



**SCIENCE**  
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

## POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMMES

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

Applications open on the **1<sup>st</sup> of September** and must be received **before the 1<sup>st</sup> of November**.

The dates for the selection processes and interviews are set for

**23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### INFORMATION SHEET FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

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:

|                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> year | Honours/Preparatory                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> year | Doctor of Clinical Psychology year 1 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> year | Doctor of Clinical Psychology year 2 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> year | Doctor of Clinical Psychology year 3 |

To gain entry into the Doctor of Clinical Psychology Degree programme students **must be selected into the Preparatory Clinical Year**. Courses will then be taken under an Honours degree or a bridging programme (for those who already have an Honours or a Master Degree in Psychology). These courses includes compulsory Clinical Psychology courses.

**Students are welcome to apply for the programme before the Honours year.**

- Selected students will complete Honours in the specific Clinical required courses.

Please note that you will need to complete the enrolment process on the Student Services Online as well as 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>

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 you are an Arts student, you should still apply for a CoP under Science.

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

## **Supplementary Application Requirements**

Supplementary Application form AND two 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>

Please ask your **two** referees to e-mail their Confidential Letter of Reference to Sheryl Robertson at [psych-postgradapp@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:psych-postgradapp@auckland.ac.nz)

We recommend you arrange one tertiary academic and one clinical/work reference, for example a research supervisor, post grad course co-ordinator. 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, family member or friend.

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) – this is not a task undertaken by the DCP programme. Letters of Reference received after this date may not be considered.

## **Academic Prerequisites for Entry into the Honours Degree for Clinical Psychology Students with a Bachelor Degree**

In order to be admitted to the Clinical Psychology programme with a Bachelor Degree, a student needs to:

- Have completed the University of Auckland requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science/Arts in Psychology
- Or attained an equivalent qualification, as approved by senate or its representative.
  
- and meet the entry requirement for postgraduate study.
  - BA/BSc (Hons): the best 4 Psychology courses (60 points) at Stage III and attained at least a B average above stage II ;
  - Double Major: the best 4 courses (60 points) at Stage III, including one course of Major other than Psychology; and attained at least a B average above stage II
  - Consistent with the University's Equity policies, the school has adopted an affirmative action policy for Māori and Pacific Island students by adding 1.0 GPA unit to their grade average.
  
- **and complete PSYCH 306 (Research Methods in Psychology) course or equivalent.** (This will make up part of the GPA calculation.)
-

Other recommended courses: MĀORI 130 Te Ao Māori: The Māori World  
PSYCH 310 Introduction to Clinical Psychology

If you have already met all the requirements for Honours Degree - and the pre-requisite courses - and are accepted into the Doctor in Clinical Psychology Degree programme, you would 'stand down' the preparatory year and transition into DCLinPsy with the Honours group selected in your year.

### **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>

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 under the Doctoral 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 Selection Committee consists of two School of Psychology staff members in Clinical Psychology, a Māori Clinical Psychologist and a senior Māori Clinical Psychologist from the community.

There are three steps in the selection process.

- (a) Applications will be reviewed to check that minimum academic criteria as outlined above are met.
- (b) Other criteria used:
  - **UTAS Guidelines** (Targeted Admissions Scheme) Although an undergrad scheme, we will take guidance from this recommended policy and include LGBTIQ Takatapu+ community <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/applications-and-admissions/entry-requirements/undergraduate-entry-requirements/undergraduate-targeted-admission-schemes.html>
  - **Work Experience:** paid and/or unpaid relevant work experience, particularly with mental health consumers. Included in this will be caregiving responsibilities with family/whanau.
  - **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.
- (c) The Selection Committee will select for interview up to 30 applicants from those who meet the criteria specified. In addition we aim to select for interviews a group of students who represent the social, gender and cultural mix of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Selection for interviewing will be based on the information in the application and the two confidential references. Details of the selection process will be provided to those short listed, at the time of notification.
- (d) The dates for the clinical interviews are set each year for November and will allow 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.

Up to fourteen (14) applicants will be offered a place in the Clinical Psychology programme.

#### SHORTLISTING PROCESS:

1. Affirmative action will be applied to those individuals identifying under Māori; Pasifika or UTAS identified affirmative action groups Māori /Pasifika 1 point added to GPA; UTAS/LGBTIQTakatapui+ have 1 point added to personal experience. This will be up to a maximum of 2 additional points.  
If you wish to be considered under the entry criteria of Māori or Pasifika, you will need to attach the Certification document to your application.  
If you wish to apply under UTAS/LGBTIQTakatapui+ you will need to self-identify on the application form. Please provide details how this has influenced your identity and ambition to become a Clinical Psychologist – under the Personal Experience section of the application form.

All applications will be assessed for eligibility criteria in the first instance.

2. All Applications are rated on the following criteria:  
Grade Point Average = 10 points  
Work Experience = 10 points  
Personal experiences/references = 10 points
3. Up to 30 applicants will be invited for an interview.

#### INTERVIEW PROCESS:

First Morning (23rd November 2020):

1. All applicants are expected to attend a selection whakatau where they will be welcomed by staff and students of the programme. Whānau and support people are welcome.

2. Following the whakatau, all applicants will take part in a group activity.
3. This is followed by a written exercise.

Scheduled Interview (23<sup>rd</sup> p.m. – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020):

Each shortlisted applicant will have an approx. 20 minute individual interview with the selection panel.

Scoring Chart:

Group Exercise = 10 points

Written Exercise = 10 points

Each selection panelist will give an individual score for the interview out of 40.

DECISION:

For the 2021 intake, up to 14 applicants will be made a firm offer for a place in the programme. The Doctor of Clinical Psychology programme aspires to offer up to 50% of the available places to Māori students, subject to achieving a ranking 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 one (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 in some cases by other members of the Clinical Psychology staff who will treat all the material as confidential. After the selection process is complete, all applications and referee 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** (online) was introduced by the University of Auckland in 2013 for undergraduate and postgraduate students admitted for the first time to a programme at the University. All new students are expected to complete the course in the first semester (see <http://www.auckland.ac.nz/ua/home/about/teaching-learning/academic-integrity>).

**Vulnerable Children's Act** was introduced in 2014 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, Oranga Tamariki, 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 by the Psychologists Board and by employers (independently).

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, s/he 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 DCP 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. If accepted into the Clinical programme, vaccination requirements must be completed prior to semester two of DCP1 year for placements to proceed.

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 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 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 for 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 antibody, tuberculosis, methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) carrier status.

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.

### **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:

- Current severe stresses such as major financial difficulties, recent losses or major illness or medical condition;
- Lack of social support networks;
- 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;
- 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/study/scholarships-and-awards/scholarship-types/postgraduate-scholarships.html> ).

### **Enrolment**

For those selected, the courses for the first year of the clinical programme, will be either an Honours degree consisting of:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 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) |
| Elective Course (we recommend PSYCH 707 Forensic Psychology) | (15 points) |

OR

(For those already deemed to have an equivalent Honours degree)  
a bridging programme in:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 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) |

## 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/Bridging 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 Honours/CoP as above

#### DClinPsy

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 B+ average in their Honours year.

#### DClinPsy 1

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>PSYCH 801</b> Scientist Practitioner Model—Part 1                | (30 points) |
| <b>PSYCH 897</b> Portfolio of Clinical Research—Part 1              | (15 points) |
| <b>PSYCH 899</b> Thesis—Part 1<br>(includes 200 hours of placement) | (75 points) |

#### DClinPsy 2

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>PSYCH 802</b> Scientist Practitioner Model—Part 2                          | (30 points) |
| <b>PSYCH 897</b> Portfolio of Clinical Research—Part 2                        | (30 points) |
| <b>PSYCH 899</b> Thesis—Part 2<br>(includes two placements of 200 hours each) | (60 points) |

#### DClinPsy 3

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>PSYCH 803</b> Internship   | (60 points) |
| <b>PSYCH 897</b> Portfolio of Clinical Research—Part 3                | (45 points) |
| <b>PSYCH 899</b> Thesis—Part 3<br>(includes 1500 hours of internship) | (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. This 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.

#### CLINICAL PROGRAMME CO-DIRECTORS

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