SHAMANICHEALING.ORG.UK

Course Brochure

Shamanic Practitioner Training: Ancient Wisdom for a Transforming World

18 Month course to learn ancient practices for healing, nature connection, and personal and spiritual growth.

Welcome

I extend a warm welcome to you as a fellow traveler on your journey of change. Life always throws up challenges, but it is through these experiences and the people we meet that help us on our journey that we grow. For me, learning how to walk along the shamanic practice path has provided a powerful and rewarding way to help me navigate what can be a very confusing world. I very much hope you will join me, at least for a little while, on this beautiful path that is less often travelled.

With warm wishes,
Dawn Song

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What is the Course about?

Course Aims

This intensive shamanic practitioner training course will teach you a wide range of practical tools and approaches for personal healing, helping others, building deeper relationships with nature, and enable you to undergo a journey of personal and spiritual growth. The programme involves exploring oneself deeply and embarking on a powerful personal journey to confront your own limitations and beliefs and find hidden talents and gifts. You will build your confidence and be empowered to apply what you learn about ancient wisdom practices with a new found sense of purpose and meaning.

The programme is taught by an experienced teacher and practitioner – Dawn Song – who understands the importance of finding new ways to help ourselves, other people, and our planet in our turbulent times.

The programme is designed to help you:

- Establish different shamanic healing skills and practices;
- Connect deeply with the natural world and the wider consciousness of which we are all a part;
- Deepen your ability to tap into your 'intuitive' and 'felt' sense;
- Undergo your own transformation;
- Build your confidence, skills and capabilities as a practitioner of ancient shamanic wisdom; and
- Establish a community of practice of like-minded peers that you can continue to draw on after the programme is complete.

Who is the Training for?

While shamanic practice is ultimately a sacred and spiritual endeavour, it is also very practical. As such, the training course will be of interest to a wide range of people. It will be particularly relevant if you are looking to:

Undergo a transformational journey. The course is specifically designed to provide opportunities for a transformation on 'the inside' to help you address your own complex challenges, learn to better navigate our confusing world 'on the outside', or find new paths. For example, many people who embark on this intensive training find that after completion they have not only learned new skills and practices, but also feel more confident in the way they approach our confusing world; more empowered to tackle personal challenges; and more inspired.

Deepen your relationship to the natural world and expand consciousness. Shamanic practice is fundamentally about learning to engage with the natural world - albeit often with 'unseen' or 'unfelt' realities - and shift towards a deeper sense of how everything is interconnected. The course therefore provides you with a framework and range of practices that help you open-up your perception and connect with nature in a deeper way, enabling you to experience the awe and wonder of the natural world.

Become an independent practitioner and learn new healing skills. The course is directly geared to help you learn new approaches for healing yourself and others. You will learn a wide range of practices for healing, ceremony, Earth work, and shamanic counselling. You will also establish relationships with a range of spirit guides that can help you in many different facets of your life and provide you with greater wisdom about how to be more effective in whatever vocation you are called to do. On completion, the course will provide you with a certificate that you can use for applications for things like insurance, enabling you to work as an independent practitioner.

"I am a Christian and was initially nervous about shamanic healing. But through Ioan's expert and gentle guidance, healing and training, I have learned new tools, connected more deeply with my faith, found new answers, and have been empowered to heal. The outcome has been transformational... I feel more whole now than I have ever experienced before."

~ Mark

How is the Practitioner Course Taught?

The course is delivered as 11 different modules across 9 different 2-4 day gatherings. It covers a range of trainings to give you a breadth of experience of different elements of shamanic practice, with homework set in-between to help you build your practice (see the full programme below). The way the course is taught is based on two important principles.

Learning by doing: Just like riding a bike, you cannot learn shamanic practice by only reading a book or watching a power point presentation. You must get on the proverbial shamanic bike and give it a go, make sense of what your experience means to you, and gradually deepen your practical capabilities. The course is therefore taught through a 'learning by doing' approach. This includes exposing you to diverse activities, both indoors and outdoors, and by giving you plenty of time to reflect on and share your experience with others. You will not be getting long didactic monologues from your teacher. Instead, you will get a well-spaced-out programme, with lots of practical activities and opportunities for you to engage with, and reflect on what you are learning as you work with your peers.

Learning through transformation: The course is also designed as a process of becoming. This will include gradually opening your awareness of, and ability to engage with, the wider consciousness of which we are all a part. The course can be intense as you cognitively open-up to other ways of knowing and sensing and through engaging in different forms of energetic healing. These processes take time for your mind and body to integrate. Considerable space is then given between gatherings for the transition to play out and for you to embody the practice.

What is Shamanism and Shamanic Practice?

Shamanism is a spiritual practice, philosophy, way of life, and method for healing, growth and insight. The term 'shaman' can be traced back to the word samān of the Evenki people in Siberia. This means 'one who knows'. The term 'shaman' is then often used to describe someone who engages with, and seeks to interpret, the wider consciousness hidden behind the veils of our normal perception. Learning to do so enables a shamanic practitioner to draw on the regenerative and spiritual power of this wider consciousness for healing, wisdom and insight. The intensive shamanic practitioner training course therefore helps you learn about a range of ancient practices and to deepen your practice for personal development or to help others.

Many cultures, over tens of thousands of years, have applied shamanic practices and beliefs in some form. Much of the shamanic knowledge from traditional communities across the world has been lost over recent centuries due to colonialism, violent suppression of cultures and languages, and the rise of modernism, which has fuelled consumerism, exploitation of nature, and contributed to a growing disconnection of people and the natural world on which they depend. Yet, many traditions and practices have survived, in part because of the way shamanism has adapted and evolved its practice to meet the needs of a changing world.

Shamanic cultures tend to be underpinned by two basic tenets. The first is that Earth, and everything on it, are generally understood to be living and conscious. This not only includes what we normally consider in western cultures to be 'alive' - animals, plants, algae, fungi and bacteria - but also the rivers, stones, soil, clouds, stars, wind and oceans. Everything is viewed as being permeated by an eternal life force and sacred consciousness. Shamanic practice – and what you will learn on this practitioner course - is then the process through which you develop a deeper connection with this life force and learn how to tap into its healing, wisdom and regenerative power.

The second tenet of shamanism is that, in addition to the normal reality we usually experience or perceive, the world and universe is also understood to include other realities. These may be referred to as spiritual realms, or which the anthropologist Michael Harner called 'non-ordinary realities'. In shamanism, such non-ordinary realties exist in parallel to those we 'ordinarily' experience in our day to day lives. Importantly, both ordinary and non-ordinary realities are understood to be inhabited by different beings. In the shamanic practice course, much of your training will then be about learning how to work collaboratively with these different beings.

In shamanism, there are no gurus, spiritual masters or leaders that define what a practitioner must experience. Instead, those practicing shamanism undergo a process of self-empowerment based on individual experience, with responsibility for the interpretation of those experiences lying with the individual and their immediate community. Those from different spiritual beliefs and religions also often find that shamanic practice is highly complementary, rather than antagonistic, to their existing spiritual beliefs and engaging with shamanism helps them deepen their existing practices. Thus, while we will always benefit from learning from those more experienced than ourselves, this course will help you develop your capacity to explore, in greater depth, your understanding and place in the world.

How will you benefit from the Training?

Each person's experience of shamanic practice is unique. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to provide guarantees of what it might mean for you if you choose to engage with the training:

- A greater sense of joy as you open up to the beauty and good in the world;
- Enhanced sense of awe and wonder as you learn you are part of something bigger;
- Opening-up to new forms of perceiving and ways of knowing, and re-patterning your beliefs;
- Help you overcome inertia in your own healing and growth;
- Learning new tools and methods for you to transcend your own health or personal challenges and those of others;
- Give you new approaches and ways of being to enhance effectiveness in your career, vocation, or life;
- Help you build confidence, overcome fear, and give you courage to travel roads less often travelled;
- Enable you to develop deeper, collaborative, and more meaningful relationships with the natural world;
- Help you establish new friendships and peers that 'speak your language', and with whom you can draw on for continued support and encouragement;
- Provide a holistic framework for you to integrate and make sense of new spiritually based experiences and challenges; and
- Provide you with insight, conviction, direction and hope in our deeply confused and challenged world.

For me, the practice has given me many useful tools and approaches and enhanced my daily and professional life, such as in my work to support and lead change. Yet the primary benefit has been the way shamanic practice continually helps me learn how to walk in the world differently, and with more grace, joy, openness, compassion, courage, direction and conviction and with a deeper sense of how I am connected to the wider natural world of which we are all a part. What you then choose to do with your new-found skills and insights after the course will be up to you. But in my experience, and in watching others on these transformational courses, most people feel they are quite different to when they began their training. I therefore hope that you, as a potential participant, will also feel drawn to learning more about this ancient, yet highly practical, path.

Who will be your guide?

All of your teaching will be conducted by me, Dawn Song. I am a certified shamanic practitioner and teacher, with 20 years of experience in various healing arts and over 25 years of experience in teaching and academic research in transformation and change.

Expertise developed through a story of two parallel paths

My journey, and the expertise I have developed along the way, unfolded as two parallel paths.

Path of the academic Professor

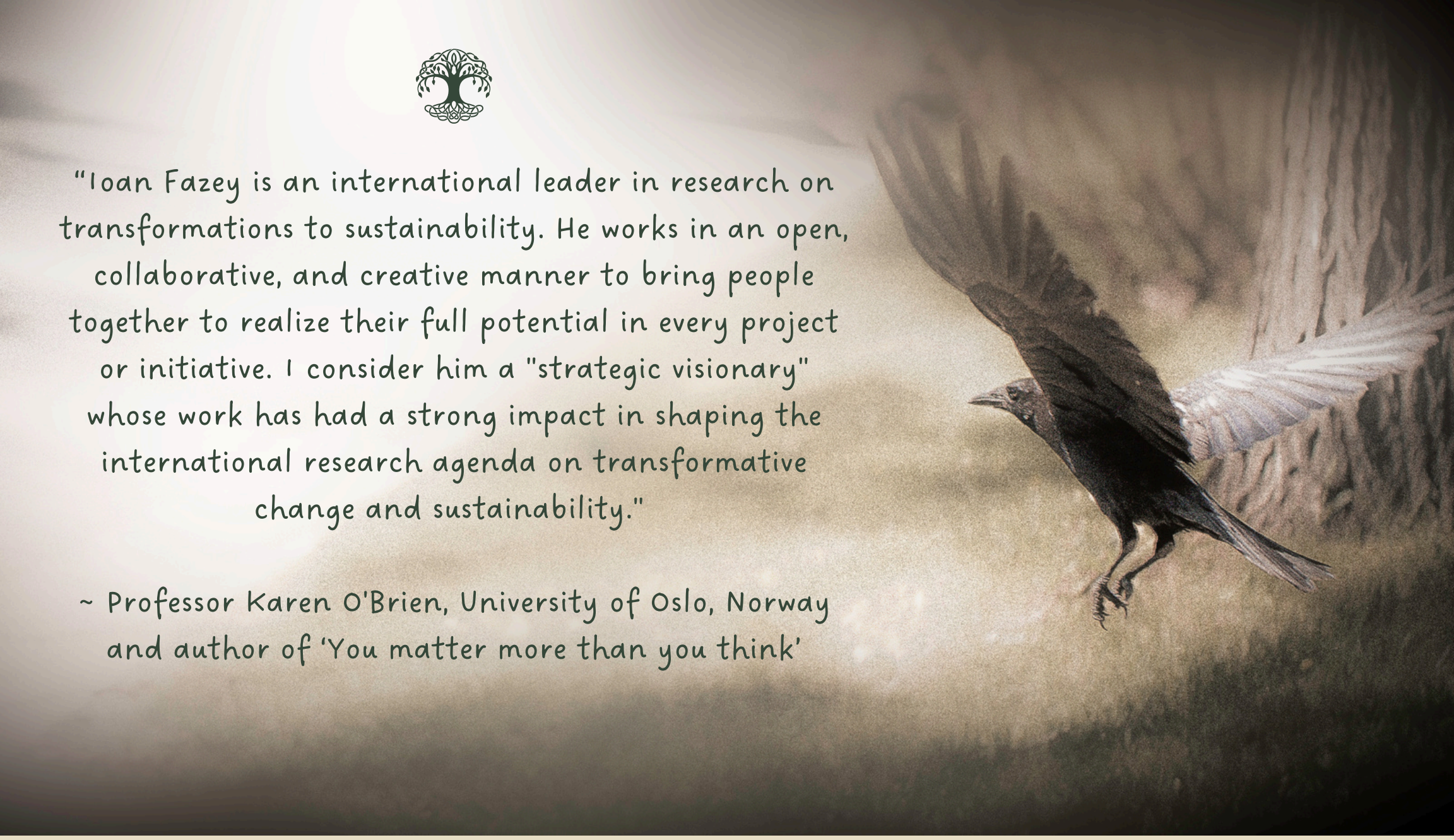
The first path has been my academic career, working in Universities. In my early years I was passionate about nature, and fortunate to grow up among the wilds of North Wales. This led me to study animal ecology at the University of Aberdeen, followed by the study of ecology at the University of Wales, Bangor. During this time, I had many opportunities to work closely with nature. But I also became increasingly interested in how we made sense of, and came to understand, the world around us. This included an interest in how we could intuitively sense patterns in the natural world, such as how we may intuit where we might find different animals or species in landscape of different habitats.

"Ioan is the 'real deal' - a gifted healer and seer who gets to the heart of the matter. Ioan facilitates a space of safety, care and professionalism, from which deep healing can take place. His wealth of expertise allows for a multi-layered approach to the healing services he offers. I highly recommend Ioan's services, whether it be for insight, guidance or deep transformation."

~ Lynne

I was then fortunate to take up my doctoral studies at the Australian National University which, stimulated by unforeseen events, turned into a social science study of the role of experiential knowledge – as opposed to scientific evidence - in shaping how nature and its conservation was managed. This involved working with Farmers and Parks and Wildlife staff to understand how they flexibly worked with the dynamic and natural change processes of a very large wetland, including how they were embedded within the natural ebb and flow of natural change.

This work developed further as I held various positions at the Universities of Aberystwyth, St Andrews and Dundee, and as I sought to better understand how people adapted and supported change towards more sustainable futures. This included extensive periods working with remote communities in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, work in Transylvania in Romania, work with the Scottish Government Resilience Division, and projects with communities facing the impacts of climate change in Scotland. During this time, I also developed and led many different programmes of experiential forms of teaching and training at undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels in sustainability, transformation and change.



I am now a Professor in the Department of Environment at the University of York, UK where I am also the Director of Strategy. I teach students how to support societal change and transformation, operate as an experienced facilitator helping different organisations explore and support transformational change, have been a cofounder of the influential Transformationscommunity.org, and conduct research which heavily focuses on how transformations 'on the inside' can support societal transformations 'on the outside'.

Path of the healer

My second path has been learning the healing arts. During my earlier life I developed complex health problems that could not be addressed by conventional medical approaches. I reacted badly to these as they challenged my sense of identity and my perception of how I fitted in the world. Following some very difficult periods, I eventually opened-up to non-conventional healing approaches and to new ways of knowing and being. The floodgates opened, and I rapidly found that I was experiencing radically different realities to those I was already familiar, as well as the beings that inhabited these different realities.

At first this was very disorienting. There were not many people that I came across that could guide me, and so I often had to develop my own approaches to make sense of, and work with, what I was experiencing. During this period, I spent as much time as I could in nature, whether it was in the ancient lands of Australia, remote regions of the South Pacific, or the wilds of Wales and Scotland. Overall, on this personal development and healing path I have received formal training in Usui Rei-ki, an approach to body work called Body Harmony, have studied Vipassana meditation, and have a graduate certificate in counselling skills. All of these brought me phenomenal benefits. But I still felt I was missing something that brought it all together.

Eventually, I formally came to the shamanic practice path, and undertook extensive training in the Embracing Shamanism tradition, with much of my training having been led by an extremely experienced teacher called Twobirds Cunningham in Scotland. Shamanic practice gave me a language that helped me express things I already knew and had learned for myself but couldn't articulate; new tools and approaches for healing; and many opportunities for me to transform and grow. Importantly, and unlike my experience of the way other religions sometimes have limited focus on practical healing approaches, or how many contemporary healing modalities are applied in the absence of a wider spiritual framework, I found that shamanic practice provided both. That is, it provided me with a spiritual framework, language and community of practice for me to continue to develop within as well as practical healing approaches that are directly integrated within the spiritual practice. Importantly for me, shamanic practice is also founded on the premise that we are all embedded within, and are a part of, the natural world. And it is to nature that I always felt close to as a child and from where my story began.

Integrating two paths to help others on their own journey of transformation

As our world undergoes a massive and rapid change, there are also growing numbers of people who are increasingly feeling confused and out of place. As the old world dies away, and before the new has yet to fully emerge, many people are being forced to question their sense of identity and purpose, such as who they are or should be. They are also feeling increasingly unsure about how to act or be effective when old approaches that they are used to no longer seem to work. I therefore now bring together my experience in teaching and facilitation, academic work on knowledge and knowing, my experience in shamanic practice and healing, and my own personal experiences of the challenge of transformation and overcoming limiting beliefs to help others re-orientate and find a better place for themselves in their world. There is nothing that gives me greater pleasure than teaching the shamanic practice path and watching learners as they open-up to the magic and regenerative power nature provides and as they are empowered through their healing and transformational journey.

Course programme

The course is delivered as 11 different modules across 9 different 2-4 day gatherings. It covers a range of trainings to give you a breadth of experience of different elements of shamanic practice.

Module 1: Opening

During this first gathering we will open the transitional journey that you will be undertaking to develop your wisdom to be able to work as a confident, independent shamanic practitioner. This will include opening-up the course with ceremony, finding a spirit guide to support you on your learning journey, establishing a name for your Clan and personal practice, ascertaining the qualities you bring to the practice, and setting the scene for the work you will be undertake over the next 12-18 months. During this first gathering you will learn about, and build relationships with, each other and build confidence in shamanic journeys and working with non-ordinary realities.

Ioan is a powerful and intuitive healer. I had the rare pleasure of receiving a healing from Ioan... rare because as a very discerning energy healer myself, I do not allow many people to perform energy work on me. It was a pleasure because it left me with a deep sense of awareness. Ioan knew exactly what to do to help me release energies that I no longer needed that were blocking me from moving forward. I feel much more alive and present in my daily life. I am so grateful for the work that he did."

~ Tiffany

Module 2: Soul Retrieval

This gathering will teach you the ancient art of soul retrieval. It will be the first formal training you will receive on direct shamanic healing approaches and methods. The process of soul loss literally means someone has lost a part of their soul, or their 'pure essence'. This usually happens through traumatic experiences where a part of us that cannot handle the situation will leave us for the time being so we can survive and get through what is happening. When these parts don't come back, we can feel fragmented and disoriented, and it can lead to spiritual or emotional imbalances and even physical difficulties and dis-ease. In the gatherings you will learn to work to energetically retrieve 'lost soul parts' for others and to give back parts we may have inadvertently taken from those around us. This will include working on yourself to address aspects of soul loss and soul theft and receive soul retrieval healing from your peers. You will also learn about the purpose of, and how to work with, 'shamanic tools', about healing integration, and about some of the practicalities of working as practitioner with clients.

Module 3: Extraction medicine

During this gathering you will learn the art of extraction medicine. This is a common shamanic healing method that works to remove misplaced forms of energy from a client. In shamanic terms, when we are out of balance a gap, friction, empty space, or void of some kind can occur in us energetically, making us vulnerable to something entering your system that doesn't belong. This may arise through difficult interactions with others, or when we are exposed to high levels of charged energy, such as in large crowds or prisons. The impact of energetic intrusions can be diverse, but generally they can lead to dis-ease and illness. On the gathering you will learn how to perceive energetic intrusions, safely remove them, and how to 'retrieve' energy to replace that which has been extracted. In your learning, you will be conducting healing on, and receive healing from, your peers. The healing work is a key part of your own transition of becoming.

Module 4: Sacred Ceremonies and Rituals

A shaman is often the custodian of ancient ceremonial traditions and rituals that are used to guide communities through rites that mark transitions, the honouring of ancestors, and for communing with the divine. Both ceremonies and rituals involve invoking spiritual presence and blessings through engaging in some form of action. While a ritual tends to be a sequence of actions with its power coming from its repetitive practice (e.g. a prayer or chant) and typically has a lot of history behind it, ceremonies are more unique to the moment or occasion, are often less rigid or fixed, and directly invite the presence of spirit.

There are also many different types of ceremonies, all of which have direct relevance to our contemporary world. For example, ceremonies can be used for healing, conflict resolution, transitions, celebrations (such as weddings) or to align with natural Earthly rhythms. In your training you will learn to engage and explore how to create different ceremonies and healing rituals. This will include developing ceremony based on the three primary stages of separation, transformation and incorporation, working with core ceremonial principles, and different kinds of 'ingredients'. The training will develop your confidence in stepping into the role of wisdom based forms of leadership.

Module 5: Divination

A common role of a shamanic practitioner is to connect with the divine essence of nature and to interpret signs, omens, and symbols to harness the insights they provide, and to guide individuals or communities through the labyrinth of fate and destiny. This includes the practice of divination, which is the use of a set of 'tools' – such as bones, sticks or stones - to foresee trends based on the present and past. It can also include the interpretation of omens, where signs from the web of life and environment are used to access insights to a particular question. During your training you will learn how to create a divination system and how to use your tools to assist your fellow travellers of life with their chosen quest to find insight. You will also learn how to work with omens and how to conduct a ritual of 'seidr', which was practiced in Norse society during the late Scandinavian Iron Age for divination, shapeshifting, weather working, seeking information, or healing. While not all shamanic practitioners are called to the art of divination, the practice is part of the process of learning to deeply connect with the essence of life and wider consciousness afforded by our natural world.

Module 6: Death, dying and beyond

As with shamans in traditional shamanic cultures, contemporary shamanic practitioners often find they are called to help navigate the delicate realm of death and dying. This can include supporting individuals and communities through the transitions of death, providing a bridge to other worlds, or assisting the passage of souls that have struggled to fully depart the Earthly realm. The work is done through compassion, celebration, reverence, and with an understanding that death and dying is just one part of the cyclical nature of existence and the eternal journey of the soul. During this gathering you will learn the importance of coming to terms with your own death, how preparing for 'death' is part of the process of learning to live life fully, how to take on the role of shaman as 'medium', and how to lead earthbound souls that have yet to reach the land of the dead. The gathering is key to understanding, in a wider sense, natural processes of transition and transformation that permeate the natural world.

Module 7: Ancestral realms

Communicating and working with the Ancestors is an important practice in shamanic cultures. These processes enable a practitioner to draw on the knowledge and wisdom Ancestors have gained through their life experiences. Ancestors are thus important mentors, teachers and guides for ourselves and in our contemporary world. The term 'Ancestor' can refer to those in our family lines, those from within a particular community or tribe, or even any human being from any culture that has walked the Earth before us. You will learn to explore your own creation story, learn from ancient clans about how they have lived in communion with all living beings, connect with Ancestors and Unborn (those of future generations) to dream a 'new dream', and conduct work to clear ancestral patterns in your own ancestral line.

Module 8: Shamanic counselling

Shamanic counselling is a modern spiritual method devised by Michael Harner where the practitioner facilitates the session and holds the space, while the client is empowered to find answers to their questions and take themselves on a personal healing quest. Importantly, in this process the practitioner is not the counsellor in the modern therapeutic counselling sense. Instead, they are there to support a client to conduct their own 'dreamtime' or shamanic journey. The process can be very powerful for a client because of the way it empowers them to conduct their own healing. As part of your own transitional journey, you will learn how to take the place of the practitioner and support a client in journeying to their 'garden of soul' – the seat of their spirit and eternal light – around and within which our soul continually evolves. The garden of soul is a unique place where deep self-enquiry and healing can occur. This gathering is an important part of your transition of becoming because it takes you beyond just healing another with limit input from the client to empowering the client by teaching them to undertake their own shamanic work.

Module 9: Stepping into the role of shaman

In contemporary shamanism the ancient world and wisdom intersects with modern life. This can raise some challenging, yet important, practical considerations about how you can integrate the practice within a busy existence. What needs to be considered depends on your unique circumstances, needs, and calling. Some practitioners want to directly use their shamanic skills as a vocation, others more subtly, and some primarily as a personal spiritual practice or for enhancing their own wellbeing. Whatever approach you take, there are some very common issues that many practitioners face. This gathering will therefore build on your newfound skills and qualities in your journey by exploring how you can, effectively, bring shamanic practice into your contemporary life. This will include using shamanic methods for visioning; exploring how you can bring your archetypal shaman into your reality of the present, and exploring the importance of maintaining boundaries to help you a navigate a turbulent world.

Module 10: Healing circles

Healing circles are one of the of most powerful aspects you can experience through engaging with shamanic practice. Healing circles represent a communal healing where the skills of multiple practitioners are drawn upon to conduct healing on a single client. The impact on the client can be profound. But it is also an important part of the training in becoming a practitioner because it is through these circles that you learn how to work in synergy with others and with alchemical processes. As the programme unfolds, you will also have multiple opportunities to practice taking on the role of shamanic healer and will receive healing by being a client within a healing circle.

Module 11: Completion

All processes of transformation are marked, in some way, by some kind of ending, which then pave the way for a new beginning. This is the natural cyclical journey of life and rhythms of existence. In this final gathering you will take your final steps in becoming through ritual processes of death and re-birth and ceremonies of completion that empower you to move forward with clarity, purpose, resilience, and renewal.

We are all of what we are, and we are all of no-thing. This no-thing is beyond being connected, because connection assumes there are things to be connected. No-thing means all is connected as a whole. There is no sense of self. Time and space do not apply. All that is, are limitless potential and love.

~ A shamanic dreaming. Dawn Song.

Other elements and homework

In addition to the aspects outlined above, there will be many other elements taught during the programme. This will include land healing, mask making, vigils, pilgrimage, and distance healing. You will also be set a range of homework, which will need to be completed within 18 months of the beginning of the course. The homework is primarily practice based. That is, you will conduct a number of different healings, ceremonies and other practices to build your skills as an independent practitioner. At the end of the course, you will submit a portfolio of short reflections on your practice and on how your understanding of shamanic practice has been changing. The written work is minimal and personal rather than academic. Completion of the homework, however, is required for certification.

Dates, location and logistics

Numbers: Maximum 10 participants

Location: Harriet Centre, York Cemetery, 49 Cemetery Rd, York YO10 5AJ. This venue provides a sacred space with ample access to nature.

Dates: View all the dates on the following:
https://www.shamanichealing.org.uk/shamanic-pracitioner-training

Times: Gatherings are either weekends or Thursdays - Sundays. Each day will typically run from 9:30am - 5pm. There will be some evening work during some of the gatherings.

Other details: The course is non-residential. Food will be provided for lunch, although you will be asked to bring a food offering which helps keep the cost low and helps build community.

Pre-requisites

You will benefit from having completed an Introduction Course taught by Ioan Fazey or equivalent but this is not a requirement. If you haven't completed an Introduction Course, get in touch to discuss whether this course will be right for you by emailing info@shamanichealing.org.uk.

How to apply

To apply visit: https://www.shamanichealing.org.uk/training-application-form
Complete the form and make your preferred payment using the payment link

Pricing

£3,200 per person

The fee can be paid in 4 installments of £800 each (on booking, November 2025, February 2026 and May 2026)

If you wish to pay in full on registration, a 10% discount will be applied (total cost only £2,880)

If you would like any further information or help with your booking, you can email: info@shamanichealing.org.uk

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