

RDI® Professional Certification Packet

Canadian Training Center

Overview of the Program

The RDIconnect® Training Program is a unique educational program available for adults with credentials in a broad range of professional backgrounds and specialty areas. At the end of the program, students will gain certification that allows them to work with families using the Relationship Development Intervention Program.

Training includes learning the theoretical foundations behind the core principles and goals of our programs as they apply to neural development, Dynamic Intelligence, communication, early childhood development, etiology and pathogenesis and myths vs. science. Heavy emphasis on general consulting principles includes: ethics and managing the Certification Process, productive client communication, joining with the family while maintaining boundaries, developing responsibility contracts, sensitive clinical interviewing, avoiding the 'instant expert' trap, and maintaining a 'win-win' position where both consultant and the family are cared for.

The Certification Program includes a Part 1a & 1b Training, Professional Supervision and Part II Advanced Training and can typically be finished in 12-18 months.

STEP I

The Application Process

RDIconnect® Application

The first step to enter the program is to complete the RDI® Program Application and submit it to the RDI® office. Please also save and send a copy of the application directly to Lisa Palasti at admin@mindfulguideconsulting.com. Each of the application components is important and must be filled out in order for us to process it.

Application Fee

There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee that covers administrative costs.

Deadlines

Applications are not connected to a particular training, so you can apply at any time and then register for the training that works best for you. Classes are kept small for maximum learning and they sometimes fill up quickly, so we recommend that submitting the application 4-5 weeks before a preferred training in order to provide plenty of time for Processing.

Pre-Requisites

- Completed Bachelor Degree (any field) prior to applying (some exceptions can apply)
- Read The RDI® Book prior to applying or before the first class
- Submit a completed Application for Certification to the Professional Training Coordinator
- If you are a parent of a child with ASD, you should have worked with an RDI® Certified Consultant within the RDI Learning Community for a minimum of six months and be able to receive a letter of recommendation from that consultant.

Background Check

Once your application is received, we will send an email to you with a link to begin the background check. This is an online process that takes 24-72 hours to complete. You cannot register for the training until the background check process is complete...so don't delay!

STEP II

The Contract

After you have been accepted into our program, we will send you a contract for RDI® Program Certification. This document outlines the professional commitment that trainees and consultants make with RDIconnect®. Once the contract is signed and returned, you will be eligible to register for the first training.

STEP III

Register for Part I Training

Professional Training Part I Basics

- Part 1 training consists of part 1a – 6 week online course & part 1b - 6 week on line course
There will be a 1-2 week break between parts A & B, Sessions are 1 per week for 2.5
- Trainings are offered twice a year, sessions are recorded in the event that a class is missed
- Focus is heavily on the RDI Consultation Program
- Employ different methods of adult learning including lectures, presentations, structured exercises, individual & group assignments, group discussion, case studies, video analysis and demonstrations.
- Instruction is lead by Lisa Palasti, Lisa has worked closely with Dr. Gutstein for 17 years
- The course is presented in English and participants need to be proficient in reading, writing and speaking English or have the ability to work with a translator
- Professionals attend the Professional Training Course Part I first then move into Supervision. You are eligible to register for the Professional Training Course Part I when we have received your signed copy of the RDI® Contract.

Course Fees

We require that all fees for the Professional Training module be paid in advance of that training or module in advance of beginning. For 2020, the individual costs for each training component is as follows:

- **Professional Training Course Part I a & 1 b - \$2,500.00**

We offer several payment plans that must be complete before the start of the course. They are outlined during the registration process. If scholarships for the Professional Training Course Part I become available, they are awarded on a first come, first serve basis upon request.

Registration

We will accept registrations as long as we have space available. Registration requires you to contact our office with which payment option you would prefer once your application has been approved.

STEP IV

Professional Supervision

How Does Supervision Work?

During the Supervision, you will complete a series of 14 projects working directly with two families. During your on-line training, you will be introduced to the projects and how you will work with your supervisor/mentor. You will start each family at the beginning of the FCP and work your way through the supervision phase. After project 4 (RDA assessment) of supervision, you may take on other RDI families to work with. The goal here is that you will receive guidance and mentorship with your supervision family prior to working with other families.

Supervisions Fees

The supervision fee is \$3,500 USD.

Fees are due prior to beginning your supervision work.

Two Required Families

During supervision, a CIT is required to work with two families who have a child formally diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Both families must give permission to share basic things about them in the report and to use video footage. Here is more on these two families:

- 1) **Supervision family:** This family will commit to be with a CIT through all 14 projects of the supervision process and will give access to allow a supervisor to look at the CIT's work with them on the system. Because of this requirement, special care should be given when choosing a Supervision Family. If this family discontinues working with RDI®, the CIT must restart supervision from the beginning with a new family and repay pro-rated fees. We strongly encourage choosing a stable, two-parent family where both partners are engaged and committed to the work. Supervision families receive the benefit of two pairs of eyes, yours and your expert mentor / supervisor.
- 2) **Case Study family:** The commitment level for this family is not as intense as with the primary family. Work with this family will begin from the beginning of the FCP but with no input from a supervisor or direct instruction from the projects. Working with this family gives an opportunity for a CIT to show what they can do with less supervision. One of the projects gives instructions for documenting the work with the case study family. This can be a single parent family and may also involve working with a child without an ASD diagnosis but other forms of special needs.

STEP V

Professional Training Part II: Advanced

The Advanced Training seminar is the last training piece required for certification and focuses on a variety of professional topics including difficult cases, advanced topics, personal goal setting, ethical issues and marketing your business. Trainees are eligible to register for the Advanced Seminar once they have completed project 4 of Professional Supervision.

The fee for the Advanced Seminar is \$2,500 USD. Reservations require you to contact our office with a 50% (\$1250 USD) non-refundable, non-transferable deposit with the balance due ten business days prior to the Advanced Seminar.

FINISHING the PROGRAM & Beyond

Becoming Certified

When a CIT has completed and passed all 14 projects and attended the Advanced Seminar he/she will be notified by the supervisor that they have passed. Confirmation of your RDI certification will be sent to directly from RDIconnect® and a certificate of RDI Certification signed by Dr. Gutstein and Dr. Sheely will follow.

Insurance

Once you are certified, you must maintain professional liability insurance. This is a requirement of RDIconnect™ and must be followed no matter where you live, including countries where the practice is not common. Because our offices and corporate headquarters are in the United States, we must follow sound liability practices for anyone using our name. We require you to send a proof of liability each year at the time of renewal. Please contact Lisa Palasti to obtain very affordable rates in Canada if needed.

Setting up Your Business

While still a CIT, you will begin to plan what you will do to set up a private practice. Our community of consultants and your supervisor can help with many practical matters including fees, contracts, and marketing ideas.

When creating a business name, website or other marketing materials, you are encouraged to use the official RDIconnect® name, images and logos associated with

our branding as long as they include the copyright/trademark symbol (RDI®, RDIconnect®) and as long as they do not violate legal standards (e.g. using our name as part of another business' name). No person may alter or edit any official RDIconnect® logo. You may also use written material that is found in our books, public website or other public spaces maintained by RDIconnect® as long as the material appropriately cites the author and contains a link to our official website, www.RDIconnect.com. For text or images found solely within the RDI® Learning Community, use is strictly prohibited without written consent from RDIconnect®.

RDIconnect® Learning Community

The RDIconnect® Learning Community is a rich online environment where those participating in all RDI® Programs find a place for support, education, networking, encouragement and recordkeeping. Professionals and clients alike are involved in a process of growth and discovery, obtaining peer-support from a worldwide community through video-conferencing, forums, chats and regular webinars.

All families working with a consultant or a Consultant-in-Training on any RDI® program are required to have an account within the RDIconnect® Learning Community. The subscription fee is \$50 USD month per Family Group, no matter how many members. Some professionals prefer to pay for this themselves and wrap the charge into their professional fees. All trainees receive one 'scholarship' every month that can be given to new families for a 'free trial' on the system or to assist one needy family. Professionals have a presence in this community at no charge as long as they are working with families.

Re-Certification

Once a year, consultants must apply for re-certification as outlined in the RDIconnect® contract. This allows you to demonstrate that you are maintaining quality work and the latest mastery of the RDI® protocol. Six-eight weeks before the anniversary of your certification date, you will receive a form to apply for re-certification. To be approved for recertification a consultant must:

- Have a minimum of five active families on the RDI Learning Community. Failure to maintain this minimum number may subject you to provisional re-certification with no additional star by your name on our website.
- Agree to working on the Family Consultation Program with families
- Dr Sheely (or her representative) has permission to audit one family's account on the RDI Learning Community in order to demonstrate that they understand and utilize the latest protocol for the Family Consultation Program
- Record on the form a written summary of work with families

- Be active in the RDI Learning Community through webinar attendance and forum postings
- Earn 20 Continuing Education Credits (10 if over 5 years)
- Pay the \$400 USD re-certification fee

Consultants complete this form and submit it to RDIconnect® office by the deadline, a few weeks prior to the actual re-certification date in order to allow time for processing. Once we have all of the information we need, the work will be reviewed in order to have it done by the annual certification date.

FAQs

How can I fund my training?

Entering the RDI® Professional Certification Program represents a large financial commitment, similar to other educational endeavors. Though RDIconnect® is not set up to receive any type of government financial aid for our programs, there are many ways to creatively secure the necessary finances. Many trainees have secured funding via grants and/or fellowships through private and governmental agencies and professional organizations. Some trainees make arrangements with employers who view helping cover costs as an investment in the future of their business. Still others look to small business or personal loans to seed their new career path. There are also a few provinces that provide funding for RDI in Canada. Working with a family of a child with Autism during supervision can also help to pay for the cost of your training.

My degree is not in Psychology, can I apply?

RDI™ consultants represent a great deal of diversity and come from a wide range of disciplines. All are welcome to apply as long as you meet the pre-requisites. If you have any questions, please contact Director of Professional Training for Canada – Lisa Palasti at admin@mindfulguideconsulting.com

When will I hear back about my application?

Applications typically take one to two weeks to process.

I have a child on the spectrum, why must I work with a consultant first before entering the program?

Because our programs rely on rebuilding the early-guided relationship between parent and child, it is imperative that there is an outside perspective to guide you in this process. The assessment from a third party gives clues to obstacles that are not readily apparent to parents and can provide a roadmap to moving forward. No matter what level

of education or professional accomplishments a parent might have, things change when it is your own child who needs help.

How do I find a supervision family?

RDIconnect® does not assign these families to you; it is the trainee's responsibility to recruit them. Here are a few ideas:

- 1) Ask a consultant for a referral. Many consultants have a heavy workload and are happy to refer.
- 2) Find and build relationships with potential clients. Where would families with Autism hang out in your community? Where are their support groups, etc? Make your presence known, make friends and then boldly approach people. This is what you will have to do when you market yourself as a professional after certification, as well.
- 3) RDI® consultants can also provide ideas for how to find a family, so pop into the discussion boards and ask for help! Lisa will also walk you through many ideas during training and you will be given some tips to help build your options and caseload.

Can I charge my Supervision Family?

As a Consultant-in-Training you are functioning as an RDI® professional and we expect that you will receive professional fees for your services, which are real and valuable. It is typical that trainees charge a slightly reduced fee, but as a professional going into private practice, you will set your own fees and now is the time to begin thinking about this. Don't hesitate to ask our community of consultants or ask Lisa for advice about these practical matters.

Can I work with more than two families?

Once you get through the first few projects and begin to get comfortable with the material, you are welcome and encouraged to add more families to your practice, as long as you don't get ahead of your training. Any additional families will not be subject to supervision.

How long does it take to become certified?

Typically, the entire process can be completed in less than 18 months, depending on when you attend the trainings. Getting through the 14 supervision projects can realistically be done in 7-9 months, but it can also take much longer. Even if you are highly motivated, there are other factors at play including the commitment level of your families and their grasp of the material. You do not want to rush the process. If you feel like things are lagging, be sure and chat with your supervisor about this.

