoanalytic Studies at postgraduate level at Essex.

During my MA at Essex in the Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies I relished the learning atmosphere which was flexible but also rigorous. This gave me the opportunity to experiment with different theories and develop new academic interests in the field. I particularly enjoyed the optional module on psychosis for its inclusive approach in addressing the historical, psychiatric and psychoanalytic perspectives.

The Centre's 'open seminars' presented a valuable opportunity to hear prominent authors and practitioners debate a wide area of topics (theoretical, clinical, social, amongst others). Regular MA research forums were of great help in becoming familiar with social science research methods, as well as in assisting with the process of writing up a dissertation in Psychoanalytic Studies. Last but not least, I enjoyed the Centre's various social events throughout the year, such as the annual softball game, film screenings and social outings.

As an MA student at Essex I acquired new academic interests so rewarding that I decided to stay here for a PhD. Already I've had the chance to work closely with academic staff in areas such as teaching, academic research and conference participation. The experience has been invaluable in honing my academic skills and has introduced me to the world of clinical psychoanalytic thinking."