

## **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 39,000 students and a staff of 5,000 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 has been ranked as the top university in Australia for the second successive year in the 2009 Good Universities Guide.

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 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 (Forensic) Program**

The Master of Psychology (Forensic) program was offered for the first time in 1998. The degree is unique among masters programs in forensic psychology at Australian universities in that both a school of psychology and a law school are involved in its teaching. Each School at UNSW is a recognised leader in its field in Australia.

The program is accredited as fifth and sixth years of study leading to full membership of the Australian Psychological Society and to its College of Forensic Psychologists, and for registration as a psychologist in New South Wales.

## Aims of the Program

The Masters degree in Forensic Psychology provides graduate training for psychologists who intend to pursue a career in forensic settings. Forensic psychology is involved with all professional aspects of the interface between psychology and the law. There is an increasing demand from legal, investigative, corrective, and policy agencies across Australia to obtain psychological expertise in the understanding and management of forensic issues. Forensic psychologists work in a wide range of settings, including prisons, courts, police, probation and parole, child protection, juvenile justice, insurance, mediation, private practice, public policy and legislative review. Recent trends across Australia have resulted in forensic psychologists being in marked demand by many government and private organisations because specialised forensic expertise is required to meet the rising needs of many forensic agencies.

The MPsychol (Forensic) program aims to produce graduates with expertise in both the criminal and civil domains of forensic psychology. Graduates are equipped with knowledge and skills in a diverse range of areas, including interviewing and intervention skills, assessment and management of adult and child problems that present in forensic settings, investigative approaches, research, and policy development and evaluation, and expert testimony. The main aim of the program is to enable trainees to develop a broad range of forensic 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 forensic populations and client groups.

There is a strong emphasis on equipping students with knowledge and skills to conduct forensic psychological work in each of three primary areas: research, practice and policy. The emphasis on **theory** provides a framework for the study of individual and group behaviour in forensic settings. The emphasis on **research** develops an inquiring orientation to the analysis and solution of forensic issues and problems that are evidence-based. The program encourages the development of a scholarly and critical approach to the scientific foundations of forensic psychology. The emphasis on **practical** problem solving leads participants to develop and consolidate their skills in specific methodological, statistical, measurement and other empirical techniques and practices. Case-based learning, with considerable integration of psychological and legal skills, is emphasised. Trainees are encouraged to make explicit links between practical experience and the scientific and theoretical background to their work. Field placements enable trainees to gain experience in working with children, adolescents, and adults. All trainees will gain some experience of both individual and group treatment or facilitation, and in developing individual and group treatment plans.

The emphasis on policy development and evaluation leads students to develop criteria for applying research findings, balancing interests of stakeholders and affected parties, legal constituent groups to minimise harms and maximise benefits, ethical issues. Equally critical is the development of an ethical approach to forensic work, so that trainees recognise the limits to their own competence and the range of applicability of the models and methods they are using.

## 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 semester, practical work, such as field placement, continues throughout the year including semester breaks.

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 forensic staff.

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. Courses are usually scheduled on Monday and Tuesday (before 6pm). The final timetable of courses to be offered will be released by the University to students on 21 November for Semester 1 courses and 27 April for Semester 2 courses.

		S1=Semester 1 S2=Semester 2		Units of credit	hours/week	
					S1	S2
<b>Stage 1</b>						
LAWS9810	Criminal Law for Psychologists*			6	-	2
PSYC7000	Research and Evaluation Methods			6	-	2
PSYC7001	Psychological Assessment 1			6	3	-
PSYC7400	Interventions in Forensic Psychology 1+			6	3	-
PSYC7402	Applications of Forensic Psychology			6	-	2
PSYC7401	Interventions in Forensic Psychology 2			6	2	-
PSYC7409	Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 1			6		
PSYC7410	Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 2			6		
<b>Stage 2</b>						
LAWS9800	Civil Law for Psychologists*			6	-	2
PSYC7403	Experimental Psychology and Law			6	2	-
PSYC7411	Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 3			6		
PSYC7412	Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 4			6		
PSYC7413	Research Thesis (Forensic) 1			12		
PSYC7414	Research Thesis (Forensic) 2			12		

+ Students enrolled in PSYC7400 complete the Experimental Clinical Psychology 1 course (PSYC7212) as taken by students in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program.

\* The two Law for Psychologists courses are offered in Semester 2 in alternate years. Completion of one law course is not a prerequisite for enrolment in the other. Students enrol in the courses when they are offered, regardless whether they are in Stage 1 or Stage 2.

## Student Attendance

Some courses will include one-day or half-day workshops, often held on Tuesdays or Thursdays. It should be emphasised that this is not an external program. Students enrolled in the program are expected to attend all set lectures, seminars, and meetings. Absences from programmed course work will need to be explained to the staff member involved. Students are also encouraged to participate in the general academic and social life of the School, by attending School meetings, seminars, conferences and social gatherings.

The School gives a high priority to this program. Classes are generally small, and students receive a great deal of individual supervision and guidance. By the same token, a high level of performance is expected from the students.

Other members of the School also make contributions to the program, based on their distinctive knowledge. Likewise, distinguished forensic practitioners from outside the University occasionally give a short course of lectures on their particular area of expertise, which has the important effect of bringing the world of the forensic practice into the classroom.

## Program Components

The MPsychol(For) 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 credits)

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 comprised of supervised practice in forensic settings, weekly forensic psychology meetings and skills training workshops; and monthly meetings. Students will carry out supervised professional and research duties in a variety of forensic settings. Ideally, students will gain experience in research, policy-oriented and practice settings. The School arranges placements which will help the student to gain experience in a wide variety of forensic applications. Such placements do not normally involve payment.

Students may be permitted to combine some of their practical work requirements with their regular employment. In deciding whether this is feasible, the nature of the work being carried out, the availability of supervision by a registered psychologist and the relevance of the work to the aims of the program will be taken into account.

### **3 Research Thesis** (24 units of credits)

All students are required to complete a research thesis relevant to the area of forensic psychology involving the collection of data on a topic of their choice. The thesis is presented as an article of approximately 9,000 words suitable for submission to an appropriate forensic psychology journal.

## **1 Course Work**

### **LAWS9800 Civil Law for Psychologists**

This course aims to provide psychologists with an understanding of the framework within which Australian law operates, and to explore two particular areas of law of relevance for psychologists: civil notions of responsibility and competence; and family law, including issues concerning child custody and access. This course is offered in Session 2 every second year.

### **LAWS9810 Criminal Law for Psychologists**

An examination of three further areas of law which are of importance for forensic psychologists: the criminal law; the law of evidence; and the law relating to children. This course is offered in Session 2 every second year.

### **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 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 MPsychol(Forensic) 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.

### **PSYC7400 Interventions in Forensic Psychology 1**

An introduction to clinical practice that covers the major anxiety and mood disorders. This 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.

### **PSYC7401 Interventions in Forensic Psychology 2**

Working as a forensic psychologist involves assessing and managing a range of psychological problems. This course provides an overview of a range of assessment and intervention methods applicable to forensic psychology. The emphasis is on the scientist-practitioner model, and how evidence-based interventions can manage presentations within forensic settings. It will focus specifically on the theory and practice of interviewing and counselling forensic clients on topics including the assessment, treatment and prevention of child maltreatment; interviewing child witnesses; specific issues in interventions with crime victims; the prevention of juvenile offending; and interventions involving adult sexual offenders, violent offenders, and suicidal clients.

### **PSYC7402 Applications of Forensic Psychology**

A broad introduction and survey of forensic psychology theories and research, and an examination of issues relevant to applying psychological principles and theories to legal issues. Topics include psychological aspects and applications relevant to investigative and adjudicative aspects of the legal system, such as cognitive interviewing, eyewitness memory, punishment, and issues related to uses of scientific evidence by courts, such as via expert testimony. Alternative theories and methods of conflict resolution are examined, such as therapeutic jurisprudence, restorative justice, conferencing, and conciliation. Contributions of forensic psychologists in research, practice, and policy development are explored.

### **PSYC7403 Experimental Psychology and Law**

In-depth examination of the application of forensic psychology in different settings based on theory and research in social and experimental psychology and allied fields. Topics include aspects of eyewitness identification, jury behaviour, detections of deception, use of hypnosis, trial advocacy tactics, the effects of the media, and the psychology of terrorism, to name a few.

## **2 Professional Practice**

Across PSYC7409, PSYC7410, PSYC7411, and PSYC7412 students complete 1,000 hours of professional practice, consisting of supervised work in forensic field settings. Students also attend professional seminars, workshops and monthly meetings offered in the four Professional and Ethical Practice courses.

Field placements normally comprise 35 days in settings such as the courts, police, prisons, law reform or other related forensic settings. A range of placement options are available. From time to time it may be possible to negotiate alternative placements for trainees with special career interests. Trainees usually commence their first external placement in a research or policy-based setting upon completion of Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic)1 in their first year of enrolment in the program. The evaluation of the trainee's performance in each setting, completed by the supervising Psychologist contributes to the trainee's final grade in the Professional Practice component of the program.

### **PSYC7409 Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 1**

### **PSYC7410 Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 2**

### **PSYC7411 Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 3**

### **PSYC7412 Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 4**

The four Professional and Ethical Practice courses provide an introduction to skills training in a variety of tasks undertaken by forensic psychologists. They focus on practical training and a thorough understanding of ethical principles and practices within professional settings. Skills training includes interviewing, cognitive techniques, learning and practising various intervention techniques and strategies suited to specific target forensic populations. Students will learn to work with children and adults, individuals and groups, and will design treatment and intervention plans and forensic policy applications. In addition, students will gain practice writing reports for use by courts and in testifying as expert witnesses. Assessment will be conducted by simulated and videotaped practice, case presentations, formal reports, and quarterly submission of journals. Attendance at once-monthly meetings is required. Students are not allowed to progress to Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 3 and 4 until Professional and Ethical Practice (Forensic) 1 and 2 are completed. Throughout professional practice, emphasis is placed on the conduct of professional psychologists and on the maintenance of ethical practices.

Organisations which have provided placements in the recent past, or are prepared to provide placements in the future, include:

Acute Crisis Management Unit  
Australian Securities and Investments Commission  
Cedar Cottage  
Cessnock Correctional Centre  
Children's Court Clinic  
Community Mental Health  
Corrections Health Service  
Disability Services Unit  
Duffy Barrier Robilliard  
Family Court of Australia  
Forensic Psychology Service  
Injury Risk Management Centre  
John Morony Correctional Centre  
Kevin Waller Unit  
Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales  
Legal Aid  
Long Bay Hospital  
Magistrates' Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) Program  
Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre  
Metropolitan Special Programs Centre  
Mulawa  
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre  
New Zealand Department of Corrections  
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.  
NSW Department of Community Services  
NSW Department of Corrective Services  
NSW Department of Juvenile Justice  
NSW Drug Court  
NSW Justice Health  
NSW Law Reform Commission  
NSW Police  
Odyssey House  
Parklea Correctional Centre  
Restorative Justice Unit  
Royal North Shore Hospital  
Sex Offender Programmes (CUBIT)  
Social Policy Research Centre  
St George Community Service Centre  
St Vincent's Alcohol and Drug Service  
Sydney Counselling Centre  
Tom Benjamin  
UNSW Equity and Diversity Unit  
Violent Offender Programmes  
Western Sydney Area Health Service, Westmead Hospital  
Witness Assistance Service Office of Department of Public Prosecution  
Yolande Lucire

### **3 Research Thesis (PSYC7413 and PSYC7414)**

The research project and thesis component aims to help the student to develop research skills relevant to their subsequent forensic work. The thesis, therefore, should involve an investigation into some aspect of forensic psychology. The research project may be conducted either at the University or in a suitable field setting. No particular type of project is stipulated, 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 of approximately 9,000 words suitable for submission to a specific refereed journal.

PSYC7413 Research Thesis (Forensic) 1 and PSYC7414 Research Thesis (Forensic) 2 together contribute 25 per cent to the overall grade for the degree.

### **Award of Degree**

The degree of MPsychol(For) is 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(For) with a PhD**

A combined Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Psychology (Forensic) degree program is available over four full-time years. This program consists of a research project (PhD) on a forensic topic and the course work and professional practice components (12 courses) from the MPsychol(For) 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>

### **HECS, 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 honours at the level of either Class 1 or Class 2 Division 1 (Upper Second Class). The degree should include a research thesis as a major component.

Selection is based on academic qualifications for the program. As the number of places is limited, entry into the program is competitive. Two academic referees reports are required.

## Application Procedure

Applications for Semester 1 are due by 1 November of the previous year. The Forensic Program cannot be started in Semester 2.

The University code for the MPsychol(For) degree is **8257**.

1. Apply for admission by using the UNSW Apply Online service at

[www.apply.unsw.edu.au](http://www.apply.unsw.edu.au)

Further information including alternative means of application are available at <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 an **Academic/Professional Referee's Report** form. This form is available as a PDF File from [http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/students/current/files/PG\\_RefereesReport.pdf](http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/students/current/files/PG_RefereesReport.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

International applicants should refer to the current **UNSW Science International Student Postgraduate Prospectus** booklet, which provides much useful background material about the University and about living in Sydney, as well as other details relevant to postgraduate study such as English language requirements, tuition fees, and application procedures. This booklet can also be obtained from the International Office of the University.

Detailed information may also be found at <http://www.international.unsw.edu.au> (click on Future Students)

## Continuing Education

Students with an Honours degree in Psychology or those who have already completed an accredited fifth and sixth year Masters degree may be allowed to enrol in certain courses from the MPsychol(For) program as a non-award (voluntary) student, subject to the availability of places. Non-award enrolment allows students to undertake advanced training in special areas. It is not a chance for students without the normal Masters entrance qualifications such as those with an Honours 2/2 degree to rehabilitate themselves. Enrolment as a non-award student requires the permission of the Head of School.

Not all courses are available to non-award students.

Information on applying can be found at <http://www.unsw.edu.au/futureStudents/nonAward/sad/nonaward.html>

## **Staff members taking part in the MPsychol(For) program**

### **School of Psychology**

**Richard I. Kemp**, (Program Director) BSc Durham, PhD London

**Richard A. Bryant**, BA Syd., MClInPsych PhD Macq.

**Melanie Gleitzman**, BA PhD UNSW

**Jane Goodman-Delahunty**, BA MA Witwatersrand, JD Seattle, PhD Washington

**Jessica R. Grisham**, BA Pennsylvania, MA PhD Boston

**Brett K. Hayes**, BSc MPsychol(Clin) PhD UNSW

**Michelle Moulds**, BA MPsychol(Clin) Syd., PhD UNSW

**Benjamin Newell**, BSc Nottingham, PhD UNSW

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

**Helen Paterson**, BA UBC., PhD UNSW

### **Forensic Placement Co-ordinator:**

**Anita McGregor**, BA(Criminology) MEd(Counselling) Alberta

### **Visiting Staff**

**Kevin D. Bird**, BSc PhD UNSW

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

### **School of Law**

**Dorne Boniface**, BComLLB UNSW, LLM Syd.

**Sandra Egger**, BLegS Macq., BPsych PhD W.A.

**Owen D. Jessep**, BA LLB Syd., PhD A.N.U.

**Prudence E. Vines**, MA Syd., DipEd Syd. Teachers' Coll., LLB UNSW

## Honorary Associates

Mark Allerton  
Stephen Allnut  
Zaki Alto  
Gary Banks  
Katherine Barrier  
Jenny Barton  
Tom Benjamin  
Susi Blacker  
David Bright  
Suzanne Briscoe  
Carol Boland  
Rosemary Caruana  
Franka Cortoni  
Christine Coumarelos  
Peter Cowell  
Bronwyn Crosby  
Sarah Edmondson  
Michael Edwards  
Hans Elfeldt  
Erin Eggleston  
Michelle Fisher  
Sybille Frank  
Karen Freeman  
Jeff Gild  
Penny Golius  
Phil Gorrell  
Rachael Haggett  
Dean Harrison  
Bruce Hawthorne  
Peter Hennessey  
Seyed Hosseinipour  
Maria Karras  
Ruth Karski

Maree Keating  
Dianna Kenny  
Tim Keogh  
Greg Kirk  
Elzbieta Kobylinska  
Chris Lennings  
Jennifer Lette  
Yolande Lucire  
Richard P. Mattick  
Janet Milne  
Paul Nelson  
Theo Penglis  
Anna Powell  
Lee Purchase  
R. Paul Read  
Anna Robilliard  
Gwenda Schreiber  
Leonie Sequeira  
Thiagarajan Sitharthan  
Kirk Stenhouse  
Jude Stoddart  
Colleen Subir  
Narci Sutton  
Gordana Talevski  
David Taplin  
Lily Trimboli  
Pat Tumeth  
Liz Tong  
John Wagner  
Cathie Warburton  
Andrew Webster  
Anne Williamson  
Wendy Louise Walker  
Don Weatherburn  
Anne Young

## Further Information

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

Dr Richard I. Kemp  
Program Director  
School of Psychology  
The University of New South Wales  
Sydney NSW 2052 Australia  
Telephone: 61-2-9385-1401  
Facsimile: 61-2-9385-3641  
Email: [Richard.Kemp@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Richard.Kemp@unsw.edu.au)

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

A/Prof. Gavan McNally  
School of Psychology  
University of New South Wales  
Sydney NSW 2052  
Australia  
Telephone: 61-2-9385-3044  
Facsimile: 61-2-9385-3641  
Email: [g.mcnally@unsw.edu.au](mailto:g.mcnally@unsw.edu.au)

The information contained in this brochure is correct as at September, 2008. 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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