Master of Professional Psychology (MProfPsych) FAQs for students

1.0 Applying for the MProfPsych

1.1 How can I apply for the Master of Professional Psychology?
Please follow the process shown on the ANU programs and Courses page for this program: https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/program/MPPSY

Applicants will be shortlisted on the basis of their academic achievements and referee reports. The MProfPsych Selection Committee will invite shortlisted applicants to attend a personal interview. Applicants who are successful at the interview will be ranked and offers will be made on the basis of the ranking which may include diversity factors. Applicants who have been offered a place will have a short period in which to accept (or decline) the offer. A second round of offers may be made – see 1.9 for further information.

1.2 How can I apply for the Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology?
It is not possible to directly apply for the Graduate Diploma as it is an exit-only degree.

1.3 What academic qualifications do I need to apply to the MProfPsych program?
The minimum academic qualification is a Bachelor degree or international equivalent with an APAC accredited sequence of courses in Psychology with a GPA of at least 5/7. Please note that this is a minimum requirement and if there is high demand for the program, a higher GPA may be needed to be competitive.

1.4 I have studied psychology in Australia. How can I check if my degree meets the eligibility criteria?
Psychology programs in Australia are accredited by the independent Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC).

To apply to the ANU MProfPsych program, you will need to provide evidence that you have completed an APAC-accredited qualification that achieves foundational competencies in psychology.

The evidence required is generally a letter from the institution that awarded your degree. The letter should confirm that you have completed an APAC accredited degree or sequence of study in psychology.

Eligible programs in Australia may include:

- a 3 year Bachelor Degree in psychology
- a Bachelor Degree in any discipline plus an APAC-accredited bridging course
- a Bachelor Degree in a cognate discipline that includes an APAC-accredited sequence in psychology. The University that provided your degree will be able to confirm whether you have completed the psychology courses that are required for an APAC accredited sequence in that University.
Master of Professional Psychology (MProfPsych) FAQs for students

As an example, an ANU Bachelor of Science (Psychology) requires completion of specific Psychology courses as shown here  https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/program/BSPSY
Other institutions will have their own lists of courses required to make up the relevant degree.

You might also like to check the APAC website which lists programs that are undergoing accreditation as well as currently accredited programs  https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/index.php/APAC_accredited_psychology_programs_australia

1.5 I have studied psychology outside Australia. How can I check if my degree meets the eligibility criteria?
Qualifications obtained from an overseas education institution need to be assessed as comparable to an APAC-accredited qualification in psychology or an APAC-accredited sequence in psychology.

Overseas qualifications will need to be assessed before you complete your application to enter the MProfPsych program. Information about the assessment of overseas qualifications is available on the APAC website https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/overseas_registration and the APS website https://www.psychology.org.au/About-Us/What-we-do/Assessing-overseas-qualifications

Students from Southwest University in China who have completed a 2+2 Bachelor degree from ANU are eligible to apply for the MProfPsych.

Applicants also need to meet the minimum English Language requirements for the program (see 1.6 below).

1.6 What are the minimum English Language Requirements for the MPP program?
Applicants for the MProfPsych program will need to meet English Language requirements for professional training in Australia. The required standard is the English Language Skills Registration Standard set by the Psychology Board of Australia  https://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Registration-Standards.aspx
It is not possible to obtain any exceptions or waivers for this standard.

For more information and support for preparing for assessment of English Language Skills, please contact the ANU College  https://www.anucollege.edu.au/courses/english-language-courses

1.7 I have completed an accredited fourth year Psychology Honours or Graduate Diploma in Professional Psychology. Can I use this as credit for the first year of the MProfPsych program?
It is possible to request credit for completion of an AQF 8 APAC accredited degree or equivalent in the first year of the ANU MProfPsych.
Master of Professional Psychology (MProfPsych) FAQs for students

Up to 48 units / one year of credit is possible but not automatically granted in the first year. Your previous study will be assessed by the School to ensure that you have achieved the competencies required to successfully complete MProfPsych courses.

The Master of Professional Psychology has a strict structure and enrolment pattern in order to align with accreditation requirements. Any credit granted will relate to courses offered in the first 48 units of the degree. Students granted less than 48 units should be aware that enrolment choices will be limited.

The first year of the MProfPsych program will be offered from 2020 and the second year will be offered from 2021.

1.8 **Will I have to fulfil any other requirements during the course?**

In order to progress into the second 48 units of the program, students must obtain Provisional registration or equivalent with the Psychology Board of Australia. This registration must be maintained for the entirety of the second 48 units of the program.

The Board’s website provides detailed information about the Provisional Registration Standard and all other Standards that apply to Provisional registration. Please note that this includes the Board’s English Language Skills Standard which must be met by all applicants seeking entry to the MProfPsych program.

Prior to enrolling in the placement course in the second 48 units of the program, students will need to meet the requirements of the ANU, ACT Health and NSW Health and other external placement providers. These typically include documentation relating to:

- immunisation and health screening
- working with vulnerable people and children – for example, the ACT Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) Card
- criminal checks such as the AFP National Police Check Certificate

Students who successfully complete the first year of the program but do not satisfy the progression requirements of provisional registration or equivalent with the Psychology Board of Australia may be transferred to graduate from the Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology.

1.9 **Can I apply for other programs at the same time as the MProfPsych?**

Yes, you can apply for programs at ANU and at other institutions. ANU offers a fourth year Psychology Honours program which you could apply for at the same time as you apply for the ANU MProfPsych.
Master of Professional Psychology (MProfPsych) FAQs for students

1.10 Is it possible to take the ANU MProfPsych part-time?
The course is structured so that you build your skills and knowledge over each year in a sequential manner. Due to the highly structured nature of this program, it is highly recommended that this program should be taken full-time. Part-time enrolment should be negotiated with the Program Convener and would require part-time with a minimum of two courses per semester, taken in the order prescribed by the Research School of Psychology.

1.11 Can you give me an early indication of whether I am likely to be accepted?
Unfortunately, we are not able to give students early indications of likely acceptance, beyond the criteria that are outlined on the website https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/2020/program/MPPSY

1.12 I have earned my undergraduate degree at an Australian university other than the ANU. My undergraduate university says that in order to be accepted to their fourth year program, I have to have a different number of undergraduate credit points than is needed at ANU. Which rule do I follow for my application to MProfPsych at the ANU?
Different university have different credit point systems. At ANU, one course is equivalent to 6 credit points, but other universities may value courses at a different number of points. The ANU will calculate your GPA when you submit your application. If you’d like to know more about the method used to calculate the ANU GPA, please go to this page https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/grade-point-average-gpa

If you hold the relevant APAC accredited degree or equivalent and your ANU GPA is 5/7 or above, then you will be eligible to apply to the ANU MProfPsych program.

1.13 Is there a minimum requirement for how recent my psychology degree should be?
This depends on whether you are seeking to use your psychology degree as a minimum entry requirement for the course, or whether you are seeking to use the degree as credit for part of the MProfPsych course.

There is no recency requirement for psychology degrees to be used to satisfy the minimum entry criteria for applying to the course.

To use your previous study to request credit for the course, it must have been completed within 7 years.

1.14 I have been working in the field of Psychology and have completed mental health workshops and certificates? Do these experiences count as merit towards my application?
Merit is not automatically given for employment in the field of psychology or for completion in mental health training. However, if an applicant is offered an interview, they may wish to draw on these experiences in answering the questions asked of them by the selection panel.
Master of Professional Psychology (MProfPsych) FAQs for students

2.0 Receiving an offer to study in the MProfPsych Program

2.1 If my application is successful, how long do I have to accept the offer?
The acceptance timeframe will be clearly stated in your offer; failure to accept within this
timeframe will lead to a lapse in the offer (i.e., your position will be given to another student).

The offer you receive will provide you with instructions on how to accept your offer.

2.2 When is the application deadline for international students?
The deadline is 31st October, the same as for domestic students.
For more information, please contact the ANU International Student Office
https://www.anu.edu.au/study/related-information/international-students

2.3 Do I have to be in Canberra when offers are made?
No. You will be contacted via e-mail using the e-mail address provided on your application
form. Make sure that you regularly check the relevant e-mail address because there will be a
strict timeline for acceptance.

2.4 What about Visa arrangements for International students?
International students need to be aware that the time needed to complete Visa arrangements
can vary greatly and can be difficult to predict. They should start their applications as soon as
possible. For more information, please contact the ANU International Student Office
https://www.anu.edu.au/study/related-information/international-students

2.5 Once I receive an offer, can I defer that offer for a later year?
No. If you are unable to commence the program in the period for which your offer has been
made you will need to reapply. Your application will be re-assessed and considered and
ranked based on the admission requirements and applying cohort for that year.

2.6 What will I have to do during my MProfPsych program at the ANU?
The MProfPsych program includes coursework on psychological assessment, interventions,
ethics and professional skills; a group research project in the first year and practical
experience in the second year. More details can be found in the downloadable Master of
Professional Psychology Handbook which you can access from the RSP website. Please note
that the Handbook is valid only for the academic year stated in the Handbook itself and is
updated every year. This Handbook will give you a good idea of what is involved in the
MProfPsych program at the ANU.
3.0 Your career in Psychology

3.1 What do these abbreviations mean: APAC, APS and PsyBA?

APAC is the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council and is the independent organisation that is responsible for accrediting psychology programs in Australia.

APS is the Australian Psychological Society and is a professional society for psychologists and psychology students. It is responsible for assessing the equivalence of psychology degrees obtained outside Australia.

PsyBA is the Psychology Board of Australia and is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act ("the National Law"). The Board regulates the profession of psychology. It is responsible for registering psychologists and for approving programs of study in psychology that have been accredited by APAC.

3.2 Who can give me some Psychology career pathways advice?

Careers Advisors are the best people to talk with about career pathways. The Australian Psychological Society provides free psychology career information. The Society is independent and not tied to any specific university or type of career, so they can advise you about the various pathways to psychology registration as well as other career options available to people who have studied psychology.

Information is freely available on the APS website https://www.psychology.org.au/Training-and-careers/Careers-and-studying-psychology

You can also send enquiries to the APS on this page: https://www.psychology.org.au/Training-and-careers/Careers-and-studying-psychology/studying-psychology/Member-Assistance-students or you can give them a call on 1800 333 497.

You may also be interested in looking at currently available Australian psychology jobs listed on general job websites or on the listing provided by the APS http://www.psychexchange.com.au/JobSearch.aspx.

3.3 How can I become a practising psychologist??


Also, see 3.1 above for information about the Australian Psychological Society’s psychology career resources and assistance.

3.4 Where does the MProfPsych fit in these Psychology Registration pathways?

The ANU MProfPsych program is designed to provide the 4th and 5th year of study in the 5+1 pathway to Registration as a Psychologist.
Master of Professional Psychology (MProfPsych) FAQs for students

3.5 I saw on the ANU website that the APAC status of the MProfPsych program is “accreditation will be sought” or “with conditions” and “under development”. What does this mean and will completing the program count towards registration as a psychologist?

All Psychology programs are accredited by APAC and need to undergo a process of formal accreditation which can take a number of years. The MProfPsych is a new program and as such the accreditation process is underway.

APAC states that:

“A student who successfully graduates from a program of study which holds accreditation (either with or without conditions) at the time of his/her graduation is considered to have completed an APAC-accredited program of study.”

More information is available from the APAC website here
https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/student_faq

3.6 How can I find out information about Psychology post-graduate options at the ANU?

To find out information about Psychology post-graduate options at the ANU, students should carefully read the relevant ANU web pages – for example https://psychology.anu.edu.au

3.7 Can I apply to a PhD program directly after completing the MProfPsych?

No, the MProfPsych does not provide sufficient research training to allow students to apply directly for a PhD program.

The minimum academic requirement for applicants to the RSP PhD program is completion of an Australian Bachelor Degree with at least Second Class Honours – Upper (First class honours or equivalence is often required) or its international equivalent or, a post graduate degree with a significant research thesis component. More information is available on the RSP website.

3.8 What is the +1 internship year and how do I apply for this?

Graduates of the MProfPsych program will need to complete a 1 year internship if they wish to seek registration as a psychologist.

The internship can be undertaken once students have finished their university study and is not part of the MProfPsych program. Students who wish to complete the +1 internship year will need to arrange their own internships by finding a suitable work role and supervisor and having the internship approved by the Psychology Board of Australia.

Information about arranging internships is available on the Psychology Board of Australia website

ANU is not in a position to guarantee internship places to graduates, but we are exploring some options that may assist students.
Can international students register as a psychologist in Australia after they have completed the MProfPsych degree?

In order to apply for registration as a psychologist in Australia, all MProfPsych graduates need to meet the Registration Standard of the Psychology Board of Australia. This includes completing a one-year (+1) internship and passing the National Psychology exam – both of these processes are managed by the Board and occur after applicants have completed their university study.

There may also be visa requirements for international applicants which are separate from the Board’s requirements. For more information, please contact the Psychology Board and see the information provided here https://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Overseas-Applicants.aspx