

Report on FPSA Funding Support for the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Paediatric Neuropsychology (UCL)

Working within a neuropsychology team in a London NHS hospital, I provide assessment and intervention for children with a range of neurological conditions. Completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Paediatric Neuropsychology at University College London (UCL) between 2023 and 2025 on a part-time basis was a key step in my professional development and in progressing toward the Qualification in Clinical Neuropsychology (QicN). This specialist training has been instrumental in deepening my understanding of paediatric brain development and enhancing my ability to deliver high-quality, evidence-based care to this vulnerable population.

This report outlines the support I received from the FPSA to help fund my completion of the UCL PGDip. As a clinician working in an NHS neuropsychology service, I frequently support children and families affected by neurological, developmental, and acquired brain conditions. The FPSA funding made a substantial difference by enabling me to undertake this specialist qualification, which I was otherwise self-funding.

The Clinical Paediatric Neuropsychology course at UCL remains the only paediatric-focused programme in the UK accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS). It provides comprehensive training in neuropsychological theory, assessment, formulation, and intervention, alongside a strong emphasis on research and clinical application. The programme covers the full knowledge component required for the QicN and offers an in-depth understanding of developmental brain-behaviour relationships and their implications for children's functioning.

The course was delivered through an intensive structure, with face-to-face teaching one week per month and additional independent study requirements. Balancing this with full-time NHS clinical work was challenging but highly rewarding. The modules covered a broad range of topics, including neurodevelopmental disorders, acquired brain injury, assessment methods, intervention approaches, and professional and ethical issues in paediatric neuropsychology.

Completing this training has already had a meaningful impact on my clinical work. I have gained advanced skills in neuropsychological assessment, formulation, and interpretation, which now inform my approach to complex cases. I am better equipped to identify subtle cognitive, emotional, and behavioural difficulties, enabling more accurate differential diagnoses and more targeted interventions. These insights support improved care planning and communication across multidisciplinary teams, ensuring that recommendations are tailored to each child's unique neuropsychological profile.

The training has also strengthened my ability to contribute to service development within the NHS, helping to improve access to neuropsychological expertise for children with neurological conditions. By applying this specialist knowledge, I can support more effective pathways for early identification, intervention, and support for children and families navigating these challenges.

I am deeply grateful to the FPSA for their financial support, which was instrumental in allowing me to complete this vital stage of training. The knowledge and skills I have gained will have a lasting impact on my clinical practice and the children and families I work with. Having now completed the academic component of the QicN, I am continuing to build my practice portfolio with the goal of qualifying as a Clinical Paediatric Neuropsychologist. I feel privileged to be contributing to this growing and essential area of NHS service provision.