

ANALYST FORMATION GUIDELINES *Becoming an Analyst*

The mission of the Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis (LSP, the School) is the formation of analysts. To that effect, LSP offers theoretical and clinical training to those desiring to become Lacanian analysts. The School requires that those applying for admission to the Analyst Formation can demonstrate an interest in Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis.

These guidelines are subject to exceptions with the condition that exceptions are presented by an Advisor, discussed at the Meeting of the Analysts and approved unanimously by the Analysts of the School.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION

The School admits applicants with two types of backgrounds.

1) Academic background

The School admits applicants with an academic background who:

- Are engaged in or hold a PhD or the most advanced degree in their field of study, and
- are eligible to practice psychoanalysis in accordance with their State and Country laws.

2) Clinical background

The School admits applicants with a clinical background who:

- Are engaged in or hold an advanced degree in psychology, psychiatry, counseling, or social work, and
- are licensed, actively working toward licensure, training or practicing in a mental health profession, or eligible to practice psychoanalysis in accordance with their State or Country laws.

PART 1
ANALYST FORMATION CONTENT
Theoretical Training / Personal Analysis / Control Analysis / Tuition

I - Theoretical Training – 4 years

As part of the prerequisites to their analytical formation, analysts in formation are expected to undergo no less than 4 years of theoretical training. The theoretical formation may consist of a combination of lectures, seminars, case conferences or cartels related to theory and clinical studies in Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis, unless exception has been granted by the Analysts of the School.

Precandidates and Candidates are expected to discuss their theoretical training with their Advisor at least once a year. Candidates and Precandidates are responsible to document their theoretical training for no less than 4 years.

Precandidates and Candidates may choose from a variety of theoretical studies, as listed below:

1- School Seminars

The seminars serve as the foundation of the transmission of the theoretical material. The seminars are non-evaluative, but require Precandidates and Candidates' attendance and active participation.

2- School Case Conference/Clinical Seminar

The case conference applies Lacanian concepts and techniques to case material provided by Precandidates and Candidates. Guidelines for the direction of treatment and the interpretation of unconscious material will be provided. Visiting psychoanalysts may participate in the case conference sessions. Precandidates and Candidates are expected to attend case conferences/ or seminars that include the use of clinical cases for at least 2 years during their training program.

3- Cartels

The cartel is a group of three to five students who meet on a regular basis to work on a single topic or question of psychoanalytic interest. The group is periodically joined by an additional person or plus one (*plus un*) who serves to disperse the group effects and leadership structure. Cartels may be formed at any point in the academic year and usually disband after one year of work.

4- Independent or Personal Studies

Precandidates and Candidates may engage in personal studies independently and may write and present original papers to the members of the School or may choose to publish their work.

5- Freudian/ Lacanian Study Groups

Candidates and Precandidates can form study groups around certain Lacanian or Freudian theoretical or clinical topics, papers, articles or books in order to widen their own field of interest.

6- Teaching

Candidates and Precandidates are strongly encouraged to teach certain Lacanian concepts within or outside of the School, for instance an *Introduction to Lacan* course, or to facilitate seminars on the topics of their choice, subject to approval by the Program Committee.

7- Special Events & Guest Speakers

Candidates and Precandidates are encouraged to attend special events organized by the School, usually around the theme developed in that year. These are opportunities for all to broaden their exposure to Lacanian practice and theory, as well to confront their own perspective outside of the School.

8- External Seminars or Conferences

Candidates and Precandidates are encouraged to attend or participate in Lacanian conferences or presentations offered by other Lacanian psychoanalytical organizations in the US or abroad.

II - Personal Analysis

LSP requires an analyst in formation to undergo and complete a personal analysis with an Analyst of the School, or a Lacanian analyst approved by the School via the Meeting of Analysts.

Candidates and Precandidates are expected to begin or be in a personal analysis concurrent with their formation at LSP. Because confidentiality is essential to a personal analysis, Candidates will be asked to self-document the completion of their personal analysis with the start date, end date and name of analyst. Neither the Candidate nor their analyst will be asked to provide any further information.

Precandidates or Candidates whose prior analysis meets the criteria elaborated above may request that their prior analysis satisfy the School's requirement. This type of waiver will be granted only after careful evaluation by the Analysts of the School. Those who have already done personal analytical work with a non-Lacanian analyst will be required to undergo a Lacanian analysis with an Analyst of the School or a Lacanian analyst approved by the School via the Analysts of the School. A personal analyst should have no other relationship with the Candidate. For instance, a personal analyst cannot also be an advisor,

a control analyst, or a supervisor in other areas of the Candidate's training. It is acceptable however for an analyst who interviewed the Candidate at the time of their application to the school to become their personal analyst.

It should be noted that even once their formation is completed, no analyst is beyond returning to a personal analysis.

III – Clinical Training: Consult, Control Analysis & Peer Consultation

1- Consult

LSP encourages Precandidates to seek Lacanian Consult during their formation or in their clinical practice, and prior to qualifying to start a control analysis. This modality provides an introduction to experiencing the Lacanian clinic and does not need to take place weekly.

2- Control Analysis

Control Analysis can only begin under the following conditions:

- A Precandidate has presented their Palimpsest and has therefore become a Candidate
- It is fundamental that a Candidate be engaged in their personal Lacanian analysis for at least 1 year in order to step into the position of the analyst
- The analysts selected and contacted by the Candidate have agreed to being their control analysts

It is up to a Candidate to initiate their Control Analyses at a time of their choosing during their formation, granted they fulfill the criteria above. Candidates are responsible for selecting their Control Analyst(s), contacting them and securing their agreement. Candidates shall choose their control analyst from the pool of analysts of the school or, a Lacanian analyst from elsewhere as long as such analyst is validated by the Analysts of the School—in which case the Advisor will communicate with the Analysts of the School. A Candidate is responsible for paying their control analyses separately from any tuition or school related payment.

Candidates are required to:

- Complete no less than 3 control analyses if from Academic background, or 2 control analyses if from Clinical background,
- One for no less than 4 years and the other(s) for no less than 2 years,
- With different control analysts, at least one of them an analyst of the School,
- Meeting no less than once a week with each control analyst.

A Candidate may discuss more than one analysis with their control analyst, depending on the agreement between Candidate and control analyst.; this should be spoken and agreed upon with each control analyst.

Control Analysts cannot be the same person as a Candidate's personal analyst or advisor. A control analyst cannot have any other relationship with a Candidate (e.g. supervisor in other areas of the Candidate's training). It is acceptable however for an analyst who interviewed the Candidate at the time of their application to the school to become their control analyst.

Control Analysis can only take place in accordance with the mental health professions' laws and regulations of the Candidate's state or country of residence.

3- Peer Consultation

Once their formation is completed, LSP encourages the Analysts of the School to continue their clinical inquiries through Peer Consultation with other Lacanian analysts.

IV - Tuition

LSP requires 4 years of tuition payment, usually concomitant with the Theoretical Training. Tuition covers attendance and access to any and all seminars, workshops, cartels, case conferences, and events offered by the School during the year. The Board of Directors determines a yearly tuition. Currently, the tuition is \$2,000 per year with a 4-year commitment. The tuition is payable in full at the start of the school year, or payable per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer).

Should a Candidate experience any financial difficulty regarding payment of their tuition, they should discuss the matter with their Advisor who can help with proposing financial solutions and/or put the Candidate in touch with the School's Treasurer. Any financial exception discussed and agreed upon has to be put in writing. The final approval goes through the Board of Directors, which oversees the finances of the School.

After 4 years of paid tuition or tuition payments completed as agreed upon, Candidates will pay for each seminar or event they choose to attend, as published in the yearly program.

Candidates are required to document their payment agreement and the payments completed as part of their request to present their Passage.

V – No Conflict of Interest

Since the unconscious and the ethics are at the center of the transmission of psychoanalysis, any potential conflicting relationship within the School needs to be avoided.

Candidates and Precandidates choose their control analyst(s), consultation analyst(s), personal analyst(s), or advisor(s) freely from among the pool of Analysts of the School. However, in no event can an Analyst of the School fulfill more than one function. For instance, the advisor or the personal analyst cannot be the control analyst. Analysts who conduct interviews for the Exploration of the Position of Analyst should not be otherwise connected to the Candidate. In addition, in cases where Candidates need to obtain supervision in the context of their training or licensure, such supervisor cannot fulfill any of the roles of a Lacanian Analyst from the School. The analysts that have fulfilled the function of interviewers during application interviews are exempt from this rule, since in this case there is no dual relationship and therefore no conflict of interest.

PART 2 ANALYST FORMATION STEPS

Application ~ Precandidate / Palimpsest ~ Candidate / Passage ~ Analyst

1. Apply to become a member of the School. Once accepted, the applicant becomes a Precandidate of the School.
2. Make a Palimpsest presentation before the members of the School, thereafter becoming a Candidate Analyst of the School.
3. Make a Passage presentation before the members of the School, following full documentation of formation, thereafter becoming an Analyst of the School.

I - Application

1- Application Package:

- A LETTER OF INTENT detailing the applicant's interest and goals in the study of Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis and analytical formation
- A current CURRICULUM VITAE

The application package should be sent by email to sflacan@gmail.com. Any questions regarding the formation should be directed to the School's email (sflacan@gmail.com) and the applicant will be contacted by a member of the School (Application Coordinator) to discuss the formations offered and the applicant's specific situation.

Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Analysts of the School during the monthly Meeting of the Analysts.

2- Two Application Interviews

After receipt of the application package, the applicant will be put in contact with 2 Analysts of the School to schedule 2 interviews, one with each Analyst. The fee is \$50 per interview, payable to the individual analyst at time of interview, or as directed by the analyst interviewer.

3- Review & Decision by analysts of the School

Prior to admission or rejection, all applications are subject to a case-by-case assessment at the Meeting of the Analysts, based on the application package and reports by the interviewers.

Once applications have been reviewed, the school's Application Coordinator will notify the applicant of acceptance or rejection via phone or email.

An applicant who is admitted to the School becomes a **Precandidate** of the School. As soon as they are admitted, all Precandidates need to choose an **Advisor** (see Advisorship guidelines) who needs to be to be an Analyst of the School.

In addition, if practicing in California, any applicant with an Academic background must register with the California Medical Board for a “Research Analyst” license.

4- Dates of Application

Applications and admissions are made on an ongoing basis.

II - Palimpsest

1-Request for Palimpsest

To become a Candidate analyst, Precandidates need to declare their desire to become analysts in the form of a palimpsest presented to the assembled members of the school, usually at the annual Days of Assembly.

In order to request for their Palimpsest, a Precandidate needs to have undergone at least one year of personal Lacanian analysis. The Precandidate will express their intent to present their palimpsest to the Meeting of the Analyst via their Advisor. The decision of the Analysts of the School will be based in part on recommendation from their Advisor. The decision will be communicated to the Precandidate by their Advisor.

The *demande* for a Palimpsest stems from the study of founding texts, and one’s own unconscious text in analysis.

2-Palimpsest Presentation

Palimpsest, from the Greek palimpsestos, “scraped again,” is defined as a written document, usually on vellum or parchment that has been rewritten several times, often with remnants of erased writing still visible. The palimpsest exercise is a modification of a practice used by the Dutch School of Psychoanalysis.

At the Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis, the palimpsest is traditionally a written statement submitted by those who wish to become a Candidate. This statement is textual, yet not limited to writing alone since it can provide an opportunity for creative expression, and based on the prospective Candidate’s personal response to the two founding texts. The prospective Candidate is to read the founding texts and to articulate his or her desire to become a Lacanian psychoanalyst as well as their stance concerning psychoanalysis. During this process the prospective Candidate is invited to engage in creative thought, and

is free to alter or recreate the original texts in any conceivable way. Precandidates usually present their palimpsests to the membership during the School's annual Days of Assembly with a period of time for responses and questions from the membership.

After such presentation a Precandidate becomes a Candidate Analyst. Unless otherwise agreed upon with the Analysts of the School, only Candidates may begin control analysis.

III - Passage

Documentation Required Before a *Demande* for Passage

- 4 years of documented theoretical training
- 4 years of paid tuition or payments as agreed upon
- 2 or 3 control analyses completed (depending on background)
- 2 Exploring of the Position of the Analyst (EPA) interviews completed
- Personal analysis completed

The candidate is responsible for collating documentation, and their Advisor reviews it to report to the meeting of analysts that all documentation is there. Note: the compilation of documentation does not guarantee moving forward with Candidate's Passage presentation request.

1- Process and *Demande*

The process of becoming an analyst of the school includes two interviews which highlight the position of the analyst and the ethics of psychoanalysis.

Exploration of the Position of the Analyst - EPA Interview #1

At least 2 years into their Control Analysis, and at a stage when the Candidate feels they are able to maintain the position of the analyst, the first of two Exploration of the Position of the Analyst interviews will be set up with an Analyst of the school (neither advisor, personal analyst or control analyst) for the Candidate to explore the position of the analyst that they occupy. This first Exploration of the Position of the Analyst interview is looking forward to see how the Candidate articulates their position and interventions with analysands discussed in Control Analysis in the course of their formation and is meant to provide support in their experience of the position of the analyst.

Exploration of the Position of the Analyst - EPA Interview #2

A second Exploration of the Position of the Analyst interview will be set up by the Candidate after no less than 4 years of control analysis and once the Candidate's personal analysis has ended. This interview constitutes a way to speak to and also question sustaining the position of the analyst after completion of controls as well as one's own analysis. The Candidate will be asked to speak about their analytic cases in relation to the position of the analyst. The Candidate will also be asked to speak to how they understand the end of their analysis in relation to the ethics of the analyst in their clinical work.

A Candidate wishing to present their Passage shall first discuss their *demande* with their Advisor, who will advise them on the process, the timing and in compiling their dossier of required documentation. To become an Analyst, a Candidate needs to make a formal request before Analysts of the School to present their Passage.

***Demande* before the Meeting of Analysts and Candidate's Decision**

With both EPA interviews and all other requirements completed, the Candidate will make a request to speak to the Meeting of the Analysts about presenting their Passage, and schedule such a meeting. The meeting is for both the Candidate to speak their desire and the Analysts to listen to the Candidate, and will consist of a short oral statement of the *demande*, followed by a conversation open to questions. Following this meeting, the Analysts and the Candidate will take a period of 4 weeks to consider the effects of speaking. During this time of consideration, either the Analysts or the Candidate may consider how the ethics of psychoanalysis are upheld, and communicate any hesitancy or hindrance about doing the Passage. Following the 4-week period of waiting, the Candidate shall decide to offer a Passage or to delay, based on the ethics of psychoanalysis. If the Candidate chooses to delay, they may return to the Meeting of Analysts at another time.

2-Passage Presentation

A Candidate becomes an Analyst of the School by presenting a Passage in front of members and Analysts of the School, followed by responses and questions from the membership, usually during the annual Days of Assembly.

In order to complete their training and to become an Analyst of the School, all Candidates must present a substantial paper written to address the members of the School. The Passage testifies to the capacity of the Candidate to articulate their own experience of psychoanalysis, and thereby to contribute to psychoanalytic knowledge and transmission.

In Seminar 23, Lacan says writing is Joyce's symptom, or *sinthome*. By breaking language and putting it back together in a new way, Joyce creates a bind for the

three registers and nominates himself in the place where his father failed. In some way, an analyst must do this in the course of their personal analysis. We tear at the language that makes us up until we can learn to play with it. We each articulate our own capture in language and so traverse castration. The traversal of castration paradoxically leads to a kind of liberation in that we find a place of choice. We have to work to sustain ourselves in this place, and the work must include writing because it is through writing that we sustain play, the creeping forward of things we don't know we know. With writing, we are still working with language as Other, the thing that structures the social link. We have to sustain our being in the real and in lack, but we also have to exist. In Lacanian terms, that means we have to maintain a place for ourselves--and a place for the real--in the social link.

Following the Passage, a Candidate becomes an Analyst of the School.

**FLOW DIAGRAM
 LACANIAN ANALYST FORMATION**

DEMAND	PROCESS	DECISION @ Meeting of Analysts	
Application	Letter of Intent CV 2 interviews	Review of documents submitted Report & recommendation from interviewers	Precandidate
Palimpsest	<i>Demande</i> in conversation with Advisor 1 year personal analysis with Lacanian analyst	Advisor recommendation	Palimpsest Presentation Candidate
Passage	Discussion with Advisor 2 EPA interviews (Exploration of the Position of the Analyst) 2 or 3 Control analyses completed Personal analysis ended 4-year Theoretical training completed & documented Tuition paid in full	Candidate oral <i>demande</i> to the Meeting of Analysts, followed by 4 weeks waiting for a response from either the Candidate or Analysts of the Schools, Leading to a decision by the Candidate to go forward or to delay	Passage Presentation Analyst of the School