

Master of Psychology (Clinical) 2025 Program Guide

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The School of Psychology at UNSW Sydney

The School of Psychology is located in the Faculty of Science, UNSW Sydney. 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 and forensic 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. Our staff attract several million dollars in external research funds per year. Staff publications receive more citations than any other psychology department in Australia and the School has one of the highest rates of PhD graduations in Psychology of any Australian university.

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) Program

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) program began in 1971. The School's theoretical orientation has primarily been one of experimental empiricism, and the clinical program adheres to the scientist-practitioner model for clinical training. The program has an emphasis on cognitive-behavioural approaches as the foundation for understanding and management of clinical problems. The program focuses on adult, adolescent and child clinical psychology, neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation.

The program is accredited by the [Australian Psychology Accreditation Council \(APAC\)](#) as the fifth and sixth years of study leading to registration as a psychologist with the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency \(AHPRA\)](#). Graduates of the program are eligible to undertake the registrar program in the area of Clinical Psychology and upon completion of the registrar program can apply to AHPRA for [endorsement](#) as a Clinical Psychologist.

Aims of the Program

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) program provides post-graduate training for candidates who intend to work as clinical psychologists in hospitals, community health, and other settings where they might be engaged in health promotion and the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of people with a range of psychological difficulties including some neuropsychological conditions.

The primary aim of the program is to enable candidates to develop a broad range of psychological expertise, based on academic knowledge, research abilities, and clinical skills. Emphasis is placed on the ability to adapt these core skills to a wide range of settings and different client groups.

Throughout the program, candidates will be assisted to develop skills in the processes of clinical assessment, formulation, intervention, evaluation and reporting. Field placements and internal placements in the [UNSW Psychology Clinic](#) enable candidates to gain experience in working with children, adolescents, and adults, with both acute and chronic difficulties. All candidates should graduate with some experience, either on placement or within the Clinic activities, in both individual and non-individual treatment (i.e., with groups, couples, or families).

The program aims to encourage the development of a scholarly and critical approach to the scientific foundations of Clinical Psychology. Candidates are encouraged to make explicit links between practical experience and the scientific and theoretical background to their work. Equally critical is the development of an ethical approach to clinical work, so that, for example, the candidate can recognise the limits to their own competence and the range of applicability of the models and methods they are using.

Training in research and evaluation methods also plays a central role in the program. The research thesis component in the program focuses on the development of the candidate's area(s) of specialisation and interest. Its inclusion enables candidates to carry out intensive study of one particular clinical area.

Program Learning Outcomes

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) program has eight learning outcomes which have been derived from the generic competencies required by all registered psychologists and clinical psychology specialist capabilities as defined by the Psychology Board of Australia.

At the successful completion of this program candidates should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the discipline, including: theories and models of psychopathology and the ability to critically evaluate these, scientific approaches to studying mental health problems, and theory and application of evidence-based interventions.
2. Demonstrate an understanding and appropriate management of ethical, legal and professional matters, including: detailed knowledge and understanding of ethical, legal and professional issues relevant to clinical psychology, and competence in communicating clinical psychologists' ethical obligations to others.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological assessment and measurement relevant to clinical psychology, including: considerations of reliability and validity, competence in applying assessment tools, and competence in the diagnosis of mental disorders.
4. Demonstrate competence in intervention strategies relevant to clinical psychology, including strategy selection and delivery.
5. Demonstrate competence in research and evaluation including: the critical appraisal and application of relevant research evidence, systematic identification of research questions, design of appropriate research strategies, and ability to communicate research methods and findings.
6. Demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate in written and oral form from a psychological perspective in a style appropriate to a variety of different audiences and to interact professionally with a wide range of client groups and other professionals.
7. Demonstrate competence in working in a cross-cultural context including demonstrating competence to adequately practise with clients from cultures and lifestyles different to the student's own.
8. Demonstrate competence in practice across the lifespan, which involves demonstrating competencies with clients in childhood, adolescence, adulthood and late adulthood.

Program Structure

The University year is divided into [3 standard terms](#). There is an optional summer term, however no postgraduate courses are scheduled in this term. Please note that certain courses in the program do run outside the standard

term dates. Further, practical work (e.g., field placements and Clinic work) continues throughout the year including during term breaks. Candidates are expected to participate in all components of the program.

The program has been designed to be taken as a two-year full-time program although extended progression plans can be developed in careful consultation with the Program Director.

Please note that this program of study is very intense. Professional practice activities, in particular, are time consuming and not limited to set hours detailed on the timetable. It is NOT possible to complete the program part-time while working full-time.

The following table and the sample progression plan show the structure of the program as it applies to full-time candidates. The progression plan for part-time candidates will need to be discussed and finalised with the Program Director. The actual timetable is usually made available a few weeks prior to the commencement of a new term. Given the nature of professional training and placements related activities, only a limited amount of timetable information will be available [online](#) or via the [Class Schedule](#) on myUNSW.

Once a term gets underway, the timetable will be published/updated the UNSW [Moodle](#) pages.

| Standalone Program Structure | | Units of Credit | Approximate Hours per Week | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------|
| | | | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 |
| Stage 1 | | | | | |
| PSYC7212 | Adult and Child Clinical Psychology 1 | 6 | 4 | | |
| PSYC7001 | Psychological Assessment | 6 | 4 | | |
| PSYC7204 | Adult and Child Clinical Psychology 2 | 6 | | 4 | |
| PSYC7221 | Evidence Based Clinical Psychology | 6 | | 4 + Workshops | |
| PSYC7210 | Clinical Neuropsychology | 6 | | | 4 |
| PSYC7223 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 1 | 6 | Varied | | |
| PSYC7224 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 2 | 6 | | Varied | |
| PSYC7233 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 3 | 6 | | | Varied |
| Stage 2 | | | | | |
| PSYC7220 | Psychology of Health and Illness | 6 | | 3 | |
| PSYC7222 | Advanced Topics in Clinical Psychology | 6 | Varied Workshops | | |
| PSYC7234 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 4 | 6 | Varied | | |
| PSYC7235 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 5 | 6 | | Varied | |
| PSYC7236 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 6 | 6 | | | Varied |
| PSYC7230 | Research Thesis (Clinical) 1 | 6 | Varied | | |
| PSYC7231 | Research Thesis (Clinical) 2 | 6 | | Varied | |
| PSYC7232 | Research Thesis (Clinical) 2 | 6 | | | Varied |

In addition to the above courses, all candidates also enrol in PSYC7777 Professional Psychological Practice. This zero-credit course spans across the entire program (i.e., from the start till the end of the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program) and allows candidates to undertake placement activities between formal university terms.

Combining MPsych(Clin) with a PhD

A combined Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Psychology (Clinical) degree program is available over four full-time years. This program consists of a research project (PhD) on a clinical topic in addition to the coursework and professional practice components (14 courses) in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) degree. Candidates work on their PhD research project across the four years and concurrently take Masters courses in each year. This program is restricted to those candidates who have completed an Honours Class 1 degree in Psychology and is subject to the availability of adequate supervision and research infrastructure. Full details can be found on the School of Psychology [website](#).

The table following shows the typical structure of the program as it applies to full-time combined candidates. It is standard practice for combined candidates to complete the clinical courses in the first year before going on to start their professional practicum training from the second year onwards. Of note is that Professional and Ethical Practice 4 is carried over between Terms 1 and 2 of the third year.

| Combined Program Structure | | Approximate Hours per Week | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| | | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 |
| Stage 1 | | | | |
| PSYC7212 | Adult and Child Clinical Psychology 1 | 5 | | |
| PSYC7001 | Psychological Assessment | 4 | | |
| PSYC7204 | Adult and Child Clinical Psychology 2 | | 5 | |
| PSYC7221 | Evidence Based Clinical Psychology | | 4 + Workshops | |
| PSYC7210 | Clinical Neuropsychology | | | 4 |
| Stage 2 | | | | |
| PSYC7223 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 1 | Varied | | |
| PSYC7224 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 2 | | Varied | |
| PSYC7233 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 3 | | | Varied |
| PSYC7220 | Psychology of Health and Illness | | 3 | |
| PSYC7222 | Advanced Topics in Clinical Psychology | Varied with Workshops | | |
| Stage 3 | | | | |
| PSYC7234 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 4 | Varied (across Terms 1 & 2) | | |
| PSYC7235 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 4 | | Varied (across Terms 1 & 2) | |
| PSYC7236 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 5 | | | Varied |
| Stage 4 | | | | |
| PSYC7236 | Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 6 | Varied | | |

As with the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program, candidates in the combined program also enrol in PSYC7777 Professional Psychological Practice. This zero-credit course is taken from the start of the second year (or when the combined candidate undertakes PSY7223 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 1) till the end of the Master of Psychology (Clinical) component of the combined program. This course allows candidates to undertake placement activities between formal university terms.

Candidate Requirements

The program has adopted a series of [inherent requirements](#) for admission and progression of candidates. In addition, candidates will also need to have read and be ready to comply with the [Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct](#) endorsed by the Psychology Board of Australia. As part of the program, candidates will also be required to complete a set of compliance checks (e.g., [Working with Children Check](#), [Australia National Police Check](#)) and [vaccination requirements](#) in line with NSW Health requirements for students undertaking placements in a NSW Health facility. There will be costs associated with AHPRA registration and renewals, compliance checks and vaccination requirements which candidates will need to cover.

Before the commencement of training, candidates must be registered as [Provisional Psychologists](#) with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Candidates must maintain their registration **for the duration of their candidature, irrespective of when they are on placement (Combined PhD/MPsych candidates must maintain registration for the duration of the combined degree)**. Candidates must also inform program authorities if factors arise that impact on their ability to maintain their provisional psychologist status.

Candidates as provisionally registered health practitioners in NSW have [mandatory reporting](#) responsibilities under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW) No 86a and the NSW Crimes Act 1900.

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, all candidates and program staff who are registered health practitioners have [mandatory notification](#) responsibilities in relation to notifiable concerns in health practitioners (including candidates) that may pose a risk of harm to the public. Please note that for postgraduate psychology students who are provisionally registered, the [Guidelines: Mandatory notification about registered health practitioners document](#) (instead of registered students) applies.

Candidates are also encouraged to participate in the general academic and social life of the School, by attending School meetings, seminars and social gatherings.

Program Components

The program consists of three components, all of which are compulsory, totalling 96 units of credit: Coursework, Professional Practice and a Research Thesis.

I. Course Work (42 units of credit)

This component consists of weekly lectures and seminars with associated assessments (reports/essays, presentations, class tests and final examinations).

PSYC7212 Adult and Child Clinical Psychology 1

This course provides theoretical knowledge and practical skills in child and adult clinical psychology for candidates undertaking postgraduate training in clinical psychology. The focus is on aetiology, assessment, diagnosis, case conceptualisation, and empirically-supported treatment of clinical disorders across the lifespan. These problems will be considered within the individual client's relevant sociocultural context, with consideration given to providing culturally-responsive approaches to clinical care and collaboration with other professionals if indicated. A strong emphasis will be placed on links between evidence-based psychology and clinical practice. The course also includes consideration of the professional obligation of clinical psychology to conduct safe and ethical practice and to protect the public while delivering evidence-based treatment. The teaching activities will include lectures, interactive activities (e.g., group discussions, roleplays), and suggested readings. The key topics are theory, assessment and treatment approaches for prevalent clinical disorders.

PSYC7204 Adult and Child Clinical Psychology 2

Consistent with PSYC7212, this course provides theoretical knowledge and practical skills in child and adult clinical psychology for candidates undertaking postgraduate training in clinical psychology. The focus is on aetiology, assessment, diagnosis, case conceptualisation, and empirically-supported treatment of clinical disorders across the lifespan. These problems will be considered within the individual client's relevant sociocultural context, with consideration given to providing culturally-responsive approaches to clinical care and collaboration with other professionals if indicated. The course is guided by a scientist-practitioner approach and covers best practice guidelines, with particular emphasis on consideration of our professional obligation to conduct safe and ethical practice and to protect the public while delivering evidence-based clinical services. The teaching activities include lectures, interactive activities (e.g., group discussions, role-plays), and self-guided online modules. Individual lecturers may assign readings that should be completed prior to the lecture.

PSYC7001 Psychological Assessment

Psychological Assessment teaches candidates how to use, administer and interpret major psychological tests, including the Wechsler Intelligence and Memory scales and other tests used routinely to assess cognition. It also addresses issues in determining real and unusual differences in test scores and communication of assessment findings. It is assumed that candidates will have covered topics to do with test validity and reliability in prior courses.

Material covering important theoretical and practical knowledge, general principles in assessment and particular methodological issues to do with test instruments will be covered in lectures. Specific skills in tests and assessment procedures will be taught in practical tutorials. Test interpretation and report writing will be taught via programmed assignment work or other activities in the tutorials. Candidates are encouraged to work both independently and in small groups to learn test administration and test interpretation. While tutorial time will focus upon teaching skills in targeted assessment procedures, it is expected that candidates will practice these techniques outside formal teaching hours in order to reach a criterion level of competency. Candidates should also make use of the Test Library, to acquaint themselves with different kinds of tests available for assessment that are not necessarily covered in the course.

PSYC7221 Evidence Based Clinical Psychology

A continuation of the problem-oriented approach begun in PSYC7212, this course examines the theoretical basis of models of psychopathology, assessment and intervention, and related professional issues. This course covers a range of topics which include psychopharmacology, and evidence-based practice for a range of conditions delivered by UNSW School of Psychology academics as well as discipline-expert guest speakers. There is an emphasis on the development of critical evaluation of the evidence base for psychological therapies; hence, in the final weeks, candidates work in groups to develop their own workshops on an evidence-based psychological therapy to deliver to the class.

PSYC7210 Clinical Neuropsychology

This course introduces clinical psychologists to the principles of neuropsychology. The course commences with an overview of the neuroanatomy of the brain, followed by discussion of major areas of cognitive function that can be disrupted by focal brain lesions. Some common neurological disorders will then be described including characteristic presentations on cognitive testing. The course will finish with a focus on rehabilitation of brain injury and evidence-based practice for interventions to address neuropsychological disorders.

This course is designed to equip Clinical Psychologists to safely interact with, assess and treat adults with acquired brain damage. It is expected that candidates who have completed PSYC7210 will be confidently able to undertake basic neuropsychological assessment and prepare reports for real clients, under the supervision of a professional psychologist. They should also be able to interpret neuropsychological reports written by others, appreciate the importance and influence of cultural context on the manifestation and impact of neuropsychological impairment, devise therapy programs that take into account cognitive deficits and appreciate how a psychologist operates within a multidisciplinary team. The course entails 2 x weekly sessions of two hour lectures each week, which will

including case discussions. It is expected that students will spend an additional 6 hours per week reading and researching each topic discussed in class.

PSYC7220 Psychology of Health and Illness

This course focuses on the applications of psychological principles, derived from human and animal research, to human health and rehabilitation including health promotion, risk factor reduction, psychological assessment, management and remediation of medical and neurological disorders, with a special focus on chronic illnesses. It forms part of postgraduate level training in Clinical Psychology and develops the knowledge and skills of candidates in working in health-related clinical settings.

PSYC7222 Advanced Topics in Clinical Psychology

This is an advanced course within the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program and comprising a workshop series that explores complex clinical issues, including working with severe client presentations and specific client populations. Candidates will be encouraged to take an evidence-based approach, linking research evidence, clinical judgment and diversity factors. This course introduces the theory and practice of more severe psychological conditions, including defining features and characteristics; diagnostic and assessment issues; evidence-based intervention strategies; and procedures for evaluating outcome of interventions. This course emphasises the importance of individual and cultural diversity factors in the practice of clinical psychology when working with clients from diverse backgrounds. The course also focuses on developing the understanding of candidates in inter-professional learning and practice, including consultation and collaboration with other professionals particularly in the context of complex client presentations.

II. Professional Practice (36 units of credit)

In this part of the training, candidates complete a minimum of 1,000 practicum hours under supervision within the UNSW Psychology Clinic and in at least two other field placement settings. Within the 1000 practicum hours, trainees must have at least 400 hours of direct client activities and 134 hours of supervision.

The information below provides an overview of the professional practice component of the program and for additional information please see the *Professional Practice Guidelines, Psychology Clinic Handbook* and *Guidelines for Completion of Field Placements* documents.

Candidates complete professional practice via seven separate one-term courses which are all UNSW approved WIL (Work Integrated Learning) courses:

- **PSYC7223 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 1**
- **PSYC7224 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 2**
- **PSYC7233 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 3**
- **PSYC7234 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 4**
- **PSYC7235 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 5**
- **PSYC7236 Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 6**
- **PSYC7777 Professional Psychological Practice**

Each Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) course is a prerequisite for the next Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) course.

Professional practice involves the following two components:

A. Professional Practice in the UNSW Psychology Clinic

By the end of the two-year program, candidates are required to have completed a minimum of 1,000 hours of activity related to professional practice. A large proportion (around half) of these hours will be devoted to clinical work within the [UNSW Psychology Clinic](#). This work will involve assessing and treating clients, under the supervision of various members of the clinical staff. Candidates will begin seeing clients in their first year of enrolment. Client work in the clinic involves seeing both adult and child clients for therapy and psychometric assessments. Candidates will be allocated cases to be seen individually or in partnership with another candidate. Candidates would also be expected to be involved in facilitating group programs.

While seeing clients in the Psychology Clinic, candidates are required to attend approximately 3 hours of weekly supervision sessions with their assigned Clinical Supervisors (not shown in program structure table). Supervision sessions are conducted in both individual and group formats.

Professional Practice also includes weekly professional meetings (held throughout the year including term breaks) and Skills Training Workshops. The Skills Training Workshops cover a variety of clinically relevant topics including core assessment skills, working with children, adolescents and family systems, case formulation, cognitive therapy skills, emotional regulation strategies and working with high-risk clients.

The Professional Practice component of the program is assessed in a variety of ways including audio and video session recordings, case presentations, case reports, workshop training journals and Supervisor reports.

Throughout professional practice, strong emphases will be placed on the technical skills, professionalism and ethical practices of the candidate. All candidates will be expected to demonstrate satisfactory performance across all 11 areas of professional competencies:

- i. Diagnosis and Clinical Assessment: Knowledge and Knowledge Application
- ii. Case Conceptualisation and Interventions: Knowledge and Knowledge Application
- iii. Individual and Cultural Diversity
- iv. Effective and Skilful Assessment and Intervention
- v. Psychological Testing
- vi. Relational and Communication
- vii. Reflective Practitioner
- viii. Scientist Practitioner: Attitudes and Values
- ix. Ethical Practice: Knowledge and Knowledge Application
- x. Professionalism: Organised and Disciplined Practice
- xi. Professionalism: Attitudes and Values
- xii. Interprofessional Learning and Practice

B. Field Placements

In order to satisfy the field professional practice requirements of the program, candidates must satisfactorily complete placements in at least two different clinical settings (external placements). Typically, these external field placements are 40 days long for each placement. Placements are usually completed by attending two days per week for a period of 20 weeks. Some variation of the typical placement program may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis (e.g., one day per week for 40 weeks) and needs to be approved by the Placement Coordinator.

Candidates usually commence their first external placement in Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) 4. The evaluation of the candidate's performance in each setting, completed by the supervising Clinical Psychologist, will contribute to the candidate's final grade in the Professional Practice component of the program.

A range of external field placement options is available, such as adult mental health, psychiatry, consult-liaison, medical psychology, developmental disability, neuropsychology, child and family, psychogeriatric, schools and general community health settings. It may be possible to negotiate alternative placements for candidates with special career interests although the availability of these placements will depend on the availability and capacity of field placement supervisors to take on candidates. In many cases, candidates will be required to undergo a selection interview with placement sites to secure a placement.

All candidates on placement, must be enrolled in one of the six PEP courses (PSYC7223, PSYC7224, PSYC7233, PSYC7234, PSYC7235 or PSYC7236) and PSYC7777 for the entire duration of their placement. If the professional placement associated with a PEP course is not satisfactorily completed, the candidate may be awarded an 'Unsatisfactory Fail' (UF) for the PEP course (refer to [Program rules](#), below).

III. Research Thesis (18 units of credit)

All candidates are required to complete a clinically relevant research thesis involving the collection of data on a topic of their choice. The thesis is to be presented as an article suitable for submission to an appropriate journal and of approximately 7,500 words.

The research thesis component aims to help the candidate develop research skills that would be relevant to their subsequent clinical work. The thesis, therefore, involves an investigation into some aspect of clinical psychology. The research project may be conducted either at the University or in a suitable clinical setting (usually in collaboration with a qualified Clinical Psychologist or other health care workers in that setting). No particular type of project is stipulated, (i.e., it could involve a controlled treatment outcome study, the development of a clinically relevant measure, or the evaluation of an existing treatment program) but the candidate must make a major contribution to the design, implementation, and evaluation of the research project. The thesis is written as a journal article suitable for submission to a specific peer-reviewed journal.

Candidates are assigned to a research supervisor in the first year of the program and some preliminary work can begin. Full-time stand-alone Master candidates complete their research thesis via three separate one-term courses in the second year of the program (with timing of the thesis courses varying for part-time candidates):

- ***PSYC7230 Research Thesis (Clinical) 1***
- ***PSYC7231 Research Thesis (Clinical) 2***
- ***PSYC7232 Research Thesis (Clinical) 3***

The thesis is due in week 5 of Term 3 (around mid-October) in the second year of the program for full-time Master of Psychology (Clinical) candidates. Candidates must satisfactorily complete each Research Thesis (Clinical) course before they can progress to the next Research Thesis (Clinical) course.

Candidates enrolled in the Combined Masters/PhD program are not required to enrol in the Research Thesis (Clinical) courses as the research component of their program is subsumed under their PhD research degree.

Program Grades

All assessments items within the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program utilise a competency-based grading approach which is non-numerical in nature. Assessment outcomes are formally graded as either Satisfactory (meeting expected competency standards) or Unsatisfactory (not meeting competency standards). In some instances, candidates are given one opportunity to revise and resubmit their assessment after meeting with the assessor.

Program Rules and Award of degree

For prerequisite information on each individual course, please refer to individual Course Outlines.

1. Candidates must satisfactorily complete PSYC7230 Research Thesis (Clinical) 1 before they can enrol in PSYC7231 Research Thesis (Clinical) 2. Candidates must complete PSYC7232 Research Thesis (Clinical) 2 before they can enrol in PSYC7232 Research Thesis (Clinical) 3.
2. Candidates must satisfactorily complete each Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) course before they can progress on to the next Professional and Ethical Practice (Clinical) course.
3. Each professional placement in the program is linked to a Professional and Ethical Practice (PEP) course. Until the placement has been successfully completed, a PE grade will be applied to the PEP course. If the placement is not completed to a satisfactory standard, or placement requirements have not been met (as determined by both the Placement Coordinator and Program Director), a UF grade will be applied to the PEP course. Failure to meet placement requirements and failure to successfully complete the placement will lead to failure of the PEP course. No hours from an unsatisfactory placement will count towards the minimum 1000 hours of supervised practicum experience required for completion of the program.
4. Should a candidate fail a course*, approval to enrol in the failed course again will be at the discretion of the Program Director[^] (and Placement Coordinator, in the case of PEP courses). Alternatively, the Program Director may recommend that the candidate withdraw from the program.

*Any course required for the program, including the three Research Thesis (Clinical) courses and the six Professional and Ethical Practice courses.

[^] In Australia, the psychology profession is regulated by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act as overseen by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The School of Psychology is responsible for adhering to federally legislated professional and accreditation standards for training provisionally registered psychologists in full compliance with the accreditation requirements and Professional Ethical Guidelines. Master of Psychology candidates, as provisionally registered psychologists, are expected to display the competencies, professionalism and reputable behaviours the discipline demands. In making their recommendation, the Program Director will consider these factors not simply from an academic standpoint, but as the discipline's chief authority on such professional and ethical matters within the program.

5. Should a candidate fail a course the second time, the Program Director will recommend that their place in the program be terminated. That is, a candidate may only attempt any course twice as a maximum.

Should a candidate disagree with a recommendation made by the Program Director, their avenue of appeal will be to the Head of School and/or School Board.

Program Attendance and Leave

Program Leave may be granted subject to the [rules and procedures](#) outlined by the university. Given the nature of a professional training program, including AHPRA registration requirements and practicum work relating to client care, it is important for candidates who wish to take program leave to discuss the plan with and obtain approval from the Program Director in advance. A candidate who is not enrolled at the relevant census date, and has not applied for and been granted approved program leave for that term, will be discontinued from their program and must formally apply for re-admission if they want to enrol in a future term.

Given the professional training nature of the program, teaching and learning activities can occur outside the university's standard term dates (e.g., placements start and finish outside term dates, some workshops are held in O Week or during term breaks). It should be emphasised that this is not an external or distant learning program. Candidates enrolled in the program are expected to attend all formal lectures, seminars, and meetings in person unless stated otherwise in the relevant course outlines.

Absences from program coursework will need to be explained to the staff member involved and, if appropriate, leave requested from the Program Director, Clinic Director and/or Placement Coordinator. Aside from sick leave, candidates who are considering leave of absence from any teaching or learning activity must first seek written permission from the Program Director and the Course Convenor at least four weeks prior to the teaching or learning activity. This includes leave of absence for teaching and learning activities which occur outside the standard university term dates.

It should be noted that leave of absence is not typically granted unless there is strong and clear justification for the leave (e.g., presenting at a conference) – recreational leave is not a valid reason to be absent from any compulsory teaching or learning activities. If leave is approved, candidates would need to complete additional learning activities set by the relevant course convenor for the missed material. For leave of absence during placements, please see the *Professional Practice Guidelines* document for further details.

Fees and Charges

Commonwealth Supported Places are available to candidates in the program. A Commonwealth Supported Place is a higher education place for which the Government contributes towards the cost of the student's education, and the student pays a [Student Contribution amount](#). Full information on fees and charges may be found on the university [Fee webpage](#).

Program Staff

Program Director

Associate Professor Chien Hoong Gooi, BCom UNSW, BSc (Hons) UNSW, MSc Syd, DClinPsych Syd

Program Administrator

Samuel Chu, BAviation(Management) UNSW

Combined Program Coordinator

Professor Michelle Moulds, BA(Hons), MPsyCh(Clin) Syd, PhD UNSW

Academic Staff

Scientia Prof Richard Bryant, BA(Hons) Syd, MCLinPsych, PhD Macq

Professor Skye McDonald, BSc Monash, MSc Melb, PhD Macq

Professor Angela Nickerson, BA(Hons) UQ, MPsyCh(Clin), PhD UNSW

Professor Jessica Grisham, BA UPenn, MA, PhD Boston University

Professor Eva Kimonis, MS PhD, University of New Orleans

Professor Peter Lovibond, BSc, MSc(Psych), PhD UNSW

Professor Lenny Vartanian, PhD, Toronto

Professor Bronwyn Graham, BAdvSci, MPsyCh(Clin), PhD UNSW

Dr Caitlin Cowan, BCom, BSc(Hons), MPsyCh(Clin), PhD UNSW

Professor Jill Newby, BA(Hons) UNSW, MPsyCh(Clin), PhD UNSW

UNSW Psychology Clinic Director & Placement Coordinator

Shane Vassallo, BSc(Hons) Wollongong, MPsyCh(Clin) UNSW

UNSW Psychology Clinic Supervisors

Natasha Rawson, BPsych(Hons), MPsyCh(Clin) UNSW

Gladiss Warda, BAHons(Psych), MPsyCh(Clin) UNSW

Karen Butterworth, BHealth Macq, BPsych(Hons) Macq, MPsyCh(Clin) UNSW

Jonathan Gaston, BSc(Hons), MPsyCh(Clin) UNSW

UNSW Psychology Clinic Administrators

Charlotte Barrett, BA(Psych) Queensland, BFA(Technical Production) QUT, Dip Project Management Monarch

Nalin Chandran, BPsych(Hons) UNSW

Contact Information

Please direct enquiries to the relevant staff below.

Associate Professor Chien Hoong Gooi

MPsych(Clin) Program Director

T: +61 (2) 9065 7754

E: c.gooi@unsw.edu.au

Professor Michelle Moulds

Combined MPsych(Clin)/Phd Program Coordinator

E: m.moulds@unsw.edu.au

Samuel Chu

Program Administrator

T: +61 (2) 9065 5753

<https://portal.insight.unsw.edu.au/contact-us/>

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