POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMMES

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

This programme is restricted to New Zealand and Australian citizens/permanent residents.

Applications open on the 1st of September and must be received before the 1st of November.

NOTE: The dates for the selection processes and interviews are set for 25th, 26th and 27th November 2019

Students who are selected for interview must be able to attend the interviews in Auckland on these days in person to be considered for the programme.

The DClinPsy has accreditation from the New Zealand Psychologists Board. Graduates are eligible to be registered in the Clinical Psychology Scope of Practice of the Psychologists Board.

The Clinical Psychology programme consists of four years:

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To gain entry into the Doctor of Clinical Psychology Degree programme students must be selected into the Preparatory Clinical Year.

In the Preparatory Clinical Year Courses will then be taken under either an Honours degree or a bridging programme (for those who already have an Honours or a Masters Degree in Psychology). These courses include compulsory Clinical Psychology courses, and these courses must be passed with a sufficiently high grade to continue into the Doctorate. Students must also continue to display the ability and personal qualities necessary to pursue a doctoral level research-oriented clinical programme in the field of clinical psychology.

Students are welcome to apply for the programme whether or not they already have an honours or masters degree in psychology.

Applicants will need to complete the application process on Student Services Online as well as submitting the Clinical Programme Application Form that is found on our Forms and Guides page [https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/forms-and-guides.html](https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/forms-and-guides.html)
When applying online you will need to select either **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) in Preparatory Clinical Psychology**. If you already have a higher degree in Psychology, please select a **Certificate of Proficiency in Science** (bridging programme). Even if your background is in Arts, you should still apply for a CoP under Science.

*Your previous tertiary qualifications will be verified before your application for the Clinical Programme is considered.*

**Minimum Academic Prerequisites for Entry into the Preparatory Clinical Psychology Year for Applicants with a Bachelors Degree**

In order to be admitted to the Preparatory Clinical Psychology year students with a Bachelors Degree need to meet the entry requirement for entry into the BSc(Hons) or BA(Hons) **at a minimum**, namely:

- Have completed the University of Auckland requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science/Arts in Psychology or an approved equivalent qualification.
- and
  - BSc (Hons): completed 90 points above Stage II, a major in Psychology, and obtained a GPA of at least 5.0 in 45 points above Stage II in Psychology
  - BA(Hons): completed a major in Psychology and obtained a GPA of at least 5.0 in 45 points above Stage II in Psychology

**and have completed the course PSYCH 306 (Research Methods in Psychology) or an approved equivalent.**

*To continue from the Preparatory Clinical Year into the Doctor of Clinical Psychology candidates must complete the honours year with a GPA of at least 6.0 overall, as well as having completed PSYCH 708, 718, 723 and 779 with at least a GPA 5.0 (B grade), and a B+ grade or better in PSYCH 780 (or approved equivalent courses/thesis). and have demonstrated the ability and personal qualities necessary to pursue a doctoral level research-oriented clinical programme in the field of clinical psychology.*

**Minimum Academic Prerequisites for Applicants with a Higher Degree in Psychology (Honours or Masters)**

Direct entry to the Doctor of Clinical Psychology is possible, but only if students have already completed an Honours or Masters degree in Psychology with a GPA of at least 6.0 overall, as well as having completed PSYCH 708, 718, and 723 with at least a GPA 5.0 (B grade), and a B+ grade or better in PSYCH 780 (or approved equivalent courses)., and have demonstrated the ability and personal qualities necessary to pursue a doctoral level research-oriented clinical programme in the field of clinical psychology.

Students who have already completed a higher degree in Psychology (Honours or Masters) with a GPA of at least 6.0, but who have not completed all the prerequisite courses PSYCH 708, 718, 723 (or approved equivalents) will need to complete those courses in a bridging year through COP Science with at least a GPA 5.0 (B grade), and have a B+ grade or better in PSYCH 780 (or equivalent research project/thesis in Psychology.)

**NOTE:** if accepted directly into the Doctor of Clinical Psychology programme students stand down from study while the remainder of their cohort completes the Preparatory year so that they transition into the doctoral programme with their cohort.

In addition to the minimum academic prerequisites all applicants will also need to
demonstrate professional attributes suitable for becoming a clinical psychologist. A written supplementary application, personal references and an interview will normally be required.

**Supplementary Application and Referee Requirements**

The Supplementary Application Form AND three supporting references are to be submitted between 1 September and 1 November. Early applications are encouraged. You can find the forms on [https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/forms-and-guides.html](https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/forms-and-guides.html)

Professional referees cannot be family members or friends, unless commenting on informal work experience. The Character reference can be a colleague or friend. You must provide one referee who can comment on your tertiary academic performance, and one referee who can comment on your relevant formal or informal clinical/work experience. For the academic reference we suggest a research supervisor, or course co-ordinator who knows you. If you are completing your undergraduate degree we appreciate it is difficult to get someone to comment directly on your academic ability, so rely more heavily on your work references. Work references should preferably be from a line manager and **not** a colleague. If you have any questions about the suitability or eligibility of your referee choices please contact Sheryl Robertson at psych-postgradapp@auckland.ac.nz

Please ask your referees to e-mail their confidential Letter of Reference directly to Sheryl Robertson at psych-postgradapp@auckland.ac.nz. It is your responsibility to check with your referees that these have been sent in time to meet the nominated closing date (see Reference Form). Letters of Reference received after this date may not be considered.

**Postgraduate Students NEW to The University of Auckland**

Applicants for postgraduate programmes who have not been enrolled previously at The University of Auckland must apply for admission using the online application process. [https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/applications-and-admissions/apply-now.html](https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/applications-and-admissions/apply-now.html) This application for admission to The University of Auckland must be made as early as possible to prevent delays in the assessment of your qualifications. Please do not apply as a Doctor of Clinical Psychology application. At this point you are applying for the Preparatory year.

*Verification of your previous university qualifications is required before your application to the School of Psychology for the Clinical Programme can be considered.*

A separate application to the School of Psychology must be made by **1 November.** School of Psychology supplementary applications can be submitted from 1 September onwards.

- It is important you do not miss this step. Without the supplementary application form, the Selection Panel cannot review your application.
The Selection Process

The Clinical Psychology programme is extremely competitive (only 14 places will be available in 2020), and meeting the minimum prerequisites does not guarantee a place in the programme. A selection process occurs that takes into account an applicant’s academic performance and other criteria appropriate to being a successful Clinical Psychologist. Decisions are made by a Selection Committee that consists of two School of Psychology staff members in Clinical Psychology, a Māori Clinical Psychologist and a senior Maori Clinical Psychologist from the community.

The School of Psychology is responsive to its responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and committed to achieving equity outcomes for under-represented groups in the Clinical Psychology profession. A preference scheme for admission to this programme operates for appropriate groups.

There are three steps in the selection process.

1) Applications will be reviewed to check that minimum academic criteria as outlined above are met and the application is complete (including supplementary form and references received).

2) Applications will be ranked for shortlisting to interview, based only on the information in the application and the referee reports. Approximately 30 applicants will be selected from this stage including all suitable Māori candidates. The criteria used are:

- **Academic performance** (Score out of 9) A GPA score is calculated based on using the average of your four highest scoring psych courses at level III. PSYCH 306 or equivalent Research Methods in Psychology course, is absolutely necessary and this grade will be considered in the assessment. If you are applying prior to finishing your undergraduate degree, and interviews occur before final grades are released, we will use you mid term averages across your top scoring level III psych papers.

- **Work Experience**: (Score out of 10) The amount of relevant work experience is assessed. Work experience may be paid and/or unpaid work experience, but must be relevant to the skills required for being a clinical psychology, especially in dealing with mental health consumers. Included in this will be caregiving responsibilities with family/whanau.

- **Personal experience**: (Score out of 10) assessment of this is based on the information supplied in the application and references.”

In addition, a preference scheme applies. All suitably qualified Māori applicants will be interviewed. Applicants who are of Pacific descent1; who have disabilities2; are from a refugee background3; or are LGBTIQ+ will have 1 point added for each grounds for preference, up to a maximum of 2 additional points.

If you wish to be considered for preference as a Māori or Pacific descent student you will

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1 **Pacific students** for the purposes of this preference refers to students of indigenous Pacific descent who are citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand. Pacific descent refers to indigenous students from the following islands; Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji, Rotuma, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Wallis and Futuna, Hawaii, French Polynesia, Rapanui (Easter Island)

2 **Students with Disabilities** for the purposes of this preference refers to students who are blind or deaf; students with hearing or vision impairments; students with impairment due to head injury, medical conditions or mental health conditions; students with physical or mobility impairments; students with speech impairments and students with specific learning disabilities

3 **Students from Refugee Backgrounds** for the purposes of this preference refers to students who have themselves or whose parents/primary guardian(s) have been granted refugee in New Zealand
need to attach the Certification document to your application. If you wish to apply under disability, refugee background or LGBTIQ+ you will need to self identify on the application form and provide details of how this has influenced your identity and ambition to become a Clinical Psychologist in the Personal Experience section of the application form.

3) Shortlisted candidates are interviewed. The dates for the clinical interviews are set each year for November. The interview process allows the Selection Committee to judge more accurately the suitability of applicants for the programme. It is not possible to interview applicants outside of these dates, and interviews must take place in person.

**INTERVIEW PROCESS:**
*First Morning (25 November 2019):*

- All applicants are expected to attend a selection whakatau where they will be welcomed by staff and students of the programme. Whanau and support people are welcome.
- Following the whakatau, all applicants will take part in a group activity.
- This is followed by a written exercise.

*Afternoon of First day onwards (25th afternoon – 27 November 2019):*
- Each shortlisted applicant will have an approx. 20 minute individual interview with the selection panel.

**SCORING:**

- **Group Exercise out of 10 points**
- **Written Exercise out of 10 points**

Each of the four selection committee members will also give an individual score for the individual interview out of 40.

**Criteria being assessed will include**

- **Communication Skills:** the ability to communicate with a wide range of people in a non-judgmental, accepting and genuine manner. This includes good listening skills as well as being able to express yourself clearly.
- **Compassion:** able to be warm, supportive and patient, and for this to be sufficiently overt for it to be perceived by clients and colleagues.
- **Self-awareness/reflexivity:** awareness of your own values, motivations, issues and limitations.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** have experience with and level of sensitivity towards people from different cultural backgrounds.
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** We are looking for your behavioural commitments to the Treaty of Waitangi and how they have informed your identity.
- **Ability to Contribute:** ability to contribute in a group (staff team, student class), including willingness to offer ideas, skills and knowledge, assertiveness, ability to be cooperative and supportive of others.

**DECISION:**

*For the 2020 intake, up to 14 applicants will be made a firm offer for a place in the programme.*

The Clinical Psychology programme aspires to offer 50% of the available places to Māori students, subject to them achieving a ranking by selection score in the top 25
of those interviewed. The remaining places will be offered based on the selection score.

Every effort will be made to notify applicants as early as possible whether they have been successful, unsuccessful, or placed on the short waiting list. The programme will begin at the beginning of Semester 1 (end February/beginning March - exact dates will be available on the university website) and students are expected to be available for orientation to the course one week before that date. There are no mid year intakes.

Confidentiality

The information in the applications and the confidential referees’ reports will be read ONLY by the Selection Committee members and members of the University staff necessary to manage the admission process (including any appeals). All University staff who have access to application material will treat all the material as confidential. After the selection process (including any appeals) is complete, all applications and referees’ reports of unsuccessful applicants will be destroyed.

Additional Information

A Treaty of Waitangi 12-hour introductory course is incorporated into the Orientation week. This is an essential requirement for the programme.

Academic Integrity course: all students who have not previously completed this online course are expected to complete the course in the first semester of the Preparatory Clinical Psychology year (see https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/forms-policies-and-guidelines/student-policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-copyright/academic-integrity-course.html).

The Vulnerable Children’s Act (2014) was introduced in an effort to further support child protection. It sets out procedures for the vetting of all children’s workers who provide a regulated service in a specified organisation. The services included under the Act include mental health services, CYF, schools etc. Students on placements qualify as children’s workers under the Act.

Police vetting is different to the Police check/Criminal Conviction History report. Vetting involves Police searching any records they have of you, and then reporting directly to the Agency (School of Psychology). The vetting we do now will cover you for work in DHBs etc. for a three year period. This takes you to the Internship year, at which time all Interns are vetted again independently by the Psychologists Board and by employers.

The process involves:

- Identity verification that includes sighting the originals of primary and secondary identity document. The primary identity document will usually be a passport or birth certificate, and the secondary document a New Zealand driver license or New Zealand student ID card. If the person’s name is different from that on their identity documents, they must provide supporting name change documents;
- New Zealand police vetting service;
- Reference check helps to determine whether the person poses a risk to the safety of children. If the first referee raises concerns, then obtaining further references would seem appropriate;
- Interview in person;
- Self-Report form;
- Work history over the previous 5 years, including memberships of or licensing/registration by relevant professional organisations. If such membership/registration exists, this must be confirmed with at least one of the organisations named. Confirmation can be done through an electronic register.
**Immunisation** will be required if accepted into the Clinical Psychology programme. Applicants should note that clinical placements in hospitals and other health care settings require that people providing clinical services in these settings are immunised against certain diseases.

The University of Auckland requires all students involved in contact with patients, children or other members of the public to complete the same infectious disease screening procedures as qualified psychologists working for District Health Boards. The purpose of this screening/immunisation procedure is to minimise the risk of infectious disease transmission between staff, students and patients, specifically those involved in direct patient contact.

- Contact your local General Practitioner as soon as possible for advice on how to organise and prepare for your immunisation screening programme. Your GP will also need to sign-off your test results.

If you are intending to travel over the holiday period please inform your GP as this may have implications for the timing of your screening programme. The immunisations process must be completed by June. Please note that the immunisation against hepatitis B (if required) involves a course of three injections over a 3-6 month period.

Please be aware that there will be a charge for testing and for any immunisations that are required. If you have a community services card (CSC) please take it with you when you go for your immunisation screening programme. Application forms for CSCs are available from WINZ. These take a couple of weeks for WINZ to process so if you need one please apply well in advance. Students are responsible for all costs related to their immunisation testing/screening and related to any immunisations needed. No reimbursement is possible for students. You will also be advised of any risks associated with immunisation, for example, pregnancy should be avoided for the first three months after MMR vaccination.

Infectious diseases targeted by our Immunisation Screening Programme are: measles, mumps, varicella zoster, rubella (German measles), hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis, methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Other immunisations that should be considered:

- Immunisation for Meningococcal C is recommended but not required. This is because there seems to be an increased rate of Meningococcal C disease in young people living in hostel accommodation or other crowded environments and so this is potentially applicable to all students, not especially to those engaged in health care studies.
- Immunisation for Seasonal Flu is recommended but not required. It is recommended annually to protect students, patients and reduce community spread.
- Immunisation for Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Pertussis is recommended but not required. Most students will have completed vaccination in childhood. Booster recommended around age 20.
- Immunisation for HPV (human papillomavirus) is recommended for female students but not required.
- Pertussis is required if you have a placement on paediatric wards in a hospital. You will be informed of this by the Director of Clinical Education.

**Application for Honours Degree**
Students who are applying for the Clinical Psychology programme will need to apply online for a BSc (Hons) or a BA (Hons) and choose the Preparatory Clinical Psychology option. If an applicant is not selected, they will still be eligible to be considered for a general Honours Degree. Please note that there is a separate Supplementary Application form involved if you wish to be considered.

**Demands of the Clinical Psychology Programme**
The Clinical programme makes heavy demands on time, energy and personal resources. In addition to high academic demands of learning theory, research and professional practice the process of
becoming a good clinical psychologist may challenge your existing behaviour patterns and beliefs regarding yourself in interaction with others. If you have not already done so, please consider for yourself if any of the following would seriously threaten your ability to undertake the programme at this time:

1. Current severe stresses such as major financial difficulties, recent losses or major illness or medical condition;

2. Lack of social support networks;

3. A “40 hour/week job” orientation. The nature of the training (and clinical work in general) is that there are times of intense activity and times of lulls – you will sometimes need to work longer than regular hours. Students will also need to remain active over semester breaks, especially in regard to the Doctoral Thesis;

4. This is an Auckland-based University training programme. Applicants need to be aware that all clinical field placements and the Internship will be undertaken in the Auckland region. Applicants need to seriously consider this prior to applying for this programme.

Financial Support
We cannot guarantee that all internships will be as paid employment. The DClinPsy programme is considered a full-time activity. Upon consultation with staff, we do accept that students may undertake limited outside employment.

Students completing the DClinPsy should also apply for grants and scholarships, the details of which are available from the Scholarships Office [https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/for/current-students/cs-scholarships-and-awards.html].

Structure of Clinical Programme
The Postgraduate Clinical Psychology Programme at the University of Auckland has a four year duration. Study commences with a one year Honours degree in Psychology (specialising in the area of clinical psychology). Successful candidates then continue in the following year in the three year Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy).

Preparatory Clinical Psychology Year (BA/BSc HONOURS or Bridging programme (COP))
You will be required to enrol in courses totalling 120 points, with the exception for CoP students

This includes compulsory Clinical courses:
PSYCH 708 A & B Clinical Neuropsychology (30 points)
PSYCH 718 Psychotherapeutic Assessment and Formulation (15 points)
PSYCH 723 Mental Health Problems: Aetiology and Assessment (15 Points)
PSYCH 779 Research and Communication (15 points)
PSYCH 780 Honours research project (30 points)

AND one other 15 point postgraduate course
Recommended courses: PSYCH 707 Forensic Psychology or another 700 level Psychology course of relevance to your area of study or interests.

DClinPsy Programme
To be eligible for continuation into the DClinPsy students must demonstrate the ability and personal qualities necessary to undertake a doctoral level research oriented course of study that satisfies the eligibility requirements for registration to practice as a Psychologist. Students must also maintain a GPA 6.0 (B+ average) overall in their Honours year, as well as receiving at least a GPA 5.0 (B grade) in PSYCH 708, 718, 723 and 779, and a B+ grade or better in PSYCH 780.(or equivalent Research project/thesis)
Clinical Psychology Programme
Information Sheet

DClinPsy 1
PSYCH 801 Scientist Practitioner Model—Part 1 (30 points)
PSYCH 897 Portfolio of Clinical Research—Part 1 (15 points)
PSYCH 899 Thesis—Part 1 (75 points)
(includes one 200 hour placement)

DClinPsy 2
PSYCH 802 Scientist Practitioner Model—Part 2 (30 points)
PSYCH 897 Portfolio of Clinical Research—Part 2 (30 points)
PSYCH 899 Thesis—Part 2 (60 points)
(includes two placements of 200 hours each)

DClinPsy 3
PSYCH 803 Internship (includes 1500 hours of supervision) (60 points)
PSYCH 897 Portfolio of Clinical Research—Part 3 (45 points)
PSYCH 899 Thesis—Part 3 (15 points)

Remember: Before you can apply for the Doctorate, you must first have been accepted into the Preparatory Clinical Psychology year and have completed the pre-requisite courses. This requires a supplementary application, which will lead to a shortlisting of students, and approx. 30 will be offered an interview. You may apply at the end of an undergraduate degree in Psychology. You do not need to complete Honours first. Honours can be done as part of the Preparatory year. However, if you do already have Honours or Masters in Psychology, then we will discuss an appropriate programme with you.

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