

PSYC6508: Psychology Placement 2

Callaghan

Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Clinical placements provide students with opportunities to apply, under supervision, the knowledge and skills they have acquired in assessment, formulation, intervention, evaluation and reporting. Students will also receive feedback on their performance and gain experience in the planning and organisation of clinical services. Students must undertake at least 1000 hours of practical experience spread over four placements. This placement is typically of 24 days duration, at a rate of 1 day a week for approximately 24 weeks. At the conclusion of this placement, students will demonstrate achievement of core professional competencies in clinical psychology practice relevant to the context and their stage of training, with increased skill development as the student progresses through their practicum training program (across all four placement courses).

Review of Progress Requirements

This course is a compulsory program requirement for students in the following program(s):

- Master of Clinical Psychology

In addition to meeting the University's overall requirements for academic progression, students enrolled in these program(s) must satisfactorily complete this course in order to progress in their program.

Requisites

This course is only available to students enrolled in the Master of Clinical Psychology [40187]

Assumed Knowledge

It is assumed that students will have completed a four-year program in Psychology which included course(s) on abnormal psychology, and which has been accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council.

Contact Hours

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Practicum *

Face to Face Off Campus

24 day(s) per Term Full Term

A total commitment of 24 days. Placement days are deemed to have commenced only after a learning agreement has been received and approved by the placement coordinator.

Placements may occur outside of academic semesters.

Unit Weighting Workload

* This contact type has a compulsory requirement.

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Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator

Callaghan

Mrs Sonja Pohlman

Sonja.Pohlman@newcastle.edu.au

(02) 40553017

Consultation: email, phone and by appointment

Teaching Staff

Callaghan Clinic director: Assoc/Prof Sean Halpin sean.halpin@newcastle.edu.au

Ourimbah Clinic director: Dr Oren Griffiths oren.griffiths@newcastle.edu.au

Placement administration is supported by the CESE Professional Experience Unit

Contact: Shanae Tuck CESE-PEU@newcastle.edu.au

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SYLLABUS

Course Content

1. Introduction to the placement setting, including points of decision making, channels of communication, roles and functioning of key staff.
2. Observation of the supervisor's professional work, where available including (where relevant) reports of clinical activity.
3. Attendance at and participation in clinical staff meetings.
4. In most instances, the provision of clinical care to one or more clients.
5. Instruction and guidance in ethical and professional conduct, the choice of assessment instruments, the development and evaluation of psychological formulations and psychological intervention plans, and the construction of reports.
6. Feedback on and supervision of the student's placement work, including assessment, formulation and intervention and report writing.

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Establish therapeutic relationships with a range of socially and culturally diverse clients and communicate professionally and effectively with them in a culturally responsive manner. (Competencies 3.3)
2. Conduct clinical interviews and select, administer, and report appropriate psychological assessments for a wide range of psychological disorders, and analyse and evaluate the results within a clinical setting. (Competencies 3.4, 3.6, 4.2.2.ii)
3. Integrate, interpret, and synthesise clinical information from a range of sources to develop a psychological formulation that will guide diagnosis and intervention. (Competencies 3.6, 4.2.2.iii, 4.2.3.i)
4. Devise and implement psychological intervention plans which are evidence based and clearly derived from formulations. (Competencies 3.2, 3.9, 4.2.2.iii, 4.2.3.i)
5. Monitor clients' progress, the therapeutic alliance, evaluate intervention outcomes and make modifications as required. (Competencies 3.2, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2.2. iv, 4.2.3.i, 4.2.3.ii)
6. Provide culturally appropriate, clear, comprehensive, accurate, and relevant verbal and written reports of their activities. (Competencies 3.3, 3.8)
7. Maintain behaviour consistent with ethical and professional standards with a focus on ensuring public safety. (Competencies 3.3, 3.10, 3.11, 3.13)
8. Work effectively and co-operatively with a range of professionals and support staff in the workplace by following the procedures of the organisation and working within the bounds of ethical and legal requirements. (Competencies 3.10, 3.11, 3.13)

9. Engage in self-reflective professional practice and supervision in a manner which will help develop their professional/practical, inter-personal and intra-personal skills development. (Competencies 3.12, 3.14, 3.15, 4.2.3.iii)

Course Materials

Other Resources:

SONIA online - Students enrolled in placement courses are required to access the SONIA online platform for placement logging requirements. Documents related to the placement course are stored within SONIA. Further details are provided in the SONIA online manual and placement manual.

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Practical Demonstration: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course. Students cannot repeat the placement.
- Assessment 2 - Professional Task: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course. Students cannot repeat the placement.
- Assessment 3 - Professional Task: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course. Students cannot repeat the placement.

Pre-Placement Requirements:

- Ahpra Requirement - Provisional or full registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) NB: Registration must be renewed each year.
- NSW Health Verification Requirements - Mandatory NSW Health Verification Requirements must be met. This includes immunisations, national police certificate and code of conduct.
- WHS Requirement - Students must complete a Workplace Safety Induction or Risk Assessment.

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Cognitive Assessment*	As arranged with clinical supervisor, approved report due by final day of placement	Individual	Pass/Fail	1, 4, 5, 8
2	Placement supervisor's evaluation*	Within 2 weeks of the last day of placement	Individual	Pass/Fail	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
3	Review of placement*	Within 2 weeks of the last day of placement	Individual	Pass/Fail	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
4	Students must demonstrate competency in all listed assessment items		Individual	Pass/Fail	no Learning Outcomes

* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Cognitive Assessment

Assessment Type	Practical Demonstration
Purpose	This assessment allows students to demonstrate their competence in administration, scoring, and interpreting a cognitive assessment, as well as their ability to write a summary report.
Description	Administer a cognitive assessment and write a summary report under supervision
Weighting	This is a formative assessment and will not contribute to your final grade.
Compulsory Requirements	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course..
Length	Report length varies
Due Date	As arranged with clinical supervisor, approved report due by final day of placement
Submission Method	In Class
Assessment Criteria	Competent administration of a cognitive assessment. Competent written report of this assessment, completed with input from clinical supervisor
Return Method	In Class
Feedback Provided	In Class - Feedback will be provided throughout this assessment. Feedback will be a combination of written and oral feedback
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Can be re-attempted

Assessment 2 - Placement supervisor's evaluation

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	This assessment allows the student to receive feedback from their supervisor regarding their performance in each of the competencies outlined in the Placement Manual.
Description	Supervisor's evaluation of clinical competence
Weighting	This is a formative assessment and will not contribute to your final grade.
Compulsory Requirements	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
Due Date	Within 2 weeks of the last day of placement
Submission Method	Online Online - Supervisor completes the evaluation online. Automated copies are sent to the Placement Coordinator Sonja Pohlman.
Assessment Criteria	This assessment is an essential criterion for the course. The placement supervisor must complete an online evaluation of clinical competence. The supervisor can access the online form via the following link: https://placementreview.net The assessment guide outlined above informs the student and supervisor of clinical competencies to be assessed.
Return Method	In Person
Feedback Provided	In Person - Feedback provided to the student at the midpoint and end of placement
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Cannot be re-attempted

Assessment 3 - Review of placement

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	This assessment allows the student to demonstrate that the course objectives are satisfied and the requirements for accreditation and registration with the NSW Psychologists Registration Board are met.
Description	This assessment is an essential criterion for the course. A pass grade is required in order to pass the overall course. Assessment of this course requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an agreed number of hours undertaken in a professional clinical setting under the direction of an approved placement supervisor. • Submission of a learning agreement • Submission of an adequately maintained placement logbook. • Submission of a completed placement checklist Note: Students are strongly advised to keep copies for their own records
Weighting	This is a formative assessment and will not contribute to your final grade.
Compulsory Requirements	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
Due Date	Within 2 weeks of the last day of placement
Submission Method	Online Placement documentation is to be completed in the SONIA online platform. Please refer to the SONIA and Placement Manuals for further details.

Assessment Criteria

The student and supervisor are required to complete mid and end placement reviews using the forms at the following link <https://placementreview.net> Electronic copies of the completed assessments are to be uploaded by the student to SONIA online

Each of the components must be met in order to ensure that the course objectives are satisfied and the requirements for accreditation and registration with the NSW Psychologists Registration Board are met. Clinical competence "at or above the level expected for the stage of training", and the submission of an adequately maintained logbook, are a Compulsory Course Component in the assessment of placements. That is, it is not possible to pass a placement course unless these criteria have been met.

Any ongoing concerns re student progress that cannot be dealt with as part of usual supervisory processes are referred to the Placement Coordinator and the Program Convenor.

Return Method

In Person

Feedback Provided

In Person - Feedback provided to the student at the midpoint and end of placement.

Opportunity to

Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Reattempt

Cannot be re-attempted

Assessment 4 - Students must demonstrate competency in all listed assessment items

Assessment Type

Demonstrated competency

Weighting

This is a formative assessment and will not contribute to your final grade.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Grade	Description
Ungraded Pass (UP)	There are no marks associated with this result and you have met the level requirements to pass the course.
Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve assessment objectives or compulsory course requirements. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Practicum (Method of recording: Adequately maintained logbook, and supervisors evaluation of clinical competence)

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face-to-face meetings or supervision.

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Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

**Adverse
Circumstances**

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Reasonable
Adjustment Plan (RAP)**

If you are registered with Accessibility and have been provided with a Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP), please ensure that you provide your Course Coordinator with a copy as soon you can or let your Course Coordinator know that you are still waiting for your RAP.

**Important Policy
Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified, and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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