

## Postgraduate Programs in Clinical Psychology

*Master of Clinical Psychology (coursework)*

*Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) (research)*

*Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) (research)*

The School of Psychology offers programs in Clinical Psychology at the Master and Doctoral levels. These programs provide postgraduate clinical training that prepares clinical psychologists to practise in a range of clinical settings such as hospitals, community health centres and private practice. The programs aim to develop effective clinical competencies and to encourage a critical approach to the application of these competencies to practice. The emphasis is on a science-based approach to clinical psychology and the development of clinical problem solving skills, with a focus on scientific evidence combined with practical experience based on the theory of clinical psychology.

### Program Structure and Duration

The programs include the three components of formal coursework, supervised clinical practice (internships) and original clinical research. The Master of Clinical Psychology is a two-year degree, the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) is a three-year degree and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (Clinical Psychology) is a four-year degree.

Course work commences in late February/early March of any given year and runs on a semester basis. There is no mid year commencement. Other work such as the supervised internships and clinical research continue throughout the year. Students should expect to undertake academic work for 48 weeks each year.

### Coursework Units

Formal courses have been designed to acquaint students with a wide range of practical and theoretical issues relevant to contemporary clinical and health psychology. They cover knowledge of the disorders and problems encountered in clinical practice, basic and clinical research, clinical assessment, psychological interventions and professional practice.

All students attend from 4 to 14 hours per week of regular coursework per semester depending on their stage of training.

### Clinical Placements

In their first semester, students attend courses and undertake work in the ANU Psychology Clinic to prepare them for their clinical internships. Beginning in June/July of their first year, trainees undertake supervised clinical practice in the Psychology Clinic. Subsequently they undertake three or more supervised clinical placements. The total amount of time spent in internships is a minimum of 1000 hours for the Masters and PhD (Clin.Psych) degrees and a minimum of 1500 hours for the Doctorate (Clinical) degree. Internships are undertaken, in addition to the ANU Psychology Clinic, in a variety of community and hospital based settings within Canberra or nearby country areas, and include community health centres, general hospital, psychiatric and medical units, neurology and neuropsychology services, veterans' counselling services, alcohol and drug services and school counselling unit.

### Research Component - Master of Clinical Psychology

All students undertaking the Master of Clinical Psychology degree are required to conduct an approved empirical research project. This includes two written components. The first represents a review of the relevant literature, while the second component presents the empirical project in the form of a journal article manuscript. These two components must be submitted for internal and external examination by 31 January following the second year of study.

### **Doctoral (including PhD) Candidature**

Doctoral candidature is available either through direct entry or by transfer from the Masters program. Intending Doctoral students are advised to consult widely among the clinical and associated graduate program staff for research guidance and potential supervision prior to applying for doctoral candidature.

Students accepted into the D.Psych (Clinical) program complete the first and second year of coursework (as do Masters students) with additional coursework requirements in the third year. They must also complete the same requirements for supervised clinical experience in the first two years and additional clinical internships in the third year. Immediately following their acceptance into the D.Psych (Clinical) program, students commence a program of clinical research resulting in the presentation of a major thesis (equivalent in size and scope to a research-only Masters thesis) for external examination at the end of the third year of study.

Students accepted into the Clinical PhD program complete the first and second year of coursework. They must also complete the same requirements for supervised clinical experience, but they have the option of taking one or two clinical placements in their third year. Immediately following their acceptance into the Clinical PhD program, students commence a program of extensive clinical research. At the end of the fourth year of study, Clinical PhD candidates are required to present a major thesis (equivalent in size and scope to a research-only PhD thesis) for external examination.

### **Part-time Study**

It is possible to complete any of these degrees by part-time study. Part-time students are expected to devote approx. 20 hours per week towards their studies.

### **Internship Status in paid employment**

Students entering the clinical program who continue to work as employees in suitable settings may, on application to the Clinical Committee, be granted status for their clinical work in this setting.

### **Accreditation**

All programs fulfil the requirements of the Professional Registration Boards in all Australian states and territories. The Master of Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Psychology (Clinical), and Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) degrees are accredited for full membership of the Australian Psychological Society. All programs are also accredited for conditional membership of the College of Clinical Psychologists of the Australian Psychological Society though, as with all accredited postgraduate clinical programs, a further two year's supervised clinical practice may be necessary before full membership is given, depending on past clinical experience.

### **Entry Requirements**

Entry to these postgraduate programs depends on the possession of an honours degree in psychology at the IIA level or better. Entry by a fourth year postgraduate diploma in psychology will also be considered. However, diplomas must (a) be of honours standard, (b) contain a substantial research methodology component, and (c) be accredited for Associate Membership of the Australian Psychological Society. Applicants can check the acceptability of their degree by contacting the Australian Psychological Society. ([www.psychology.org.au/](http://www.psychology.org.au/))

Completion of undergraduate programs in abnormal psychology at the 2nd, 3rd or 4th year level is a prerequisite. Completion of undergraduate programs in the areas of psychometrics, personality and health psychology is highly recommended. As the Clinical Program focuses on a science-based approach to clinical practice, prior acquisition of competence in statistics and research methodology is an important criterion, usually demonstrated by the successful completion of a fourth year thesis.

Eligibility for conditional registration as an intern psychologist with the Psychologist's Registration Board of the Australian Capital Territory is a condition of entry into the School of Psychology's Clinical Program. Other entry qualifications need to be assessed for their compliance with the above-mentioned standards. The Clinical Committee will invite prospective students to a personal interview prior to making a final decision on admission.

All applicants will need to nominate a general research area appropriate to their interests and the expertise available among the staff of the School. Applicants should consult the staff research interests on the Psychology homepage ([www.anu.edu.au/psychology/groups/research.php](http://www.anu.edu.au/psychology/groups/research.php)) to determine whether any staff research interests match theirs. Applicants must also email the individual academic or email the Clinical Program Director (see below) indicating their areas of interest so that they can be put in contact with potential supervisors. Applicants will not be offered admission unless appropriate research supervision is available.

## **International students \*\*Additional compulsory entry requirements\*\***

International applicants, or those whose application is based on qualifications gained outside of Australia, should note that they are required to have their qualifications in psychology formally assessed for compatibility with Australian legislative requirements **before submitting an application** for any of the clinical program degrees. It is a condition of entry into the clinical training program that students are eligible for conditional registration as an intern psychologist by the Psychologist's Registration Board of the Australian Capital Territory and are eligible for associate membership of the Australian Psychological Society. Details on how to have qualifications assessed are available from the Australian Psychological Society ([www.psychology.org.au](http://www.psychology.org.au)). Applications based on overseas qualifications without such a formal assessment can not be considered.

It is important that international students approach appropriate staff about supervision of their research *before submitting an application*.

## **Applications for Admission**

If you are an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, holder of an Australian permanent resident visa or holder of an Australian permanent resident humanitarian visa and you wish to apply for entry into any clinical program, you must apply via [http://students.anu.edu.au/apply\\_online.asp](http://students.anu.edu.au/apply_online.asp) (ensuring that you supply *all* supporting documentation in either scanned form or via mail) *or* by completing the appropriate postgraduate application form/s from <http://www.anu.edu.au/sas/forms/> (includes the School of Psychology Supplementary Application Form).

If you are an international student, you may apply using either the ANU On-line Admission system [http://students.anu.edu.au/apply\\_online.asp](http://students.anu.edu.au/apply_online.asp) (ensuring that you supply all supporting documentation in either scanned form or via mail) or by using the appropriate postgraduate international application form/s from <http://www.anu.edu.au/sas/forms/> (includes the School of Psychology Supplementary Application Form).

Selection to the clinical programs is highly competitive and based on the quality of applicants' academic qualifications, relevant experience, referee reports and interview. Initial offers of places are typically made in mid-December of any year. It is essential that the deadline for responding to an offer be strictly observed as a lack of response may forfeit an offer of a place in the program.

## **Fees and Scholarships**

The Master of Clinical Psychology is offered on a Commonwealth-supported basis (formerly known as HECS) to Australian/New Zealand citizens and permanent residents. The Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) and Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) are offered on a Commonwealth-funded basis. International students are offered places on a full-fee basis. All students must refer to the ANU website for fee information for all postgraduate clinical programs. ([fees.anu.edu.au/](http://fees.anu.edu.au/))

Australian/New Zealand citizens and permanent residents are eligible to apply for Australian Postgraduate Awards for research studies. In addition, the University may offer ANU PhD Scholarships to students who have been unsuccessful in obtaining an Australian Postgraduate Award.

International Students: Scholarship information for all postgraduate programs in Psychology is available at [www.anu.edu.au/graduate/scholarships/](http://www.anu.edu.au/graduate/scholarships/). (Psychology is a "laboratory-based" science for fee purposes).

### Scholarship applications - closing dates

Australian/New Zealand citizens and permanent residents - 31 October

International students - 31 August

Applications close – 31 October

## **Further Information**

<http://psychology.anu.edu.au>

or [Enquiries.Psychology@anu.edu.au](mailto:Enquiries.Psychology@anu.edu.au)

## **Note**

The information contained in this document is subject to change. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, this document is indicative only and is not a formal statement by The Australian National University of the rules, procedures, or fee schedules for the degrees mentioned.



## Supplementary Application Form – Clinical Psychology

This form must be returned to the University with your formal application for study by 31 October  
See relevant address details on Postgraduate Application Forms.

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Program you wish to apply for:

- 7601 Master of Clinical Psychology (coursework)       9063 Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) (research)       9060 Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) (research)

Preference for intensity of study:       Full-Time       Part-Time

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Vacation Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Qualifications For Admission:*

Do you have an Honours Degree In Psychology?       Yes       No

(If you are currently completing an Honours Degree, tick 'Yes' and indicate when your degree will be completed)

If YES, what grade is the Honours Degree?

First Class       Second Class A       Second Class B

Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ Completed In \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

At what University? \_\_\_\_\_

If NO, do you have a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology?       Yes       No

If YES, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of University: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Other relevant education and training:*

What other programs of study and or training have you undertaken that is relevant to Clinical Psychology (including things like Diplomas, short courses and workshops)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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***Relevant Experience:***

Have you ever had paid employment in the area of Clinical Psychology (Or related fields such as counselling)?  Yes  No

If YES, please attach an up-to-date *Curriculum Vitae* with details of this employment.

Have you worked in the area of Clinical Psychology (or related fields such as counselling) on a volunteer basis?  Yes  No

If YES, please attach an up-to-date *Curriculum Vitae* with details of this work.

Have you discussed your research interests with a member of the academic staff?  Yes  No

Which member(s) of the academic staff have you discussed your research interests with: \_\_\_\_\_

What area/s of Clinical Psychology are you particularly interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a letter of approximately 200-300 words to your application outlining why you wish to undertake a program of study in Clinical Psychology at The Australian National University.

Short listed applicants are normally required to attend an interview in November as part of the selection process.

Enquiries regarding this form or the application and selection process should be directed to:

E: [Enquiries.Psychology@anu.edu.au](mailto:Enquiries.Psychology@anu.edu.au)

T: (+61 2) 6125 2795