

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 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.

Research and Training Facilities of the School of Psychology

As one of the most highly reputed psychology departments in Australia, the School has excellent research and professional training facilities. The School occupies ten floors in a 16-storey building. It has extensive computing facilities including four undergraduate and two postgraduate teaching laboratories, a well-stocked psychological test library, a psychology clinic, and a technical workshop. Reflecting their high level of research funding, staff have established well-equipped computerised laboratories for research in cognitive psychology, perception, behavioural neuroscience, human neuropsychology, developmental psychology, social psychology and personality, psychophysiology, and applied experimental psychology. Several purpose-built laboratories with one-way screens and video and audio recording capabilities are also available for research in the areas of clinical and applied psychology, as well as for studies in social and developmental psychology. The School also has a driving simulator linked to an eye tracker and a large screen stereo graphics facility.

More specialised forms of equipment and other dedicated resources used by postgraduate students in their research work are typically provided by their thesis supervisor. The success of the academic staff within the School in attracting external funding to support their research and that of their students means that these facilities are similarly of a high standard. The School ensures that

there is also strong infrastructure support for each of these funded research programs. This includes the provision of technical support from well-staffed School and Faculty workshops comprising qualified computing, electronic, and mechanical engineering personnel. It also includes the maintenance of a well-stocked psychological test library.

The School also enjoys excellent relations with professional practitioners and external agencies involved in the provision of psychological services in the areas of clinical, forensic and organisational psychology throughout Sydney. These links encompass both the public and private sectors, and include the University's network of five teaching hospitals, community health services and the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre situated on the UNSW campus. The School's reputation and active involvement with these external bodies facilitate opportunities for conducting research in field settings. Sydney is a major centre for industry and commerce within the Asia-Pacific region and has a population of over 4 million people drawn from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Such an environment presents a rich array of possibilities for research-oriented psychologists in both applied and basic domains.

A Stimulating and Productive Postgraduate Research Environment

The School attaches the highest priority to the attainment of research excellence and to the advancement of knowledge relevant to psychology as a scientific and professional discipline. Special attention is paid to cultivating and fostering an environment in which the development of creative research ideas and the collection and dissemination of original research findings can flourish. Postgraduate research students are seen as vitally important contributors to as well as beneficiaries of this distinctive research-based climate and culture.

The School recognises the need to provide its postgraduate students with quality research supervision and regularly reviews the performance of its staff in this regard. Another major factor that can enrich the research experience of postgraduate research students is the presence of strong peer support. The School is fortunate to have an outstanding body of research students, including many who completed their degrees at other Australian or overseas universities.

The School's PhD graduates achieve excellent employment outcomes. Virtually all are employed in jobs that follow from their PhD studies. The majority have secured academic research and teaching positions both in Australia and in international universities in the U.S. (eg Harvard, Michigan), Britain (eg Oxford, Cardiff) and Europe (eg Trieste, Helsinki). Many are also employed in senior roles in government departments (eg Health, Road and Traffic Authority, NSW Crime Authority) and private companies (eg AMP, Pfizer, Commonwealth Bank). Reflecting employers' recognition of the broad skills acquired during a PhD and the independence and project management skills demonstrated by completion of the degree, many graduates are employed in areas different to the specific domain of their PhD research.

Resources provided for Postgraduate Research Students

The School endeavours to provide all research students with the infrastructure necessary for their research. All students enrolling in a PhD program are provided with office space and a new high quality computer equipped with current versions of relevant word processing and statistical packages. Students have access to the University's computer network, email and web services and to the UNSW library's extensive database and document delivery systems. Students are provided with basic office equipment and resources and have access to discretionary funds to support more specialised research needs. The School encourages students to develop good lines of communication with researchers in other parts of the world and to attend relevant national and international conferences. Financial assistance is provided for this purpose. Opportunities for paid part-time undergraduate teaching within the School are also taken up by most research students.

Academic Staff and their Research Interests

Refer to: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/school/contacts/astafflist.html>

Postgraduate Research Programs in Psychology

The School offers three research degrees:

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Master of Science (MSc)
- Combined Doctor of Philosophy / Master of Psychology (PhD/MPsychol)
 - which combines the PhD with either
 - Master of Psychology (Clinical)
 - Master of Psychology (Forensic)
 - Master of Psychology (Organisational)

Doctor of Philosophy (Program code **1400**)

The PhD degree is recognised in every country in the world, and signals the culmination of a successful research training experience. Students conduct a research project designed to provide “an original and significant contribution to knowledge” within a domain of psychology and present this research and its theoretical and empirical background and implications in a thesis of no more than 100,000 words. Examination of the thesis is carried out by external examiners from elsewhere in Australia or overseas with acknowledged expertise in the research area involved. The recommended length of enrolment for a full-time PhD student is 3 years (6 semesters) and candidates are expected to present their thesis for examination no later than 4 years (8 semesters) from the commencement of their enrolment. Options do exist for part-time enrolment and for a certain amount of external study towards this degree, subject to approval.

Master of Science (Program code **2450**)

The MSc is a lower level research qualification. Students must undertake an original investigation but it is more limited in its scope and in the degree of originality expected than the PhD. External examiners evaluate the thesis and to indicate whether it merits the awarding of the degree. The recommended length of enrolment for a full-time Masters research student is two years (4 semesters), and candidates must submit their thesis for examination no later than 3 years (6 semesters) from the commencement of their enrolment. Part-time and external study options may be available, subject to the approval of the School.

Concurrent Coursework in the PhD and MSc Programs

The PhD and MSc programs at UNSW are essentially pure research degrees. All research students are expected to attend the School Postgraduate Research Seminar and the School Research Colloquium but, in contrast to some overseas countries, it is not usual for students enrolled in these degrees to undertake a comprehensive array of coursework. In general, it is assumed that students will have acquired a thorough grounding in psychology as a scientific discipline prior to their admission as a PhD or MSc candidate. For some students, particularly those admitted from overseas universities, a limited number of additional courses may be prescribed to ensure that they have the knowledge and methodological skills expected for postgraduate research at UNSW. PhD students are also permitted, with approval, to take selected courses from the Master of Psychology degrees that are relevant to their research. Such concurrent coursework can also contribute to satisfying the requirements for recognition by the NSW Psychologists' Registration Board.

Combined PhD / Master of Psychology (Clinical, Forensic, Organisational) Programs

The PhD / MPsychol degrees (Clinical–Program code **1404**, Forensic–Program code **1405**, Organisational–Program code **1406**) are designed to train a select group of postgraduate students to undertake high calibre research in areas relevant to the professional practice of psychology. These degrees are not available to overseas students holding an EIPRS or UIPA.

One of the strengths of the psychological training at UNSW is its Scientist-Practitioner approach. This approach emphasises the mutual interactions between the science and practice of psychology: the science of psychology should lead to improved practice; the practice of psychology should generate problems and hypotheses that are investigated by psychological scientists; and practitioners should draw upon scientific knowledge and methods in their professional practice. This approach to training in psychology is reflected in the School's undergraduate programs and in the Master of Psychology (Clinical), (Forensic) and (Organisational) programs. The undergraduate programs focus primarily on the basic discipline of psychology, while the Master of Psychology (Clinical), (Forensic) and (Organisational) programs emphasise professional practice. The combined PhD/MPsychol program takes the Scientist-Practitioner approach to its logical limits by coupling the research and practice components to include (a) a research project that constitutes a significant contribution to our knowledge of the nature of psychological processes in clinical/forensic/organisational areas, and (b) the coursework and professional supervision necessary to practise as a psychologist. Many of the School's academic staff have particular expertise in undertaking research in clinical, forensic and organisational settings, and these staff, in particular, provide specific training of postgraduate students in the strategies necessary to undertake research in professionally relevant areas. The advantage of a combined PhD/MPsychol degree over the professional doctorate (DPsych) degree offered by some universities is that the PhD component is identical to a stand-alone PhD and therefore prepares students for an independent academic or research career. The combined program is also recognised as a research higher degree, and hence students are eligible for research scholarships such as Australian Postgraduate Awards.

All the combined degree programs have the same general structure and all require a minimum of four full-time years for completion. In each degree students complete:

- a research project that satisfies the requirements for a PhD;
- the coursework and professional practice requirements for the Master of Psychology in either Clinical, Forensic or Organisational Psychology.

The research requirements for all combined programs are identical to those for the PhD. The research project must be original and lead to a significant contribution to knowledge about psychological processes relevant to the applied domain of the specific degree (Clinical, Forensic or Organisational). The coursework programs are accredited as providing the fifth and sixth years of study leading to full membership of the Australian Psychological Society and the relevant professional College, and they all also satisfy the requirements for registration as a psychologist in New South Wales.

In the combined degree programs, students work on their research project during the entire four years of their candidature and the coursework component is also distributed across the four years of enrolment. Each coursework program includes twelve courses (see below). In the first year students normally take 3 courses in order to master the basic concepts and skills that will enable them to conduct research in the relevant professional domain. They also plan their research project and prepare a research proposal which must be submitted by the end of the first year. Enrolment in coursework after the first year is conditional on submission of the research proposal. Students then take 3 courses per year for the remainder of their candidature. However, enrolment in these courses is subject to satisfactory progression in the research project and thesis. Combined degrees require full-time enrolment and cannot be completed part-time.

Because relevant PhD scholarships (e.g., Australian Postgraduate Awards) may only provide three years of financial support, the School will extend such scholarships to provide a total of four years support, subject to satisfactory progress.

Master of Psychology Coursework Component

The coursework component of each of the Master of Psychology programs consist of 12 one-semester courses that cover the theoretical and empirical content relevant to the professional domain, and provide comprehensive training and supervision in the professional skills of the domain through a combination of internal and external professional placements.

Clinical Coursework Program

This coursework program focuses on training in the diagnosis, assessment and treatment of people with a range of psychological problems or disabilities, and the training stems from a strong theoretical and empirical background in experimental clinical psychology. PSYC7000 Research and Evaluation Methods, PSYC7204 Child Clinical Psychology, PSYC7210 Human Neuropsychology, PSYC7212 Experimental Clinical Psychology 1, PSYC7220 Psychology of Health and Illness, PSYC7221 Experimental Clinical Psychology 2, PSYC7222 Experimental Clinical Psychology 3, PSYC7223 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 1, PSYC7224 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 2, PSYC7225 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 3, PSYC7226 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 4

(See the Master of Psychology (Clinical) booklet for course descriptions)

Forensic Coursework Program

This coursework program focuses on the application of psychological principles to forensic contexts. It includes training in the assessment of people with a range of psychological disorders, disabilities and/or special needs, advanced interviewing and counselling skills for dealing with such clients. The courses also develop familiarity with statutory and common law provisions and procedures and government policies and programs relevant to different forensic settings, and covers psychological issues relevant to the courtroom and to expert testimony.

LAWS9800 Law for Psychologists 1, LAWS9810 Law for Psychologists 2, PSYC7000 Research and Evaluation Methods, PSYC7001 Psychological Assessment 1, PSYC7400 Interventions in Forensic Psychology 1, PSYC7401 Interventions in Forensic Psychology 2, PSYC7402 Applications of Forensic Psychology, PSYC7403 Experimental Psychology and Law, 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

(See the Master of Psychology (Forensic) booklet for course descriptions)

Organisational Coursework Program

This coursework program focuses on theories, practice and research in industrial and organisational psychology and in human factors.

PSYC7000 Research and Evaluation Methods, PSYC7002 Psychological Assessment 2, PSYC7100 Psychology of Organisations 1, PSYC7101 Psychology of Organisations 2, PSYC7102 Learning, Training and Development, PSYC7115 Career Choice and Development, PSYC7117 Advanced Topics in Organisational Psychology, PSYC7122 Professional and Ethical Practice (Organisational) 1, PSYC7123 Professional and Ethical Practice (Organisational) 2, PSYC7124 Professional and Ethical Practice (Organisational) 3, PSYC7125 Professional and Ethical Practice (Organisational) 4, PSYC7129 Assessment in Organisations.

(See the Master of Psychology (Organisational) booklet for course descriptions)

Choosing Between Research Degrees

MSc vs PhD

A PhD is the research qualification that is normally required for appointment to an academic position in Psychology both in Australia and overseas. An MSc is an appropriate research qualification for individuals whose aim is a supervised research position within the public or private sector. Students whose educational and research qualifications are insufficient for direct enrolment in the PhD may enrol in an MSc degree initially, and transfer to the PhD on the basis of successful performance in the first year of the degree.

PhD vs Combined PhD/MPsychol degrees

The PhD is the appropriate qualification for an individual whose goal is an academic or research career in psychology either in the higher education sector or in other public or private settings. Such careers do not require the comprehensive professional education and training included in the Master of Psychology programs. Neither is it necessary to complete a Master of Psychology degree to achieve registration as a psychologist in NSW. Students whose PhD research includes sufficient experience in psychological assessment and interventions can apply for registration on the basis of their PhD studies alone. Alternatively, PhD students can complete selected Master of Psychology courses concurrently with their PhD to satisfy registration requirements regarding psychological assessment and intervention. The PhD takes 3 rather than 4 years to complete and is therefore the more appropriate degree for individuals whose primary goal is a research-related career.

The Combined PhD/MPsychol programs are designed for individuals who want to be able to practice as a professional psychologist as well as to conduct research. The combination of a PhD research project and the full coursework requirements of the Master of Psychology degrees results in a very demanding program that requires both an excellent academic capability and the aptitude for professional training and practice. The program takes at least 4 years to complete and can only be taken full-time. Students who have not completed both components of their degree (thesis and coursework) by the end of 5 years will be required to transfer to a PhD program, and when this is completed, they may enrol in the relevant Masters program to complete any outstanding coursework requirements. Any fees associated with the Masters program will be payable by the student. Students are therefore advised to consider carefully the demands of the combined program before enrolling in it.

An alternative strategy preferred by some students is to enrol in the relevant MPsychol degree for one semester or for a full year, and then apply for entry to the combined PhD/MPsychol program. All courses completed during the MPsychol enrolment are credited towards the combined program. The advantage of this approach is that it reduces the amount of coursework which must be completed concurrently with the PhD, and hence reduces pressure on the student. The disadvantage is that students are not eligible for PhD scholarship support (e.g., Australian Postgraduate Awards) during the initial MPsychol enrolment.

Admission Requirements

The admission of applicants as candidates for the PhD, MSc or combined PhD/MPsychol programs at UNSW is dependent on three key considerations:

1. Whether the applicant has the required academic qualifications;
2. Whether appropriate research supervision is available for the applicant; and
3. Whether the necessary resources are available or can be provided to support the research proposed by the applicant.

For PhD admission, a First Class Honours degree in Psychology from an Australian university, or its equivalent from overseas, is usually required. Applicants who did not gain the equivalent of First Class Honours in their initial degree but who have since demonstrated in other ways (e.g., research experience, publications, or further study at an advanced level) that they have the potential to succeed as a PhD student, may also be accepted.

For the MSc program, an Honours degree in Psychology at the Second Class Division One level, or its equivalent, is the minimum academic qualification for entry.

Entry to the Combined PhD/MPsychol requires an upper First Class Honours degree or equivalent. Applicants being considered for entry to this program will be invited to participate in a selection interview, either in person or by phone, to evaluate suitability for the combined academic and professional demands of the degree and to determine whether an appropriate supervisor is

available in the area of the applicant's research project

Applicants who do not possess an Honours degree in Psychology, or its equivalent, or whose qualifications are unable to be evaluated fully, may be advised to take one of the following programs on the understanding that if they meet the required standard, and if suitable supervision and resources are available, they will then be admitted as postgraduate research students.

1. Bachelor Honours degree

Graduates with a three-year Pass Science degree from an Australian university who have completed the prerequisites in Psychology at a level deemed by the School to be appropriate may enrol in the Fourth Year Bachelor of Science Honours program in Psychology.

2. Graduate Diploma in Psychology

Overseas graduates with good grades in Psychology but who have not done a similar amount of study in this discipline as required for an Honours degree here, may be enrolled in a one-year full-time program designed to equip them with the basic competencies and skills assumed in postgraduate research students. This will normally include a supervised empirical study carried out in the same area as proposed for their postgraduate research project, as well as prescribed courses.

Research Supervision

Applicants for postgraduate admission may nominate the particular member of the academic staff within the School whose research interests appear closest to their own. Ideally, students should contact potential supervisors prior to lodging their application so as to ascertain their availability and support. The School will endeavour to match students with an appropriate supervisor. However, it is important to recognise that staff members are limited in how many students they can effectively supervise and some research topics may not be able to be supervised by available staff.

When submitting an application for admission, students are required to provide a very brief research proposal. A staff member who has indicated their willingness to supervise the proposed research can help with the preparation of this summary. It is important to realise, though, that one of the primary purposes of this short statement of research intent is to enable the School to evaluate whether the equipment, resources and infrastructure required for the research are available within the School.

Financial Support

Various sources of financial support exist for postgraduate research students. It is strongly recommended that students coming from other countries ensure that they will be financially secure prior to the commencement of their work towards their degree. Overseas applicants are particularly encouraged, therefore, to investigate available options early so as not to miss out on closing dates. It is not possible here to list all of the available sources of funding, many of which are restricted to students working in particular areas of research or to students from particular countries. Visit the UNSW web site on Scholarships and Finding a Scholarship at UNSW:
<http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/scholarships/scholarshipshome.html>

Australian Postgraduate Award (APA)

An Australian Postgraduate Award is the major source of support for those who are Australian or New Zealand citizens, or who have been permanent residents for 12 months prior to applying. Selection for these awards is based on academic merit. In recent years a clear First Class Honours degree or its equivalent has been required to gain an APA. The award is for three years for a PhD or combined PhD/MPsychol and provides an annual stipend plus exemption from HECS. A six-month extension may be granted. Note that APAs cannot be transferred to another institution. Applications for these Awards must be lodged with the University by 31 October.

The University offers an equivalent scholarship to an APA called the University Postgraduate Award (UPA.). Offers for this are made on the basis of APA applications.

Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (EIPRS)

These scholarships are open to citizens of all overseas countries (excluding New Zealand) who wish to undertake full-time study. The award is for three years, with the possibility of six-month extension. Applications must be lodged before the student is actually enrolled as a PhD student. Applications close 31 August. The EIPRS provides the tuition fees, medical cover, with charges (except costs related to visa health checks) and an annual living allowance stipend of \$20,000 for the duration of the award. The scholarship is not transferable to another institution.

The University offers an equivalent scholarship to an EIPRS called the University International Postgraduate Award (UIPA). Selected is based on the EIPRS application. Travel concessions are not available to students on a UIPA

Scholarships funded from School Staff Research Grants

Another potential source of financial support for postgraduate research students comes from research grants held by individual staff within the School. Most of the academic staff in the School have external funding to support their own research and that of their research students. To access these funds, students should make inquiries with the relevant staff member. Again, it is important to investigate this possibility early so that an appropriate budget amount is included in any grant application being submitted during the year. An increasing number of postgraduate research students in the School are receiving financial assistance from this source.

School Bridging Scholarships

The School may also offer Bridging Scholarships to students who just miss out on an APA and who look like very strong prospects for securing an award the next year. Students awarded such a scholarship are paid at the APA level for one year.

Casual Teaching appointments

Research students are frequently employed for 3-4 hours/week during teaching semesters as casual tutors on the School's large undergraduate courses. Working under the supervision of academic staff, research students teach tutorial groups of 20 to 25 students and carry out the student consultation and marking associated with the course. As well as supplementing their income (the average yearly income for a student who teaches 3 hours in each semester is over \$5,000. This provides students with valuable teaching experience that contributes to their subsequent employability in a variety of contexts.

The John Clark Memorial Award in Psychology

This award of \$1,000 is for one year. Applicants must be enrolled in a postgraduate program in Psychology undertaking research in an area concerned with the ongoing problems of the community, particularly the behaviour of the 'whole person' in a social milieu. Applications close 30 June.

Application Procedure

Applications close 20 December for Semester 1 start and 30 May for Semester 2. Note the combined PhD/MPsychol program cannot be started in Semester 2.

1. Apply for admission by either
 - (a) applying online (www.apply.unsw.edu.au) or
 - (b) download an application <http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/futurestudents/studentforms.html>

2. If applying for the combined PhD/MPsychol program, 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

The School may approach referees for additional information.

Note:

- (a) Either the Postgraduate Coordinator or the Head of the School should be contacted prior to applying for admission in order to discuss details of the proposed research (i.e., the subject area in which the research will be undertaken, the outline of the research, the place where the research will be conducted, and the choice of supervisor).

- (b) Application for admission to the School is separate from application for a scholarship, like an APA or EIPRS.

Overseas Applications

International applicants should refer to the current **International Postgraduate Guide for Science**, 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 guide can also be obtained from the International Office of the University or it can be downloaded as a PDF from <http://www.unswprospectus.webcentral.com.au/>

Further Information

- Enquiries about any aspects of the PhD, MSc or combined PhD/MPsychol programs may be addressed to:

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- School of Psychology website: www.psy.unsw.edu.au
- UNSW Graduate Research School website: <http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/homepage.html>
- UNSW International: <http://www.international.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 requirements or other information herein without any prior notice.

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