



# Master of Psychology (Clinical)

## 2015 Program Guide

Never Stand Still

Science

Psychology

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## **The University**

UNSW Australia (The University of New South Wales) is one of the largest and most prestigious in Australia. UNSW has a total enrolment of over 50,000 students and a staff of 7,700 on its two campuses – Kensington and UNSW Art & Design – in Sydney, as well as the University College at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. It is recognised throughout the world as a centre of excellence in learning and research. UNSW is a member of the prestigious Group of Eight key teaching and research universities in Australia. It is also a member of Universitas 21, a consortium of the world's leading research universities from Asia, Europe and North America. UNSW is consistently ranked as one of the top universities in the Asia region and is a major recipient of competitive research grants from industry and government bodies in Australia. UNSW scored highly in the 2013 Good Universities Guide, scoring the maximum five-star rating for eight key performance indicators.

The main campus of 38 hectares is situated in Kensington, an inner south-eastern suburb of Sydney. Sydney is a major cosmopolitan city that has a temperate climate and a rich cultural and artistic life. It is a centre of commerce and industry, and has a natural environment of great beauty and diversity. The University has first rate facilities, including a large modern library, extensive computing capacity, and all of the physical and human resources that one would expect to find in one of the southern hemisphere's leading educational institutions.

## **The School of Psychology**

The School of Psychology is located in the Faculty of Science. As one of the largest psychology departments in Australia, the School has excellent research and professional training facilities. It has extensive computing facilities, a psychological test library, a psychology clinic, a career research and assessment service, a technical workshop and laboratories in all areas of experimental psychology. The School also has strong links with professional practitioners in the areas of clinical, neuropsychological, forensic and organisational psychology.

The School is well known for its research tradition. Many of the staff have international reputations in their respective fields and a number are Fellows of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences. Our staff attract over \$3.5 million in external research funds per year. Staff publications receive more citations than any other psychology department in Australia and the School has one of the highest rates of PhD graduations in Psychology of any Australian university.

## **The Master of Psychology (Clinical) Program**

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) program began in 1971. The School's theoretical orientation has primarily been one of experimental empiricism, and the Clinical program adheres to the scientist-practitioner model for clinical training. The program has an emphasis on cognitive-behavioural approaches to the understanding and management of clinical problems. The program concerns itself with adult, adolescent and child clinical psychology, neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation.

The program is accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council as the fifth and sixth years of study leading to full membership of the Australian Psychological Society, and registration as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia. After completing two years' full-time equivalent supervised practice, graduates of the program are eligible to apply for endorsement as a Clinical Psychologist and for membership of the College of Clinical Psychologists.

## **Aims of the Program**

The Masters degree in Clinical Psychology provides post-graduate training for psychologists who intend to work as clinicians in hospitals, community health, and other settings where they might be engaged in health promotion and the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of people with a range of psychological problems and disabilities including neuropsychological disorders.

The main aim of the program is to enable trainees to develop a broad range of psychological expertise, based on academic knowledge, research abilities, and clinical skills. Emphasis is placed on the ability to adapt these core skills to a wide range of settings and different client groups.

Throughout the program, the trainee will be assisted to develop skills in the processes of assessment, formulation, intervention, evaluation, and reporting. Field placements and work in the School Clinic enables trainees to gain experience in working with children, adolescents, and adults, with both acute and chronic difficulties. All trainees should have some experience, either on placement or within the Clinic activities, of both individual and non-individual treatment (i.e., with groups, couples, or families). A primary aim of the program is to encourage the development of a scholarly and critical approach to the scientific foundations of clinical psychology. Trainees are encouraged to make explicit links between practical experience and the scientific and theoretical background to their work. Equally critical is the development of an ethical approach to clinical work, so that, for example, the trainee can recognise the limits to their own competence and the range of applicability of the models and methods they are using.

Before commencement of training, students will need to have read and be ready to comply with the Code of Ethics endorsed by the Psychology Board of Australia. At present, this is the same as the Code of Ethics of the Australian Psychological Society, and can be downloaded from the APS website <http://www.psychology.org.au/about/ethics/>.

Training in research and evaluation methods also plays a central role in the program. The research thesis component in the program has as its focus the development of the student's area(s) of specialisation and interest. Its inclusion enables students to carry out some intensive study of one particular clinical area.

## Program Structure

The University year is divided into 3 terms – Semester 1, Semester 2 and Summer Term. Semester 1 runs from March to June while Semester 2 is from July to November, and are structured around 12 weeks of classes across 13 weeks. Postgraduate psychology courses are not offered in Summer Term.

While lectures only run in semesters, practical work, such as field placements and Clinic work continue throughout the year including semester breaks. Trainees receive four weeks leave (in addition to public holidays), and are otherwise expected to be participating in all other components of the program.

The degree can be taken as a two-year full-time program, or spread over four years of part-time study. The minimum period of registration before the award of the degree is four semesters for full-time students and six semesters for part-time students. Students intending to complete the program part-time are encouraged to plan their enrolment in consultation with a member of the clinical staff, and must complete the program within four years.

Please note that the program is very full. Professional practice activities, in particular, are time consuming and not limited to particular hours detailed on the timetable. It is NOT possible to complete the course part-time while working full-time.

The table following shows the structure of the program as it applies to full-time students. Part-time students normally take half the full-time program in any one semester. It is usually recommended that part-time students complete the core clinical courses first (Experimental Clinical Psychology 1-3, and Psychological Assessment 1). Courses are usually scheduled on Monday and Tuesday. The final timetable of courses to be offered will normally be released by the University to students in January for Semester 1 courses and in mid-May for Semester 2 courses.

		Units of Credit	Hours per Week	
			Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>Stage 1</b>				
PSYC7000	Research and Evaluation Methods	6	-	2
PSYC7001	Psychological Assessment 1	6	3	-
PSYC7204	Child Clinical Psychology	6	3	-
PSYC7210	Human Neuropsychology	6	-	3
PSYC7212	Experimental Clinical Psychology 1	6	3	-
PSYC7221	Experimental Clinical Psychology 2	6	-	4
PSYC7223	Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 1	6	-	-
PSYC7224	Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 2		-	-
<b>Stage 2</b>				
PSYC7220	Psychology of Health and Illness	6	-	2
PSYC7222	Experimental Clinical Psychology 3	6	4 workshops/semester	-
PSYC7225	Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 3	6	-	-
PSYC7226	Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 4	6	-	-
PSYC7227	Research Thesis (Clinical) 1	12	-	-
PSYC7228	Research Thesis (Clinical) 2	12	-	-

## Trainee Attendance

It should be emphasised that this is not an external program. Trainees enrolled in the program are expected to attend all set lectures, seminars, and meetings. Absences from programmed coursework will need to be explained to the staff member involved. Trainees are also encouraged to participate in the general academic and social life of the School, by attending School meetings, seminars and social gatherings.

## Program Components

The MPsych(Clin) program consists of three components, all of which are compulsory, and total 96 units of credit (48 in each Stage).

### I. Course Work (48 units of credit)

This component consists of weekly lectures and seminars with associated written forms of assessment (reports/essays, class tests and final examinations).

### II. Professional Practice (24 units of credit)

In this part of the training students complete a minimum of 1,000 hours under supervision within the School Clinic and in field clinical settings, attend weekly Clinical meetings and a number of one-day Skills Training Workshops and receive supervision for three hours/week (not shown in the tentative timetable).

### III. Research Thesis (24 units of credit)

All students are required to complete a clinically-relevant research thesis involving the collection of data on a topic of their choice. The thesis is to be presented as an article suitable for submission to an appropriate journal and of approximately 7,500 words.

## **Course Work**

### *PSYC7000 Research and Evaluation Methods*

An examination of threats to the validity of causal inferences from randomised experiments, quasi-experiments and passive observational studies, with particular reference to field studies and program evaluations. Statistical power analysis, the analysis of data from non-equivalent control group designs, interrupted time series analysis, and structural modelling.

### *PSYC7001 Psychological Assessment 1*

This course is designed to equip professional psychologists with basic skills in psychological assessment and report writing. The course focuses upon the assessment of intelligence in adults and children. Trainees will be taught the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of intelligence testing using the Wechsler scales and will develop competency in the administration, scoring and interpretation of these. This course also provides trainees in the MPsych(Clin) program basic knowledge and skills in the administration and interpretation of the Wechsler Memory Scales and other tests commonly used in neuropsychological assessment. Finally this course emphasizes the importance of accurately detecting changes in functioning, including the estimation of premorbid intelligence, the detection of improvement over time that may indicate treatment efficacy or spontaneous recovery and, finally, changes that implicate deterioration of function.

### *PSYC7204 Child Clinical Psychology*

This course will examine the developmental psychopathology, assessment, and treatment of the major childhood disorders. Emphasis is given to empirically-supported approaches, with a particular focus on cognitive and behavioural family systems assessment and interventions. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to consider the application of the theoretical material to specific case studies.

### *PSYC7210 Clinical Neuropsychology*

This course provides an overview of cognitive, emotional and behavioural disorders arising from damage to the brain with an emphasis on the assessment of brain-behaviour relationships, assessment and rehabilitation. Topics discussed include: neuroanatomy, basic neuropsychological disorders affecting perception, movement, language, memory, emotion and executive control of thought and behaviour, common neurological conditions including traumatic brain injury, stroke, alcohol related brain injury and the dementias and finally, issues related to recovery, treatment and management.

### *PSYC7212 Experimental Clinical Psychology 1*

This course provides an introduction to clinical practice that covers the major anxiety and mood disorders. The course reviews the major models and research strategies for understanding psychopathology and clinical interventions. Specific psychological disorders are analysed in detail to illustrate the interplay of biological, cognitive, and behavioural models of psychological dysfunction. Each disorder is also described in terms of practical assessment and treatment procedures.

### *PSYC7220 Psychology of Health and Illness*

Applications of psychological principles, derived from human and animal research, to human health and rehabilitation including health promotion, risk factor reduction, psychological assessment, management and remediation of medical and neurological disorders, with a special focus on chronic illnesses.

### *PSYC7221 Experimental Clinical Psychology 2*

A continuation of the problem oriented approach begun in PSYC7212, this course examines the theoretical basis of models of psychopathology, assessment and intervention, and related professional issues. It deals with a range of psychological problems including insomnia, personality disorders and relationship disorders.

### *PSYC7222 Experimental Clinical Psychology 3*

This is the third course in the Experimental Clinical stream and addresses the assessment and management of a range of disorders including bereavement, drug and alcohol problems, psychosis, as well as working with clients from a range of multi-cultural backgrounds.

#### **Professional Practice**

Students complete professional practice through four separate one-semester courses: PSYC7223 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 1, PSYC7224 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 2, PSYC7225 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 3, and PSYC7226 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 4.

Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 1 is a prerequisite for Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 2, while Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 2 is a prerequisite for Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 3 and 4.

Professional practice involves the following two components:

#### **A. Professional Practice in the School Clinic**

By the end of the two year program, trainees are required to have completed a minimum of 1,000 hours of activity related to professional practice in order to be eligible for assessment in this component. A large proportion of these hours will be devoted to clinical work within the School Clinic. This work will involve assessing and treating clients, under the supervision of various members of the clinical staff. Trainees will begin seeing clients in their first year of enrolment. The case-load for trainees enrolled in Professional Practice (PSYC7224/PSYC7225) is usually between four and six clients per week (including both therapy and assessment cases). Trainees should expect to spend a minimum of two days/week in the Clinic. Visit the Clinic website for more information: <http://clinic.psy.unsw.edu.au>.

While seeing clients in the School Clinic, trainees are required to attend weekly supervision sessions with their assigned Clinical Supervisors. In addition to individual supervision appointments, group supervision sessions are also scheduled at various times.

Professional Practice also includes weekly meetings (held throughout each year of the program) and Skills Training Workshops. Skills training includes interviewing, cognitive therapy, providing expert testimony, interviewing children and families, group processes, multicultural issues, professional supervision and report writing.

The Professional Practice component of the program is assessed via audio and videotaped practice, case presentations, case reports, vivas, and Supervisor reports.

Throughout professional practice, emphasis will be placed on the conduct of professional psychologists and on the maintenance of ethical practices. All trainees will be expected to demonstrate satisfactory performance across all core competencies. There are nine areas of professional competence:

- i. Preparation and Planning Skills
- ii. Assessment Skills
- iii. Interviewing and Interpersonal Skills
- iv. Problem Formulation
- v. Knowledge of Treatment Methods
- vi. General Therapy Skills
- vii. Written Communication
- viii. Professional Behaviour
- ix. Response to Supervision

## **B. Field Placements**

In order to satisfy the field professional practice requirements of the program, trainees must satisfactorily complete placements in two different clinical settings (external and/or specialist placements at UNSW). Each of the placements must be at least 36 days each. Trainees usually commence their first external placement in the beginning (January) of their second year of enrolment in Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 3. The evaluation of the trainee's performance in each setting, completed by the supervising Clinical Psychologist, will contribute to the trainee's final grade in the Professional Practice component of the program.

A range of placement options are available including adult mental health, developmental disability, neuropsychology, child and family and general community health settings. A health psychology placement may be arranged through the School. From time to time it may be possible to negotiate alternative placements for trainees with special career interests. All trainees must have exposure to an adult mental health setting and a child setting, but other placements are negotiable.

### ***Research Thesis (PSYC7227 and PSYC7228)***

The research project and thesis component aims to help the student to develop research skills that would be relevant to their subsequent clinical work. The thesis, therefore, involves an investigation into some aspect of clinical psychology. The research project may be conducted either at the University or in a suitable clinical setting (usually in collaboration with a qualified Clinical Psychologist or other health care workers in that setting). No particular type of project is stipulated, (i.e., it could involve a controlled treatment outcome study, the development of a clinically relevant measure, or the evaluation of an existing treatment program) but the student must make a major contribution to the design, implementation, and evaluation of the research project. The thesis is written as a journal article suitable for submission to a specific refereed journal.

PSYC7227 Research Thesis (Clinical) 1 and PSYC7228 Research Thesis (Clinical) 2 together contribute 25 per cent to the overall grading for the degree.

## **Award of Degree**

The degree of MPsych(Clin) will be awarded at one of the following levels, depending on performance: Honours Class 1, Honours Class 2 Division 1, Honours Class 2 Division 2, or Pass.

## **Combining MPsych(Clin) with a PhD**

A combined Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Psychology (Clinical) degree program is available over four full-time years. This program consists of a research project (PhD) on a clinical topic and the course work and professional practice components (12 courses) from the MPsych(Clin) degree. Students work on their research project across the four years and concurrently take three of the Masters courses in each year. This program is restricted to those students who have completed an Honours Class 1 degree in Psychology, and is subject to the availability of adequate supervision and research infrastructure. Full details can be found at <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-research/programs>.

## **Fees and Charges**

Commonwealth Supported Places (formerly HECS) are available to students in the program. Full information on fees and charges may be found at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/fees>.

## Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants must have completed an honours degree in psychology (with First Class Honours) from a university recognised by the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC). The degree must include a research thesis as a major component.

Selection is based on academic qualifications, interview performance and two (academic or professional) referee reports. As the number of places is limited, entry into the program is competitive.

Information about the English requirement can be found at <http://www.unsw.edu.au/english-requirements-policy#english-language-tests>. **IMPORTANT:** to register as a psychologist, AHPRA requires applicants to submit evidence of EITHER a) Academic IELTS result of 7.0 Overall, with 7.0 in each subtest, OR b) completion of BOTH secondary education AND tertiary psychology qualification in English from one of seven specific countries. AHPRA's registration standard on English language can be found at <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Overseas-Applicants.aspx>.

## Application Procedure – all applicants

Applications for Semester 1 are due by 31 October of the previous year. Decisions will be made once all components of an application have been received and assessed. Generally, no offers are made until early- to mid-December. Orientation sessions are typically held in O-Week, prior to commencement of Semester 1.

The Clinical Program cannot be started in Semester 2, and offers cannot be deferred. The program code for the MPsych(Clin) degree is **8256**.

1. Apply for admission via the UNSW Apply Online service at <http://www.apply.unsw.edu.au>. You may [track your application](#) once it is registered and its receipt is formally acknowledged.
2. Submit supporting documents/information for the application to the Admissions Office. Supporting documents include: academic transcript/s for undergraduate psychology studies, evidence of enrolment (if yet to complete honours), and the titles, names and email addresses of TWO referees (academic or professional). Note: if *currently enrolled* in an honours program, please ensure evidence of enrolment is sent to the Admissions Office to minimise potential delays.
3. Respond to the School's request for additional information, and ensure your referees do the same. If your application meets the minimum entry requirement, the School will:
  - a. Send both referees a link, along with a unique code, to access the online Referee's Report submission system; and
  - b. Send the applicant a link, along with a unique code, to access the online Additional Information submission system. Applicants are asked to provide details of their thesis, and upload a copy of their CV. They are also asked about their secondary education, with respect to AHPRA's registration standards.

Information submitted as part of step 3, above, is electronically delivered to the School. Please note that the School may also approach referees for further information, and that it is not possible to complete an assessment of an application until two referee reports have been received.

If you have any questions about the procedure outlined above, please contact the Administrative Officer (Postgraduate Support) by emailing [Emmalee.OGrady@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Emmalee.OGrady@unsw.edu.au).

## Additional application requirements – overseas students

To be accepted into the program, an overseas student must have their academic qualification/s assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) as equivalent to a four-year, APAC-accredited sequence in psychology (including Honours) studied in Australia. See here for more details: <http://www.psychology.org.au/membership/qualifications/>.

The equivalent qualification must be awarded with First Class Honours (the highest classification attainable), or a high Second Class Div. 1. Having your qualification/s assessed by the APS *is not a guarantee* of a place in the program.

Before taking steps 1-3 in the [Application Procedure](#) section of this document, overseas students must **FIRST**:

**Apply to have their qualification/s assessed by the APS. The APS will review the qualification/s and make a final determination on their equivalence. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for an APS assessment before applying for admission, as an application missing this letter will be considered incomplete.**

## Program Leave

Program leave may be granted, and is restricted to no more than two semesters over the duration of a student's enrolment in a Program. A student who is not enrolled at the relevant census date, and has not applied and been granted approved program leave for that semester, will be discontinued from their program and must formally apply for re-admission if they want to enrol in a future semester.

See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/program-leave> for details.

## Staff Taking Part in the MPsychol(Clin) Program

### **Academic Staff**

Richard Bryant, BA(Hons) Syd, MClinPsych PhD Macq.

Mark Dadds, BSc DipEd Melb., MMus Qld., Conservatorium of Music, DipPsych PhD Qld

Melanie Gleitzman, BA PhD UNSW

Bronwyn Graham, B.Adv Sci, MPsych(Clinical)/PhD, UNSW

Jessica Grisham, BA UPenn, MA, PhD Boston University

Eva Kimonis, MS PhD, University of New Orleans

Peter Lovibond, BSc MSc(Psychol), PhD UNSW

Skye McDonald, BSc Monash, MSc Melb, PhD Macq.

Michelle Moulds, BA(Hons), MPsych(Clinical) Syd, PhD UNSW

Angela Nickerson, BA(Hons) UQ, MPsych(Clinical)/PhD UNSW

Lenny Vartanian, PhD, Toronto

### **Clinic Director**

Chien Hoong Gooi, BSc (Hons) UNSW, MSc Syd, DClinPsych Syd

### **Clinic Supervisors**

Natasha Rawson, BPsych (Hons), MPsychol (Clin) UNSW

Linda Salem, BSc MPsychol(Clin) UNSW

Shane Vassallo, BSc (Hons) Wollongong, MPsych(Clinical) UNSW

Amanda Olley, BSc(Hons) UNSW, MClinNeuro Macq

### **Postgraduate Support**

Emmalee O'Grady

## Contact Information

Please direct enquiries to the relevant staff below.

### MPsych(Clin)

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Program Director  
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Acting Program Director (Semester 1)  
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### Combined PhD/MPsych(Clin)

A/Prof Lenny Vartanian  
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### Application status

UNSW Admissions Office  
T: +61 (2) 9385 3656 F: +61 (2) 9385 9437  
Online enquiry: [www.enquiry.unsw.edu.au](http://www.enquiry.unsw.edu.au)

Application tracking: via <https://my.unsw.edu.au/>

The information contained in this guide is correct as at January 2015. Prospective students should contact UNSW to confirm admission requirements and availability of programs. UNSW reserves the right to change any programs, admission requirement or other information herein without any prior notice. CRICOS Provider No. 000098G.