

ITEC diplomas with Inspire – why choose to study with us?

A perfectly reasonable question, so let us try and answer for you...

- The directors have between them 37 years experience as practitioners and have spent most of that time teaching, all of our tutors are regular practitioners.
- Annalisa the company's MD, who also heads up the massage department, has had a fully booked practice since 1991. She is referred to by consultants, doctors and other practitioners for her expertise and nobody in the UK is better placed to teach you how to set up a massage practice.
- Her colleague, Declan, has taught ITEC diplomas for more than 16 years, having been complementary therapies course coordinator at a large college and has sat on the Aromatherapy Council, guiding national standards in practice.
- Inspire offer the QCF Diploma in Massage, which is the industry gold standard in massage training in the UK and is backed by Government, as it is linked to National Occupational Standards. These are referred to by employers such as the NHS and are important if a therapist wishes to apply for an NHS number.
- The QCF diploma now includes business training (you used to have to pay for it separately), but instead of dropping the two business days, we still provide those days as part of your training, which means an overall cost saving for you.
- Because of the way we do things at Inspire, we get enviable results from ITEC, with the majority of individuals gaining overall credits in their diplomas and some getting distinctions. These are amongst the highest in the country.
- We believe in giving you the best possible attention in class, in small groups, changing our teaching methods to the needs of individuals within that group. We feel this is essential to cater for how different people learn.
- We bring in assistant teachers to give the best possible individual attention to each student. We provide interactive teaching methods, such as group work and presentations, a buddy system for case studies and peer feedback in practical sessions
- We teach you correct working postures and pressures. These are crucial to work effectively and avoid injury to yourself through bad backs or repetitive strain.

And here are some more reasons ...

- The Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology (A&P) department is headed by Declan who has taught level 3 diploma A&P for more than 16 years. Guest A&P tutors are also brought in to share different teaching styles and the benefit of their experience in their fields. For you the learner, it gives you a 'real' rather than just a text book look at the systems being taught. There is nothing quite like having the heart explained by an ex intensive care nurse/teacher who can bring you many stories from her experiences in hospital!

- We have never cancelled a course as ours have always been full. We have four A&P intakes per year and two for massage. We run our courses at weekends to give maximum flexibility to those still working during the week. Importantly, we run the A&P and massage as two separate modules, so if for example, if you had done A&P, you could just do the massage module and not have to do a course where they are mixed together as they so often are. You would also have the option to study the diploma intensively over six months, or over a year if you needed more time for you, or family or work.

- We provide full support in between course dates, which is important when you are learning new skills and practising treatments for the first time outside the classroom. We schedule individual tutorials throughout the course, to support your learning and help to develop your career plans. The assignments set throughout your course are often written in the exam style to best prepare you for the type of exam paper you will be writing.

- For the massage module, you will be given detailed case study guidance throughout, which will include help with your choices, so you get a good representative cross-section of the population to work on and prepare you for your professional career.

- We provide live clinic experience at the end of your practical course, where we bring in members of the public for a formal treatment session. This will help give you confidence, not only for the forthcoming exam, but more importantly to prepare you for your first clients after qualification.

- Passing the exam is part of the process, but we want to equip you with the skills to become a skilled and confident practitioner and that means quality and attention to detail at every level. We also want you to enjoy your learning and have the best possible start in your new career so we'll teach you in a purpose built, state of the art centre.

- Many of our ex-students return time after time, training with us in their continuing professional development and taking advantage of our many specialist courses to advance their careers. They find that coming back and training with former colleagues and other experienced therapists is a great way of networking, which is so important at any time.

Enough said?

We are so confident with the way we operate that we don't need to knock other providers, but we want you to choose the best for you, so when you are comparing Inspire with other colleges...ask them:

- How many people will be in your teaching group?
- Have they ever had to cancel a course at the last minute or after it had already started due to low numbers?
- What are the overall guided learning hours (ours are 360, with a further 30 hours for the healthy eating module). This is helpful information when comparing prices.
- How many years clinical and teaching experience will the tutor have? What are their results? (percentages of overall diplomas with credit etc)
- Will there be an opportunity to sit in on some classes to get a feel for the teaching and talk to the other student as well as some graduates?
- What support will there be in between course days? What specific support will be provided to help you with your case studies?
- Will there be an opportunity to observe tutor clinics?

Our wish for you ...

Inspire was set up with the primary aim of raising standards in massage education throughout the UK. We provide an innovative, fresh approach to massage therapist training. We want you to love what you do and far beyond being taught the skills you need, we want you to be confident and skilled therapists, because you and the people you treat matter to us.

We wish you the best of luck in your search for your course and look forward to welcoming you if you choose Inspire.

Here's what some of our students thought:

"Definitely, I can recommend this course to everybody. The environment, the tutors, everything was excellent" – Elaine, Brazil

"A fantastic course with a lot of theory and practical work, with a great tutor. Highly recommend it!" – Corinne, London

"I feel this was more than a course! It was an amazing life-changing experience. You can ask the tutors for help anytime, even when you're not on the course. It was way more educational/fun/inspiring than I thought it would be when I first signed up" – Christine, London

"Hola! I have just joined the Inspire Facebook group after 'graduating' in Feb 09. Having now been working for 2 and half months in a spa in Ibiza, I wanted to re-affirm my massage mantra: 'Posture Posture Posture!' Going from the course to working at a very intense level - up to 5 hours of back to back massage a day - I can safely say that Annalisa and Declan's consistent reminders about the importance of posture are absolutely valid and necessary! It's so important so as not to find yourself with aches and pains, and also to be able to deliver decent pressure during the massage. Thanks to Inspire for a hard but thorough training - I'd be lost without it. Anyone thinking of doing their first massage course will do well to knuckle down under the proper guidance of Inspire". – Louise, Ibiza