

**PSYC6530: Clinical Research Project 2**

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



**OVERVIEW**

<b>Course Description</b>	Evidence-based and scientific methods are the cornerstone of professional practice. In this course, with the guidance of one or more research supervisors, you will be given the opportunity to continue the research project begun in PSYC6405, PSYC6505 and PSYC6511, which has the potential to make an original contribution to knowledge in clinical psychology. Teaching is by individual supervision. Students are advised to read the Clinical Program Research Manual for a description of the course requirements.
<b>Requisites</b>	This course is only available to students enrolled in the Master of Clinical Psychology [40187].
<b>Assumed Knowledge</b>	It is assumed that students will have passed courses in statistics and research methodology, and will have completed a research project, as part of a four-year program in Psychology which has been accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). It is also assumed that they will have completed a research proposal as part of PSYC6511 Research Project 1.
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Callaghan Individual Supervision</b> Contact over the semester will be by mutual agreement with the Supervisor/s.
<b>Unit Weighting</b>	10
<b>Workload</b>	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Callaghan</b> Dr Tanya Hanstock <a href="mailto:Tanya.Hanstock@newcastle.edu.au">Tanya.Hanstock@newcastle.edu.au</a> (02) 4921 5641 Consultation: Email is my preferred contact however, we can arrange a phone call, a Zoom meeting or a face-to-face meeting in my office W120.
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Your Primary (and Secondary where relevant) research supervisors will provide the majority of teaching of research for this course.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Psychological Sciences</b> W210 - Behavioural Sciences Building Callaghan <a href="mailto:psyc-admin@newcastle.edu.au">psyc-admin@newcastle.edu.au</a> +61 2 4921 5505

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Critical reviewing of the existing published literature.</li><li>2. Development of specific research questions and/or hypotheses.</li><li>3. Implementation of a viable research methodology appropriate to the research questions and/or hypotheses.</li><li>4. Data analysis and interpretation.</li><li>5. Reporting the results of research in an appropriate format.</li></ol>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Implement a research plan designed to evaluate a specific set of research questions and/or hypotheses. (Competencies 3.16, 3.17)</li><li>2. Analyse data in a manner appropriate to the aims of the research. (Competencies 3.16, 3.17)</li><li>3. Write a clear, succinct, and critical report of the research in the form of a journal article manuscript (5000 to 8000 words) ready for submission to an appropriate journal. (Competencies 3.16, 3.17)</li><li>4. Present a report of the research orally and visually to an audience in a manner suited to the audience's understanding. (Competencies 3.16, 3.17)</li></ol>

# COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

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

## Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Presentation: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course. Students must pass this assessment task to gain a pass in this course.
- Assessment 2 - Thesis: Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course. Students must pass this assessment task to gain a pass in this course.

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 2 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Oral Presentation of Research Findings*	Anytime this semester before the 21 <sup>st</sup> of June 2024.	Individual	Pass/Fail	4
2	Thesis*	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024. However, the thesis can be submitted earlier if your supervisor agrees it is ready.	Individual	Pass/Fail	1, 2, 3

\* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

## Late Submissions

### Assessment 1 - Oral Presentation of Research Findings

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Presentation
<b>Purpose</b>	To gain experience in presenting on research.
<b>Description</b>	A PowerPoint Presentation of your research to work colleagues or colleagues at your placement (attendance sheet is to be administered and sent to Course Coordinator following the presentation along with the PowerPoint Slides). If these options are not available to you, please present to the Course Coordinator and other staff in the clinical program via Zoom.
<b>Weighting</b>	Pass/Fail
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
<b>Length</b>	Approximately 15 minutes to present and 5 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	Anytime this semester before the 21st of June.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Present a PowerPoint presentation to mental health clinicians at your place of work or placement (an attendance sheet needs to be signed and submitted along with a copy of the PowerPoint slides to the Course Coordinator afterwards). If these options are not available to you, please present to the Course Coordinator and other staff in the clinical program via Zoom.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	This is a hurdle requirement and will not be marked, just approved.
<b>Return Method</b>	Not Returned
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	No Feedback
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Students may be permitted to re-attempt one failed compulsory course requirement

### Assessment 2 - Thesis

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Thesis
<b>Purpose</b>	To present your research project as a manuscript formatted as per 'the Instructions to Authors' for the chosen journal you and your supervisors think would suit your manuscript the best.
<b>Description</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A thesis in the format of a specified journal article (typically in the field of psychology, journal articles range in word length between 5,000-8,000 words).</li> <li>2. Any relevant appendices including any further analyses such as ethics approval, participant recruitment flyers, participant information sheet, measures and instructions to authors for the journal you have formatted your thesis for. Students are advised to read the Clinical Program Research Manual for a full description of the theses requirements.</li> </ol>
<b>Weighting</b>	Pass/Fail
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Pass Requirement - Students must pass this assessment item to pass the course.
<b>Length</b>	5000-to-8000-word thesis in manuscript format. 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 8800 words.
<b>Due Date</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024. However, the thesis can be submitted earlier if your supervisor agrees it is ready.

<b>Submission Method</b>	Online - Submit online through Turnitin link on the CANVAS site for this course. Please see the Research Manual for details regarding the examiners' report. Also please email a copy to the Course Coordinator and the <a href="mailto:psyc-masters@newcastle.edu.au">psyc-masters@newcastle.edu.au</a> email address.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	The thesis will be examined by one external examiner and one internal (School of Psychological Sciences staff member) if the external examiner has not given it a pass, minor changes or major changes outcome. The thesis is examined similar to how a manuscript is peer reviewed for a journal.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - 4-6 weeks post submission to examiners. Returned Work — 4-6 weeks once it has been sent to the examiner. You will be required to respond to the examiners' responses and make corrections to the thesis as you and your supervisor/s agree. The revised thesis and response to examiners is then sent to the Course Coordinator for approval. The Course Coordinator may also provide you with instructions on improving the formatting after your thesis has been examined so it can be eventually uploaded to NOVA (the final step in having your thesis and this course signed off as complete).
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment. Student will receive formative feedback during the external thesis examination process.

## 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:

- Individual Supervision (You and your supervisor will regularly arrange supervision session. Please be proactive regarding this and set these up yourself.)

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Individual Supervision (Method of recording: Not recorded.)

This is a thesis submission course, so there are no lectures. The majority of your contact with staff for this course is with your supervisor/s. Attendance will be organised by you and your supervisor around regular supervision meetings. I will meet with students early in the semester for a 1-hour presentation on Zoom about submission and to answer any questions. I will also check in with how you are going via email or a Zoom meeting at least once during this semester. I will check your response to examiners and revised thesis and help you to get the revised thesis ready to be submitted to NOVA.

### 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.

I will make announcements on the CANVAS site to the group and email you individually to check your progress in this semester.

### 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](#).

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<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	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 at the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a> .
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	<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"><li>1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li><li>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.</li><li>3. you are requesting a change of placement; or</li><li>4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li></ol> <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a></p>
<b>Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP)</b>	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.
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	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 <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures</a> 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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