

Handbook for the Master of Clinical
Psychology (MCP) Course (742AA) &
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Clinical
Psychology (958AA)
2024



Disclaimer

Potential applicants should check all entry requirements (academic and employment related) prior to applying for any course of study. The University of Canberra accepts no responsibility for decisions made or actions arising from the information provided in this resource.



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Queries about applications to the Master of Clinical Psychology course can be directed to the Course Convenor, Dr Clare Watsford (clare.watsford@canberra.edu.au).

Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology Applications

Applicants must apply for both the Master of Clinical Psychology course and the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology Course (<https://www.canberra.edu.au/course/958AA/2/2021>).

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Completion of a four-year APAC accredited sequence in psychology, typically an honours degree, within the last 10 years with a minimum of 1st Class Honours in Psychology (note this is higher than the GPA for the Master of Clinical Psychology); and
2. be eligible for, or hold, provisional registration as a psychologist with AHPRA

In addition to the requirements for Master of Clinical Psychology application applicants must provide:

referee forms for their PhD application – note these forms are different from the forms required for the master's application

Queries about applications to the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology can be directed to the Course Convenor, Dr Clare Watsford (clare.watsford@canberra.edu.au).

Course Requirement and Prerequisites

Once a place in the MCP or PhD (Clin Psych) has been offered and accepted, students must obtain registration to practice as a provisionally registered psychologist with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). You can find the application form at the following link: <https://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Forms.aspx>.

Students must always maintain their registration as psychologist in the Master of Clinical Psychology and PhD (Clin Psych) courses. This applies regardless of whether a student is completing coursework, placements, or research. Maintaining registration is the responsibility of the student. If a student's registration lapses during the course, they risk discontinuation.

The coursework components for the Master of Clinical Psychology course typically start late January with a two-week summer intensive. Orientation to the courses is generally the week preceding the start of the intensives. Attendance at the orientation is mandatory for all commencing students. Attendance at the intensives is mandatory for commencing full-time masters' students, and those PhD (rsif 25 406.912 1 n2-4(an)-739eW



unsubstantiated speculation, unanalysed experience, intuition, or art. It is recognised however that science progresses by a fusion of these types of cognitive processes (i.e., hypothesis generation often involves intuition and creative speculation followed by experimental justification of these hypotheses).

Within a scientist-practitioner model, clinical psychologists maintain a scholarly and critical approach



The coursework consists of 24 credit points



8. Expert skills in the design, implementation, and production of a substantial body of psychological research as it relates to the field of clinical psychology that constitutes an original contribution.
- 9.



11821: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology, Assessment, and Treatment PG

This unit covers the aetiology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of several common psychological disorders in children, adolescents, and their families in preparation for students starting practica. Students will learn about contemporary and culturally appropriate aetiological models, assessment, and taxonomies of psychopathology. Ethical and cultural considerations for working with younger populations will also be covered.

On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the various aetiologies of child and adolescent psychopathology, including current diagnostic/taxonomic systems and their scope;
2. Use advanced psychological knowledge and related skills to formulate assessment and treatment of several common child and adolescent psychopathologies; and
3. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of legal, ethical, and cultural considerations related to working with young people and their families.

11822: Psychological Assessment Across the Lifespan PG

In this unit students will learn advanced principles, methods, procedures, and critical evaluation of behavioural, psychometric, and clinical assessment of a range of psychological problems with specific focus on practical application, in a culturally responsive way. Students will be provided training in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of standardised tests including, but not limited to cognitive functioning, executive functioning, learning, and personality across the lifespan.

On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Apply an advanced understanding in the principles of psychometrics used in the practice of clinical psychology;
2. Demonstrate advanced skills in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of standardised psychological tests across the lifespan; and
3. Select, apply, and interpret psychometrics across the lifespan, in an appropriate and culturally responsive way.

11823

Staff member

Research Interests

Dimity Crisp

Mental health and wellbeing (in students, health professionals, and olde



11825: Postgraduate Psychology Research Project 1 PG

This unit is the first stage in the psychology research project. Working with supervisors, students will develop a research question relevant to the profession of psychology, including completing a background and scoping review for their topic. This unit will form the basis for the production of the final master's research project.

On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Critically review psychological literature relevant to their research question;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural and ethical considerations relating to psychological research; and
3. Plan a master's level piece of psychological research

11826: Postgraduate Psychology Research Project 2 PG

This unit is the second stage in the psychology research project and an extension of Postgraduate Psychology Research Project 1. Working with supervisors, students will develop a research proposal and complete an ethics application (where applicable). This unit will form the basis for the production of the final master's research project.

On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Design a master's level psychology research project; and
2. Apply cultural and ethical considerations to a piece of psychological research.

11827: Postgraduate Psychology Research Project 3 PG

In this unit, students will build on their knowledge and skills acquired in Postgraduate Psychology Research Projects 1 and 2. Students will conduct research and produce a report based on their proposal and ethics application. This will involve data collection and analysis, writing a master's level report, and regular meetings with their research supervisor.

On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Select appropriate methodological techniques and demonstrate advanced competence in research methodology; and
2. Demonstrate advanced competence in written communication.



1. To successfully complete the doctoral thesis in clinical psychology candidates will: develop independent research skills within the field of clinical psychology; formulate a research problem or issue; select and use appropriate conceptual and methodological skills; prepare a substantial and well-ordered thesis demonstrating a thorough understanding of the state of knowledge in the area of inquiry and the relationship of the research to the broader framework of the field(s) of study.

10260: Doctoral Thesis in Clinical Psychology R PT

This research unit is a part-time, 6 credit point, research unit designed to replace the 6 credit point research unit in the masters sequence.

As above for 10255

As above for 10255

10261: Doctoral Thesis in Clinical Psychology R PT

This research unit is a part-time, 3 credit point, research unit designed to replace the 3 credit point research units in the masters sequence.

As above for 10255

As above for 10255

- ii. both developmental systems and biopsychosocial models of health as they apply to psychological disorders as well as the multiple factors that impinge on mental health across the lifespan
 - iii. psychopathology and relevant international taxonomies of classification of psychological disorders, including severe, complex and chronic mental illness
 - iv. psychopharmacology, particularly as it relates to complex psychological disorders.
- 4.2.2 Apply advanced psychological knowledge to culturally responsive assessment in the area of clinical psychology, including:
- i. evaluation of psychological disorders with reference to relevant international taxonomies of classification, including disorders of moderate to severe level and complexity
 - ii. use of assessment tools and processes related to a wide range of psychological disorders, and including psychometric tests, structured or semi-structured interviews, behavioural observations, measures of functionality and processes that enable collection of collateral information from multiple sources, including groups and systems relevant to the client
 - iii.



References

Australian Psychology Accreditation Council. (2019a).
. Author.

Australian Psychology Accreditation Council. (2019b).
. Author.

Australian Qualifications Framework Council. (2013).
(2nd ed.).