

PSYC6526: Psychological Practica 1

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



OVERVIEW

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| Course Description | Psychological practica prepare students for their internship year by providing opportunities to apply, under supervision, the professional psychology skills they have acquired. Students will also receive feedback on their performance. The PSYC6526 placement is normally of 20 days duration. At the conclusion of this placement, students will demonstrate basic counselling skills. This course provides students with opportunities to develop inter-personal, intra-personal and professional skills and to observe practice by qualified professionals. |
| Requisites | Students must be enrolled in the Master of Professional Psychology [40117] in order to enrol in this course. |
| Assumed Knowledge | It is assumed that students will have completed a four-year sequence in psychology accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). |
| Contact Hours | <p>Callaghan Placement Face to Face on Campus 75 hour(s) per Term</p> <p>Practicum * Face to Face Off Campus 75 hour(s) per Term Placement/Practicum is normally of 20 days duration (7.5 hours per day). Placement/Practica days are deemed to have commenced only after a learning agreement has been received and approved by the placement coordinator or program convenor.</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

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| Course Coordinator | Callaghan Mrs Saskia Behan Saskia.Behan@newcastle.edu.au Mrs Jenny Geddes Jenny.Geddes@newcastle.edu.au |
| Teaching Staff | Dr Oren Griffiths Oren.Griffiths@newcastle.edu.au |
| School Office | School of Psychological Sciences W210 - Behavioural Sciences Building Callaghan psyc-admin@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4921 5505 |

SYLLABUS

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| Course Content | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction to the profession of psychology, including legal and ethical obligations relevant to public safety and that of psychologists.2. Observation of the supervisors' professional work.3. Attendance at and participation in supervision meetings.4. Instruction and guidance in the choice of assessment instruments, the development and evaluation of psychological case formulations and action plans, and the construction of reports.5. Feedback on and supervision of the student's placement work. |
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| Course Learning Outcomes | <p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply evidence-based and scientific methods to professional practice in empirically valid and culturally responsive ways. (Competency 3.2)2. Employ professional communication skills, in a culturally responsive manner, with respect to a range of socially and culturally diverse clients. (Competency 3.3)3. Conduct professional interviews/assessments as appropriate including assessment of risk to formulate a conceptualisation of the presenting issues to determine the most appropriate interventions, including management of risk. (Competency 3.4, 3.6)4. Interpret and communicate findings in writing using culturally appropriate language. (Competency 3.8)5. Design and/or implement appropriate empirically support interventions and monitor intervention outcomes. (Competency 3.9)6. Demonstrate respect for the skills and contribution of other professionals. (Competency 3.10)7. Work effectively with a range of professional and support staff in the workplace and communicate and collaborate effectively, within the bounds of ethical and legal requirements. (Competency 3.11)8. Operate within the boundaries of their professional competence, consult with peers or other relevant sources where appropriate, and refer on to relevant other practitioners where appropriate (Competency 3.12)9. Rigorously apply professional practice policies and procedures, including as they relate to referral management and record keeping, with recognition of different organisational cultures and practices. (Competency 3.13)10. Engage in self-reflective professional practice, taking account of the impact of their own values and beliefs, and taking appropriate actions as a result. (Competencies 3.14)11. Evaluate the effectiveness of professional practice of their professional practice, identifying areas for improvement and implementing changes where needed. (Competencies 3.15)12. Critically evaluate contemporary scientific literature to inform practice. (Competency 3.16) |
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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. Student will be required to participate in any induction processes required by the placement site.

Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Written Assignment: 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:

- AHPRA Requirement - Provisional or full registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- National Police Certificate - Students must complete a National Police Check.

SCHEDULE

| Week | Practica Date | Laboratory/Workshop | Presented By |
|------|---------------|---|---|
| 1 | 1 Mar | Face-to-face Practica Day 1 Conducting the First Session | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |
| 2 | 8 Mar | Face-to-face Practica Day 2 Child Protection | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |
| 3 | 15 Mar | Face-to-face Practica Day 3 Clinical Skills Practice | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |
| 4 | 22 Mar | Face-to-face Practica Day 4 Working with Variable Insight | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |
| 5 | 5 Apr | Face-to-face Practica Day 5 Case Studies | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |
| 6 | 12 Apr | Face-to-face Practica Day 6 Psychoeducation | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |

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| 7 | 19 Apr | Face-to-face Practica Day 7 CBT and the Cognitive Model | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |
| 8 | 26 Apr | Face-to-face Practica Day 8 Responding to Suicide Risk | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |
| 9 | 3 May | Face-to-face Practica Day 9 Behavioural Experiments | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |
| 10 | 10 May | Face-to-face Practica Day 10 Relapse Prevention and Treatment Termination | Saskia Behan Jenny Geddes Dr Oren Griffiths |

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 | Written Case Study* | 5pm on 22/4/2024 | Individual | Pass/Fail | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 |
| 2 | Placement supervisor's evaluation* | Within 2 weeks of end of internal practica sessions | Individual | Pass/Fail | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, |
| 3 | Review of placement* | Day 10 of external 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 - Written Case Study

Assessment Type

Written Assignment

Purpose

Demonstrate competency in synthesising information, writing a case study and self reflection.

Description

You are required to write a case study based on a case that will be given to you. You must watch the recorded assessment session and write the case study as if you are the therapist.

Weighting

Pass/Fail

Compulsory Requirements

Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.

Length

2,500 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 2750 words.

Due Date

5pm on 22/4/2024

Submission Method

Online - Submit on CANVAS via Cadmus

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| Assessment Criteria | Rubric provided |
| Return Method | Online |
| Feedback Provided | Online - 13/5/2024. |
| Opportunity to Reattempt | Students WILL be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Students can resubmit once if required. Students cannot repeat placement. |

Assessment 2 - Placement supervisor's evaluation

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| Assessment Type | Professional Task |
| Description | Placement supervisor's written evaluation of the student on placement. |
| Weighting | Pass/Fail |
| Compulsory Requirements | Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course. |
| Due Date | Within 2 weeks of end of internal practica sessions (5/5/2024 end date) |
| Submission Method | Online - Upload to SONIA |
| Return Method | Online |
| Feedback Provided | In Person - Supervisor will provide feedback at the Review meeting. |
| Opportunity to Reattempt | Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Students cannot repeat placement. |

Assessment 3 - Review of placement

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| Assessment Type | Professional Task |
| Description | Supervisor and student's review of the first 10 days of external placement. |
| Weighting | Pass/Fail |
| Compulsory Requirements | Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course. |
| Due Date | Day 10 of external placement |
| Submission Method | Online Supervisor review - PCAM online platform, completed by external supervisor. Student to upload review form to SONIA platform. |
| Return Method | Online |
| Feedback Provided | In Person - Supervisor will provide feedback at the Review meeting |
| Opportunity to Reattempt | Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Students cannot repeat placement. |

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

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| Assessment Type | Demonstrated competency |
| Weighting | Pass/Fail |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme This course is graded as follows:

| Grade | Description |
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| 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. |

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 | <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 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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