

About the Program

The Bridge Training Program for Internationally Trained Mental Health Professionals (BTMH) is designed to prepare internationally educated mental health professionals to successfully integrate into the Canadian mental health workforce. The BTMH program is funded by the Government of Ontario and delivered by the Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto, in partnership with community mental health and settlement organizations.

Program Overview

The BTMH program bridges the gap between international education and experience and the specific context of mental health practice in Canada. Combining classroom instruction, small group workshops, supervised placement experience, and job search support, this comprehensive program helps internationally trained professionals build the confidence and skills necessary for successful integration into the Canadian mental health workforce.

We value the wealth of experience and education internationally educated mental health professionals bring to the program. Our goal is to help our participants “translate” their skills to the Canadian environment of professional practice. We do this by using a variety of applied learning activities that build on existing knowledge and professional experience, and add new layers of cultural and professional competence.

Program Options

BTMH offers two learning pathways (streams):

Preparation for Employment Stream (E): 7-8 months of full-time programming, providing 470 academic training hours, 4-5 months of supervised placement, mentoring and job search supports. *The main goal of this stream:* Preparing participants to find meaningful employment in the field of mental health.

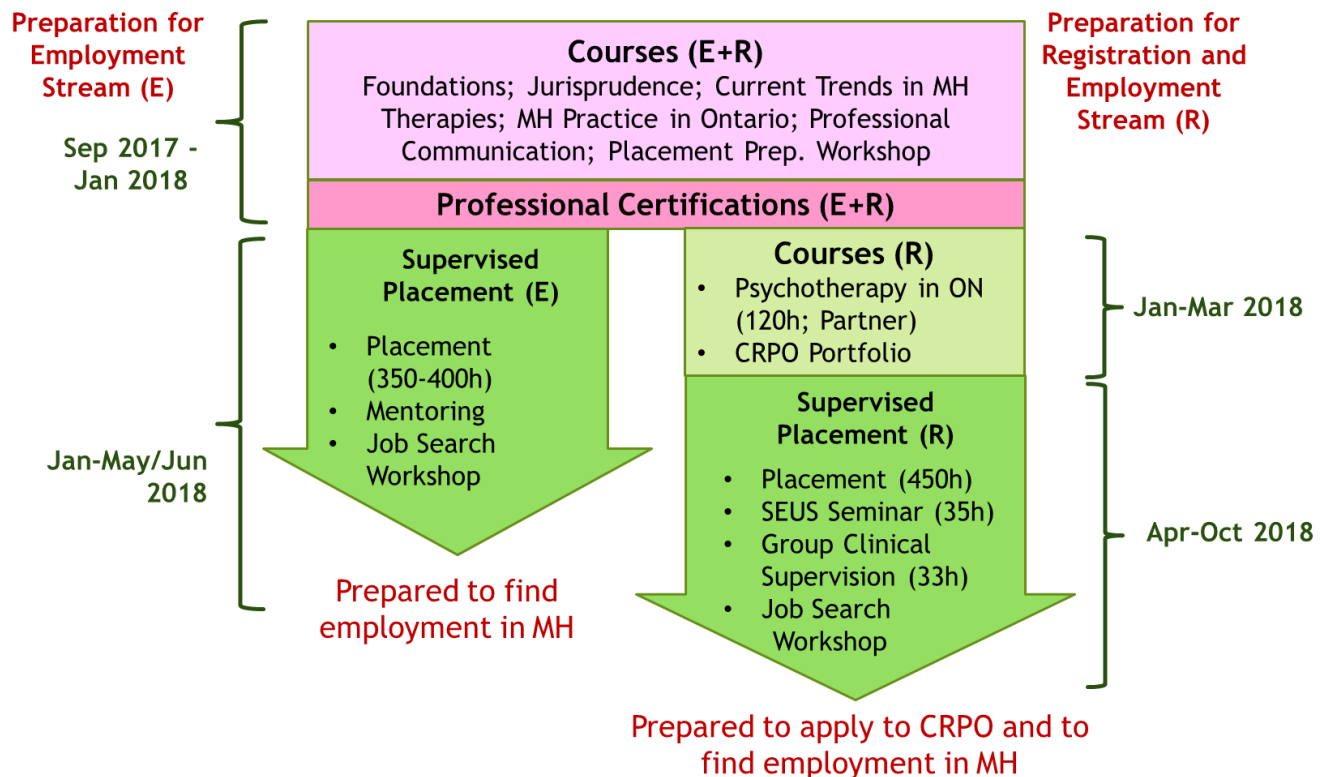
Preparation for Registration and Employment stream (R): 13-14 months of full-time programming, providing additional academic curriculum (over 600 hours, including a course series in psychotherapy delivered by a partner organization and a CRPO portfolio course), 6 months of supervised placement, Safe and Effective Use of Self seminar, group clinical supervision and job search supports. *The main goal of this stream:* Preparing participants for registration with the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO) and for meaningful employment in the field.

Who is Eligible to Participate in the Program?

- ✓ Internationally trained professionals (i.e., practitioners who gained the majority of their mental health training/education outside of Canada or the US)
- ✓ Undergraduate or graduate degree in psychology or a related field, with a significant component of psychology and mental health (e.g. mental health/addiction counselling, social work, psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, occupational therapy, divinity, school counselling)
- ✓ Minimum two years of direct work experience in mental health outside of Canada
- ✓ Language proficiency of CLB 7 or equivalent in all domains (reading, writing, speaking, listening)
- ✓ Legal immigration status (citizen, landed immigrant, refugee)

Upcoming Program Intakes

BTMH Program starting in September 2017 (both streams, cohort 14)



Post-Program Supports

BTMH Program participants and graduates have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of career development activities. Special program-sponsored events allow networking within the mental health sector. Program graduates can join the BTMH Alumni Association (BTMHAA) and enjoy customized professional development workshops, participate in the exclusive BTMHAA LinkedIn group, and access mentoring opportunities.

For more information check our website www.bridgingprograms.org; contact us at 647-7762057, or



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