

Admission Information
and Portfolio

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY) (12452)





UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Thank you for considering applying to The University of Newcastle (UON) Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology).

As places in the highly regarded program are limited, admission is based on a competitive selection process. This document outlines the requirements for applying for admission.

Please ensure that you review all sections and submit all required documents by the required date. Late and incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL SECTIONS

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DEGREE INFORMATION AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree at the University of Newcastle will connect you with the top tier of researchers, opening up incredible opportunities to advance your career, pursue breakthrough discoveries and solve the world's most formidable problems. A research degree provides a unique opportunity to follow a specific interest, in a particular area of research.

The PhD (Clinical Psychology) offers candidates an opportunity to pursue professional and/or research careers in clinical psychology. The degree's combination of clinical and doctorate-level research training will enable you to work around the world as a psychologist¹.

The PhD (Clinical Psychology) is a four-year Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited program. The program is a professional qualification for those who wish to work as clinical psychologists but are also interested in a path into research or academia. Graduates will be knowledgeable, skilled and ethical practitioners of Clinical Psychology with advanced research skills, capable of adhering to the 'scientist-practitioner' model of practice. The program is accepted by the Psychology Board of Australia as an approved sixth year of study for eligibility for endorsement purposes.

Graduates at this level will have expert, specialised cognitive, technical and research skills in Clinical Psychology to independently and systematically:

- engage in critical reflection, synthesis and evaluation,
- develop, adapt and implement research methodologies to extend and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice,
- disseminate and promote new insights to peers and the community, and
- generate original knowledge and understanding to make a substantial contribution to the psychology discipline and clinical psychology.

The admission requirements are as follows:

- Hold a four year, or three year plus a fourth year, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited sequence in psychology with Class II Division 1 Honours or above, or an overall GPA above 6.0 in the 4th year component of a non-Honours program; or be a currently registered psychologist with the PsyBA who can demonstrate current compliance with Registration Board Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements; and
- Have satisfied all of the requirements for admission to the degree of Bachelor with Honours Class 1 or Honours Class II, Division 1 or any other degree approved for this purpose by the Assistant Dean (Research Training); or have satisfied all of the requirements for admission to the degree of Bachelor in the University or any other degree approved for this purpose by the Assistant Dean (Research Training), and have achieved by subsequent work and study at a standard recognised by the Assistant Dean (Research Training) as equivalent to at least Honours Class II, Division 1; and
- Hold a Master of Professional Psychology (APAC level 3 competencies) or equivalent (e.g., hold general registration as a psychologist); or
- Hold or be eligible for provisional registration with the Psychology Board of Australia; and
- Satisfy the School of Psychology of your suitability for the professional practice of Clinical Psychology.

Graduates are eligible to apply for general registration as psychologists with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Following general registration, students are also eligible to apply for entry into a clinical psychology endorsement registrar program.

¹ You would have to meet country specific eligibility and registration criteria prior to practicing outside of Australia.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

PHD (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)

YEAR 1

Semester 1	PSYC6509 (intensive)	Advanced Clinical Psychology with adults
Semester 1	PSYC6510	Advanced Clinical Psychology with children and adolescents
Semester 2	PSYC6701	Clinical PhD Psychology Placement 1
Research (50 units – not coursework, includes research proposal and confirmation)		

YEAR 2

Semester 1	PSYC6702	Clinical PhD Psychology Placement 2
Semester 2	PSYC6703	Clinical PhD Psychology Placement 3
Semester 2	PSYC6514	Advanced Clinical Psychology in Specialised Areas of Practice
Research (50 units - not coursework)		

YEAR 3

Semester 2	PSYC6531	Advanced Clinical Interventions
Semester 1	PSYC6704	Clinical PhD Psychology Placement 4
Research (60 units – not coursework, includes progress seminar)		

YEAR 4

Commence after submission of thesis (or as advised)	PSYC6705	Clinical PhD Psychology Placement 5
Research (70 units - not coursework, submission of thesis)		

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

In order to be admitted into the program you need to follow the formal application process for all Higher Degrees by Research at the University of Newcastle. The process is clearly outlined on the [Graduate Research website](#). This process includes identifying a suitable supervisor in the School of Psychology AND gain the agreement of said supervisor to supervise you. This arrangement needs to be negotiated prior to submitting an application.

In addition, you will need to satisfy the School of Psychology of your suitability for the professional practice of Clinical Psychology. When evaluating suitability, the School will take into account previous relevant experience, reports of referees, units of study previously completed, and the outcome of a selection interview. Selection criteria will also be based on applicants demonstrating a clear understanding of Clinical Psychology and the areas in which a Clinical Psychologist might work. Desirable criteria include research experience additional to Honours and involvement with professional organisations (e.g., Australian Psychological Society).

In order to demonstrate your suitability, you need to submit your PhD (Clinical Psychology) Admission portfolio to Graduate Research using the online application form. This admission portfolio will also need to be supported by two referee reports. Once considered by the School of Psychology, and if your portfolio is deemed satisfactory, you will be invited to an interview. The interview will be held either in person or via zoom and the School of Psychology hold interviews twice per year. The panel typically consists of 2-3 University of Newcastle and external clinical psychologists.

You will only be offered admission to the program if you meet the expectations and requirements from both Graduate Research and the School of Psychology.

NATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY REFEREE SYSTEM

All applicants must provide TWO referee reports. Your referees should preferably include one Academic and one Professional reference. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that your referees complete the report via the [National Psychology Referee System \(psychologyreference.org\)](#). Encourage your referees to check their junk mail folder for this request. Late referee reports will not be accepted and applications with fewer than two referee reports will not be considered. Once your referees have completed their references, please make sure you share your references with the university prior to the deadline. This is simply an extra step in the National Psychology Referee System, where you must click on 'share your references' (some students miss this step and we don't receive their referee reports). Please check you have completed this essential step otherwise we can't access your references.

The objective of the NPRS is to have a one-stop-shop for references to be sent to all institutions to which an applicant has applied. The Reference Request System allows applicants for Australian post-graduate programs in Psychology to apply for a reference from academic and/or professional referees in [three simple steps](#):

1. YOU nominate referees, and indicate the programs and institutions being applied to.
2. REFEREES complete a reference online.
3. YOU then allow the completed reference to be shared with the programs you have applied to.

Please ensure that you have two referee reports submitted to the [National Psychology Referee System](#) before deadline.

Please provide **one academic reference** and one professional reference if you are completing or have completed your fourth year (APAC accredited sequence) of study in the past three years.

Please provide **two professional references** if you have completed your fourth year (APAC accredited sequence) of study more than four years ago.

- Academic Referee

Preferably your academic referee will be your fourth year supervisor. If your supervisor is not able to provide a reference, please attempt to gain a reference from an academic who worked closely with you through your studies.

- Professional Referee

Preferably your professional referee will be a Psychologist or Clinical Psychologist. Alternate options include professionals working in related disciplines (such as Social Workers or Counsellors).

PHD (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY) ADMISSION PORTFOLIO

All applicants must submit an admission portfolio. Please complete the questions below, and return your portfolio and any supporting documents.

PERSONAL DETAILS

FAMILY NAME / SURNAME:

GIVEN NAME/ FIRST NAME:

UON STUDENT NUMBER:

UON APPLICATION NUMBER:

**if applicable*

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Please provide details of ALL academic qualifications held. If you are currently studying and anticipate completing your qualification at the end of this academic year, you may still be considered for admission.

You must also attach certified or full colour copies of official transcripts for all listed academic qualifications.

REGISTRATION

To be considered for admission, applicants must be registered, or eligible for provisional registration, with the Psychology Board of Australia through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm this eligibility with the Psychology Board of Australia prior to submission of the application.

Current Registration Status:

Time Registration has been held:

Registration Number (if applicable):

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Summarise in 250 words maximum why you would like to specialise in clinical psychology and what you think you can bring to the profession of psychology by training as a clinical psychologist.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Summarise in 250 words maximum what value you would bring to clinical psychology by doing a PhD and how clinical and doctorate-level research training will add to your future career.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Please list any relevant experience (paid or volunteer) helping people with physical and/or mental health problems, or otherwise your work with children, adolescents, adults or the elderly.

Organisation 1:

Position Title:

Paid Employment:

Volunteer Position:

Duration of Service:

Briefly outline your roles and responsibilities with this organisation.

Organisation 2:

Position Title:

Paid Employment:

Volunteer Position:

Duration of Service:

Briefly outline your roles and responsibilities with this organisation.

Please outline any additional experience by attaching a Curriculum Vitae

RELEVANT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

If applicable, please list any relevant programs or short courses/workshops that are relevant to the practice of Psychology.

Course 1:

Provider or Organisation:

Date Completed:

Course 2:

Provider or Organisation:

Date Completed:

Course 3:

Provider or Organisation:

Date Completed:

CIVIL AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

Please list any university or civil awards you have received (e.g. University Medal, Duke of Edinburgh Award).

Award:

Awarding Institution:

Date:

Award:

Awarding Institution:

Date:

Award:

Awarding Institution:

Date:

Award:

Awarding Institution:

Date:

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (IN ADDITION TO HONOURS)

Please provide details of any research activities you have undertaken in addition to your study. This can include other relevant degrees or qualifications, conference presentations or publications.

RELEVANT EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of any extra-curricular activities you actively participate in which you believe are relevant to this application.

EXPERIENCE WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Please summarise any experience you have with professional organisations (e.g. Australian Psychological Society)

CHECKLIST AND DECLARATION

Please review the required documentation, and return this declaration with your portfolio.

1. I have read and satisfy the suitability requirements for the professional practice of Clinical Psychology as outlined in the [PhD \(Clinical Psychology\) Program Handbook](#)

Please select:

2. I have read and am aware of the Inherent requirements for [Postgraduate Psychology](#)

Please select:

3. I wish to identify as being of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Decent, and have reviewed the [Establishing Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander status within the University policy](#).

Please select:

4. I have attached a detailed Curriculum Vitae with my Admission Portfolio.

Please select:

5. I have included certified or full colour copies of official transcripts for all qualifications listed in my application and evidence of their equivalency to an APAC accredited 4th year if required.

Please select:

6. I am aware of my responsibility to arrange for two referee reports to be submitted to the National Psychology Referee System before the deadline. I have shared these references with The University of Newcastle.

Please select:

9. I declare that all information and documentation supplied by me to the University is true, accurate and complete.

Please select:

Signed:

Date:

