

PSYC6504: Psychology Clinic Placement

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This 24-day placement will give students practical skills in professional clinical psychology practice. Students will have opportunities to develop inter-personal, intra-personal and professional/clinical skills; to observe practice by qualified professionals; to apply, under supervision, the knowledge and skills they have acquired in assessment, formulation, intervention, evaluation and reporting; to receive feedback on their performance; and to gain experience in the planning and organisation of services. At the conclusion of this placement, students will demonstrate foundational skills in clinical psychology practice relevant to the context.
Review of Progress Requirements	<p>This course is a compulsory program requirement for students in the following program(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Master of Clinical Psychology <p>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.</p>
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. It is also assumed that students will have completed the courses PSYC6502, Counselling and Clinical Intervention, and PSYC6501, Professional and Ethical Practice, or that they are taking these courses concurrently.
Contact Hours	<p>Callaghan Practicum *</p> <p>Face to Face Off Campus 24 day(s) per Term Full Term 16h per week for 5 weeks; and then 8h per week for 19 weeks. Placement can commence only after a learning agreement has been received and approved by the placement coordinator. Placements may continue across the academic semester boundaries.</p> <p>* This contact type has a compulsory requirement.</p>
Unit Weighting	10
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Callaghan**
A/Prof Sean Halpin
Sean.Halpin@newcastle.edu.au
(02) 4921 6319
Consultation: By appointment and during morning Clinic meetings

Teaching Staff Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office **School of Psychological Sciences**
W210 - Behavioural Sciences Building
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SYLLABUS

Course Content

1. Introduction to the Clinic setting, including points of decision making, channels of communication, roles and functioning of key staff.
2. Observation of the student's professional work, including (where relevant) reports of clinical activity.
3. Attendance at and participation in supervision meetings.
4. 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 action plans, and the construction of reports.
6. Feedback on and supervision of the student's placement work.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate effective culturally responsive professional/clinical, inter-personal and intra-personal skills. (Competency 3.3)
2. Demonstrate competent counselling skills. (Competency 3.9)
3. Engage in clinical supervision in a manner which will help their professional/practical, inter-personal and intra-personal skills development. (Competencies 3.12, 3.14, 3.15, 4.2.3.iii)
4. Select, administer, and report appropriate psychological instruments for assessment or other methods for data collection, and analyse and evaluate the results within a clinical setting. (Competencies 3.4, 3.6, 4.2.2.ii)
5. Integrate, interpret, and synthesise clinical information from a range of sources to develop a psychological formulation that will guide intervention. (Competencies 3.6, 4.2.2.iii, 4.2.3.i)
6. 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)
7. Monitor, evaluate, and modify interventions based on their effectiveness. (Competencies 3.7, 3.9, 4.2.2. iv, 4.2.3.i, 4.2.3.ii)
8. Provide culturally appropriate, clear, comprehensive, accurate, and relevant verbal and written reports of their activities. (Competencies 3.3, 3.8)
9. Maintain behaviour consistent with ethical and professional standards with a focus on ensuring public safety. (Competencies 3.3, 3.10, 3.11, 3.13)
10. Work effectively and co-operatively by following the procedures of the psychology clinic. (Competencies 3.10, 3.11, 3.13)

Course Materials **Other Resources:**

- Students can access the clinical resources and testing materials within the Psychology Clinic. Additional materials will be made available on Canvas.

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

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

Contact Hour Requirements:

- Practicum Induction Requirement - Students must attend and pass the induction requirements before attending these sessions.

Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Project: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
- Assessment 2 - Professional Task: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
- Assessment 3 - Professional Task: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.

Pre-Placement Requirements:

- NSW Health Verification Requirements - Mandatory NSW Health Verification Requirements must be met.
- 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	Recorded counselling session with self-reflective report*	Day 20 of placement.	Individual	Pass/Fail	1, 2, 6, 8, 9
2	Placement supervisor's evaluation*	Within 2 weeks of day 24 of placement.	Individual	Pass/Fail	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
3	Review of placement*	Within 2 weeks of day 24 of placement.	Individual	Pass/Fail	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
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 - Recorded counselling session with self-reflective report

Assessment Type Purpose

Project

This assignment allows students to demonstrate their competence in forming a therapeutic relationship with an individual; demonstrate their basic counselling skills; and facilitate the client's definition and exploration of the presenting problem.

Description

The written self-reflective report of the session allows students to demonstrate their capacity to reflect upon the clinical skills they employed.

Video recording of a one-hour client session, with 15-minute transcript plus self-reflective report of 1750 words

Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices, and footnotes. The word limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks. In other words, the marker will STOP reading at 1925 words.

Weighting	Pass/Fail
Compulsory Requirements	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
Length	Recording 1 hour; Report 1750 words. Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The word limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks. In other words, the marker will STOP reading at 1925 words
Due Date	Day 20 of placement.
Submission Method	Online - Video Recording, coversheet and signed client consent to recording form to be uploaded to a University OneDrive folder shared with Associate Professor Sean Halpin. Transcript and Self-Reflective Report must be submitted as a word document (not pdf) via Canvas.
Assessment Criteria	A detailed grading rubric for this assignment will be provided to students on placement and will also be available on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Within 3 weeks of submission. Students will be provided feedback via Canvas.
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 on each of the competencies outlined in the Placement Manual.
Description	Supervisor's evaluation of competence.
Weighting	Pass/Fail
Compulsory Requirements	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
Due Date	Within 2 weeks of day 24 of placement.
Submission Method	In Class
Assessment Criteria	Detailed assessment criteria are available in the Placement Manual.
Return Method	In Class
Feedback Provided	In Person - Feedback will provided by the clinical supervisor during the end placement review.
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	The review of placement requires: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completion of an agreed number of hours undertaken in a professional clinical or health promotion setting under the direction of an approved placement supervisor.2. Submission of a supervisor's evaluation of competence3. Submission of an adequately maintained placement logbook
Weighting	Pass/Fail
Compulsory Requirements	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
Due Date	Within 2 weeks of day 24 of placement.
Submission Method	Ongoing Assessment
Assessment Criteria	Each of these 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.

1. Submission of a placement Learning Agreement
2. A mid-placement review.
3. The administration and reporting of a psychological/cognitive assessment
4. A critical appraisal of at least one videoed clinical session
5. A presentation of a case study
6. The completion of a review of the placement including:
 - a) The supervisor's evaluation of competence.
 - b) The completion of the set placement hours; and
 - c) The submission of a completed placement logbook.

Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	No Feedback
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Cannot be re-attempted

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

Assessment Type	Demonstrated competency
Weighting	Pass/Fail

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: Logbook entries recording placement activities, signed by the student and the clinical supervisor.)

Placement Requirements This is a placement course covered by the Student Placement Policy. Refer to <http://newcastle.edu.au/policy/000768.html> for further information.

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.

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. As a result of student feedback, the following changes have been made to this offering of the course:

- The initial 10 days of placement now comprise a structured learning program using simulation, practice, observation and instruction. This will familiarise students with placement procedures and foundational client work skills prior to commencing sessions with actual clients.
- Assessment load has been reduced by moving a previous assessment into a different placement course.

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	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or2. 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; or4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. <p>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</p>
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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