

# Master of Clinical Psychology and Master of Professional Psychology Webinar Q&A

## For Semester 1, 2026 applications.

Please visit our website for more information about application timelines and processes.

## Application Process & Admissions

**Applications will close before final marks are released at my institution. How is this overcome? Do I need an official transcript?**

Please apply as if you have met the Level 2 requirement and indicate when asked that you are currently enrolled in your final year of a level 2 program. If you are a University of Newcastle student we will automatically gain access to your final marks when they are available. If outside the University of Newcastle, please provide your final grades to our admissions team prior to 15 December, 2025.

**When submitting an application – It only seems to allow one postgraduate application. How do you apply for both courses?**

Please submit one application and indicate when asked (about midway through the online application) which program or programs you are applying for.

**Is the application directly to university rather than UAC universal across all MCP, MPP, PhD (Clin Psych) programs in Australia or just Newcastle specific?**

I can't speak on other programs but this is the case for the University of Newcastle. Look at each university's website for more information about their application process. Some universities use UAC and others do not.

**What course would be best to get into MPP, if I am a master's degree holder from a different stream of education like management?**

You will need to have completed accredited Level 1 and Level 2 psychology programs. If you already have a qualification from another discipline this would most likely mean doing a Level 1 post graduate diploma in psychology (like the one offered by University of Newcastle) followed by a level 2 psychology program such as Honours.

**Can I apply for the MCP if I have completed a Grad Dip in Psych (Advanced)? And is there GPA requirement? How about if your work experience is not in psychology areas?**

Can you please check with your institution whether you have then completed Level 1 and 2 Psychology competencies by doing this degree? If so you need a score of a D overall in the Grad Dip fourth year to be eligible for the MCP and a C overall for the MPP. Is there any psychology aspects of your work experience such as working with people, the community etc.?

**I did my GDPA at University of Adelaide with a GPA of 6.6 (e.g., WAM of 89%). How would that be received at University of Newcastle?**

You are eligible for the MPP and the MCP.

**Of the 600 or so applications you receive, do most of those tend to meet requirements?**

Around 400 applications are usually complete and eligible and are reviewed at the first stage.

**Once the academic achievement level requirement has been met (i.e., Honours 2A for MCP), do the application and interview become the major area of competitiveness, or are applicants ranked according to academic performance?**

Honours is used to determine eligibility and undergraduate performance is included as one of several factors used to rank the written applications.

**Does Newcastle offer the Grad Cert in Psychology for nurses please?**

Yes, the University of Newcastle offers a Level 1 [Graduate Diploma in Psychology](#) which is appropriate for anyone with a Bachelors degree in another field.

**Is the diversity of applicants taken into account when putting together the cohort? (aside from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders) e.g., cultural, LGBTQIA+, disability etc.**

We don't specifically "match" the cohort according to their diversity. On a case by case basis we are interested to know about every applicant's background and reasons for choosing this career.

**Who should we reach out to following this webinar if we have specific questions regarding our applications? Thanks!**

For admissions related questions: [admissions@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:admissions@newcastle.edu.au)

For program related questions, either Sally or Tanya directly, via their email addresses included in our post-webinar email to you.

**When submitting an application – It only seems to allow one postgraduate application. How do you apply for both courses?**

Please submit one application and indicate when asked (about midway through the online application) which program or programs you are applying for.

**Can you tell us more about the “courses” section of the admissions portfolio?**

List any additional psychology courses you may have completed such as Lifeline training, CBT or other therapies workshops etc.

**In the portfolio it asks for a link to a published paper. Can I try and link my Honours thesis if it is unpublished?**

No, please only include references to peer reviewed papers. If you haven't done one then leave this section blank.

**If we use past employment history in our CV to show experience, do all of them need a statement of service to be taken into account?**

This would be ideal.

## References & Supporting Documents

**Can I ask my counselling supervisor (external) to write a reference letter that provides clinical experience reference?**

Yes, they would be a good option. All reviews are to be submitted through the [Psychology Reference Portal](#).

**With regards to references – would someone who is currently studying an MPP who was also my manager in a community mental health organisation be appropriate?**

Yes, they would be a good option. All reviews are to be submitted through the [Psychology Reference Portal](#).

**Can a professional reference come from my manager that is Head of HR or manager at Lifeline?**

Yes, they would be a good option. All reviews are to be submitted through the [Psychology Reference Portal](#).

**Can a PhD student who has trained me for face-to-face testing during my Honours project be a professional reference?**

This would be more of an academic referee as they know you in a research capacity. A professional referee should have seen your work in a clinical, or at least a client facing role so that they can comment on your clinical aptitude.

**For the professional reference: if you work in a field that is unrelated to psychology, but have been in contact with a psychologist to help gain an understanding of the field, is that an appropriate person to ask for a reference rather than your employer?**

If no other options exist then this is better than nothing, however if they don't have experience of your work (ie they just gave you advice) then they are less capable of commenting on your clinical aptitude

**Does a professional reference need to be someone I have worked with in a formal workplace setting, or can it be someone who has acted as a mentor or academic guide during my studies?**

This would be more of an academic referee as they know you in a research capacity. A professional referee should have seen your work in a clinical, or at least a client facing role so that they can comment on your clinical aptitude.

**Regarding references, can more than the required number of references be submitted? Example: submit 2 academic and 2 professional. If so, will all references be considered or only the minimum requirement?**

Yes. We read all references.

**Some other universities have requested more than 2 referees. If we have more in the portal will you see them all and does it matter if there's more than 2? Will we be disadvantaged for not exactly sticking to the criteria?**

As long as our minimum criteria for references is met then all references (2 or more) will be read.

**What does a referee report look like? Are there questions they have to respond to, or do they just write a report?**

All reviews are to be submitted through the [Psychology Reference Portal](#).

**How many hours a week can be considered as workplace reference? Especially for volunteer jobs.**

There is no firm guideline for hours. Rather, we want referees who know you and your work well enough to provide an accurate appraisal.

**I have professional referees from Lifeline Coordinator and Psych Clinic manager as an admin. Which one should I get?**

I would ask both. As long as our minimum criteria for references is met then all references (2 or more) will be read.

## Program Structure & Study Load

**In terms of the study load, are students able to manage working (2–3 days a week) while studying?**

You could still work part time and many students do, however there is an expectation that you spend 100 hours per semester on each 10 unit course. Practically this means that if you're doing 4 courses a semester then you are expected to do 40 hours of work on it including attending lectures, reading, preparing and carrying out assessment tasks.

**I was told there is a preference for full-time students, rather than part-time – and that even if you have always wanted to do part-time, you should apply as full-time and then move to part-time when you get in. Is there any truth to that?**

This is not true. Offers are made based on performance on the application and interview. After accepting the offer, students then elect to study full or part time.

**In previous years I believe there was a 1-week intensive compulsory course/induction at the beginning of the MPP and MCP program. Is that still the case?**

Due to the new academic calendar, the orientation day and intensive program will now take place in weeks 1 and 2 of Semester 1. All other course work will commence in week 3 of Semester 1. Practically, this means that the first day of attendance for 2026 is Thursday January 29.

## Placements & Location

**If we get into the MCP and are provisionally registered, are we able to work as a provisional psychologist while studying? If yes, is this only after all placements are completed?**

You can work as a provisional psychologist in addition to study with approval from Ahpra. See their website for more information.

**I live in Melbourne. Would my placement, if selected, be in Melbourne or would it only be based in NSW?**

If a suitable placement in Melbourne is available then that would be an option but can not be guaranteed.

## Fees & Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP)

**What's the cost of the program please?**

As each student has a different set of circumstances, we can't give out a generalised number that would be appropriate to all candidates. [Check out our fees page here for more information](#) or email [fees@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:fees@newcastle.edu.au)

**How many MPP and MCP and MCP/PhD places are Commonwealth supported (domestic student asking)?**

2 MPP CSP places and 4 MCP CSP places.

## Research & PhD Pathways

**How intensive is the research component in the MCP?**

The new research courses are more practically applied and there is no longer a need for a traditional thesis. There is at least two main research courses and they have assignments like the other courses.

**For the PhD, are you able to nominate a supervisor who is interstate?**

You can have them as a co-supervisor but you need a primary supervisor who is a staff member in the School of Psychological Sciences at the University of Newcastle.

**If successful in getting a place in the MCP, and assuming one would be eligible and offered a spot into a RESEARCH ONLY PhD, would it be possible to complete both concurrently?**

Great question! Most people would then transfer over to the PhD (Clinical Psychology) in second year of the MCP. Traditionally people would pause their PhD and start the MCP but it would be worth seeing if you can complete the PhD part-time in that first year while you start the MCP then transfer to the PhD (Clin Psych) in the second year.

**Could I apply for the MPP, and then go into the MCP to then transition into the PhD eventually, in a smooth manner?**

Yes. Assuming that you are offered a competitive place in the MCP after completing the MPP. I would recommend applying for both the MPP and MCP if your goal is to eventually get into the MCP.

**Can people with a PhD apply for RPL for the MCP research component?**

Yes.

**Just to clarify, if I were to do the MPP (or the MCP), then the Clinical PhD, it would take 4 years all up? (1 year MCP + 3 years PhD?) And I can get general registration?**

No it would be 5.5 years in total (1 year of the MPP or MCP and then 4.5 of the PhD (Clin Psych) from second year onwards). However, you can apply for equivalency and get registered when you have completed the same amount of coursework, placement hours and research as the MCP students. That is what most of our PhD (Clin Psych) students do so they are working and being paid as a general registered psychologist while still completing the last part of the PhD (Clin Psych).

**What is the benefit of applying for the MCP after completing the MPP?**

The University of Newcastle MPP has 8 courses comprised of 6 coursework and 2 placement/practica courses. You would receive recognition of prior learning for the 6 completed MPP coursework courses (guaranteed if they were completed at Newcastle and assessed for equivalence on a case by case basis from other institutions). This means anyone progressing on to the MCP after completing the MPP at the University of Newcastle need only complete the second year MCP coursework courses and all MCP placement courses (10 in total).

**How many hours of prac does the PhD program do?**

750 hours of placement.

**For someone with a Master in Mental Health Nursing, can they take the PhD in Clinical Psychology please?**

The University of Newcastle offers a Level 1 post graduate diploma in psychology (1 year Full Time) which is appropriate for anyone whose Bachelors degree is in another field. You would need to complete this first followed by a Level 2 psychology program to be eligible.

**If you are currently completing an accredited MCP program at another university and successfully get an offer to the MCP at the University of Newcastle, can course credits carry over?**

Yes you can apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to see what of your previous MCP courses map onto our ones and receive RPL for those that do.

**I am a registered psych (graduated Honours 6 years ago and since then working as a provisional psych then registered psych). Is it still possible to apply for MCP, and is it possible to apply for RPL for my experience?**

Yes apply for the MCP and then we can determine what RPL we can give you after you are accepted.

## **Interviews & Selection Criteria**

**Now that interviews are being done face-to-face for NSW individuals, how does this change the interview process? Is it still a panel interview?**

This year we will be conducting group interviews with around 6 applicants and at least 2 interviewers in each group. The panels are a combination of staff from the MPP and MCP programs at the University of Newcastle as well as local clinical psychologists.

**Would you require ACT residents to come for a face-to-face interview as well?**

No. A zoom interview will be arranged.