



Master of Psychology (Clinical)

Program Booklet

Never Stand Still

Science

School of Psychology

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The University

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is one of the largest and most prestigious in Australia. UNSW has a total enrolment of over 52,000 students and a staff of 7,700 on its two campuses – Kensington and the College of Fine Arts – 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. It scored highly in the 2010 Good Universities Guide, being awarded the maximum five-star rating for seven key performance indicators, including research grants, research intensity, student-staff ratio, staff qualifications, cultural diversity, graduate starting salary and positive graduate outcomes

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. School 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 fifth and sixth years of study leading to full membership of the Australian Psychological Society and registration as a psychologist with the national 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 Australia. At present this is the same as the Code of Ethics of the Australian Psychological Society. This may be downloaded from the APS website <http://www.psychology.org.au/about/ethics/#s1>.

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. Semesters 1 and 2 are of 12 weeks duration. Semester 1 runs from March to June while Semester 2 is from July to November. 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.

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 (before 6pm). The final timetable of courses to be offered will normally be released by the University to students in late November for Semester 1 courses and in mid-May for Semester 2 courses.

		Units of Credit	Hours per Week	
			Semester 1	Semester 2
Stage 1				
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		-	-
Stage 2				
PSYC7220	Psychology of Health and Illness	6	-	2
PSYC7222	Experimental Clinical Psychology 3	6	2	-
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 MPsychol(Clin) program consists of three components, all of which are compulsory. The three components total 96 units of credit (48 in each Stage).

1. 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).

2. Professional Practice (24 units of credits)

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).

3. Research Thesis (24 units of credits)

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.

1. 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 nonequivalent control group designs, interrupted time series analysis, and structural modelling.

PSYC7001 Psychological Assessment I

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 MPsychol(Clinical) 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 Human 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 I

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, psychosis, 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, dissociative disorders and psychogeriatrics.

2. 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 the year in both years) 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.

Throughout professional practice emphasis will be placed on the conduct of professional psychologists and on the maintenance of ethical practices.

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

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.

3. 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 MPsychol(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 MPsychol(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 MPsychol(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 are to be found at: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/students/future/pgrad/futurepgradresearch.html>

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://my.unsw.edu.au/student/fees/FeesMainPage.html>

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants must have completed an honours degree in psychology from a university recognised by the NSW Psychologists Registration Board and have obtained Class 1 honours. The degree should include a research thesis as a major component.

Selection is based on academic qualifications for the program, interview performance and referee reports. As the number of places is limited, entry into the program is competitive. Two academic or professional referees' reports are required.

Application Procedure

Applications for Semester 1 are due by 31 October of the previous year. The Clinical Program cannot be started in Semester 2.

The University code for the MPsychol(Clin) degree is **8256**.

1. Apply for admission by using the UNSW Apply Online service at <http://www.apply.unsw.edu.au>. Further information including alternative means of application is available from <http://www.unsw.edu.au/futureStudents/postgradCourse/sad/how2apply.html>.
2. Arrange for two referees (either academic or professional) to complete and return to the School of Psychology a **Confidential Academic/Professional Referee's Report (Domestic Applicants)** form available from http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/students/current/files/PG_RefereesReport_domestic.pdf.

The School may approach referees for additional information. Please note that it will not be possible to complete the processing of an application until the two referee's reports have been received

Overseas Applications

In order for overseas students to be accepted into Master of Psychology coursework programs, students are required to have their qualifications assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) as equivalent to an Australian four year undergraduate program (including Honours). See here for more details: <http://www.psychology.org.au/membership/qualifications/>.

You will require a Bachelor degree equivalent to an Australian first class Honours degree (the highest mark

attainable) or a high second class division 1 to be considered for entry.

Summary of Steps for International Applicants

Step 1: Please make an application using the [UNSW Apply Online](https://www.unsw.edu.au/futureStudents/postgradCourse/sad/how2apply.html) service or complete the postgraduate coursework application form found on <http://www.unsw.edu.au/futureStudents/postgradCourse/sad/how2apply.html> by **31 October**.

Step 2: Arrange for two referees (either academic or professional) to complete a **Confidential Academic/Professional Referee's Report (International Applicants)** form available from http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/students/current/files/PG_RefereesReport_international.pdf.

Step 3: Get your qualifications assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS). This is the body in Australia that assesses overseas qualifications. They will review your qualifications and make a final determination on the equivalence of your academic qualifications.

Step 4: Once you receive positive advice from the APS, you should send it, as well as the Confidential Academic/Professional Referee's Reports, to the Direct Admissions Office (UNSW Sydney NSW 2052 Australia) either following your online application or along with your paper application form. It should be noted that entry into the UNSW Masters Programs is competitive. Acceptance of your qualifications by the APS does not guarantee a place in a course.

Step 5: When all the information about your application has been received we will make our decisions. Orientation sessions will be held in O-Week (the week before the start of Semester 1).

If you require further information regarding the above process, please contact the Psychology Clinic Director, **Ms Alice Shires** (a.shires@unsw.edu.au).

Staff Members Taking Part in the MPsychol(Clin) Program

Academic Staff

Skye McDonald, (Program Director), BSc Monash, MSc Melb., PhD Macq.

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Karen E. Salmon, BA PhD Otago, Dip ClinPsych MSc Canterbury

Clinic Director

Alice Shires, BSc MSc (ClinPsychol) Univ. Coll. Lond.

Clinic Supervisors

Sharon Flanagan, BA MClinPsychol Syd.

Linda Salem, BSc MPsychol(Clin) UNSW

Jane Southwell, BEc (SocSc) MPsychol Syd.

Further Information

Enquiries about any aspect of the MPsychol(Clin) program may be addressed to:

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Enquiries about any aspect of the combined PhD/MPsychol (Clinical) program may be addressed to:

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The information contained in this brochure is correct as at September 2011. 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.

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