

Master of Psychology (Clinical)

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) degree is the standard program for professional training in clinical psychology. It consists of three major components: coursework, research thesis and field placements supervised by Psychologist practitioners. The program involves two years of full-time or four years of part-time study. The program has two key objectives. The first is to provide thorough theoretical and clinical skills preparation in core areas to meet formal requirements for entry to the profession (as determined by the National Registration Board, the Australian Psychological Society and its College of Clinical Psychologists). The second is to prepare graduates to accept responsibility for continuing self-monitoring and development, skills that are essential to ongoing employment in the profession.

The program is available to graduates with an Honours degree in psychology (minimum of Second Class, Division A Honours and an individually-conducted research project carrying 33% or more of the years work). Selection procedures depend on academic results, referee reports and a structured interview conducted by a panel. There is usually very strong competition for the limited number of places available.

Applications are available through SATAC (www.satac.edu.au). SATAC code 3CM086.

What does a Clinical Psychologist do?

Clinical psychologists have specialist training in the assessment and diagnosis of major mental illnesses and psychological problems.

Specific areas assessed, diagnosed and treated by clinical psychologists include:

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| ✚ Adjustment disorders | ✚ Delirium, dementia and other cognitive disorders | ✚ Obsessions and compulsive behaviour |
| ✚ Alcohol and drug misuse | ✚ Depression and depressive illness | ✚ Parent-child relationships |
| ✚ Anxiety disorders e.g. social anxiety, phobias, panic attacks | ✚ Eating disorders | ✚ Personality problems |
| ✚ Attention deficit disorders | ✚ Educational functioning | ✚ Post-traumatic stress disorder |
| ✚ Behaviour disorders | ✚ Intellectual disability | ✚ Relationship difficulties |
| ✚ Brain injury e.g. attention, memory, judgement, reasoning deficits | ✚ Loss, grief and bereavement | ✚ Sexual disorders |
| ✚ Chronic pain | ✚ Couple and family difficulties | ✚ Sleep disorders |
| ✚ Chronic psychiatric conditions | ✚ Medical conditions caused or aggravated by stress | ✚ Stress and chronic stress disorders |
| | | ✚ Suicidal behaviour |

Consultation with a clinical psychologist involves detailed discussion of the issues concerning the client. The psychologist then intervenes by:

- Assessing the emotional, intellectual and behavioural functioning of the client
- Exploring the thoughts, emotions and behaviour of the client and tracing their origins
- Helping the client develop effective ways of controlling and coping with these difficulties
- Helping the client to implement changes that enhance wellbeing and awareness, and alleviate the presenting problems.
- Evaluating treatment outcomes and modifying treatment where necessary.

International Requirements

International Students applying for a Master of Psychology degree

Students applying for a Masters degree must submit their applications via the University International Office (www.international.adelaide.edu.au) no later than October 31 of the year prior to their enrolment. The closing date for applications for Masters is early November.

Applications must be accompanied by the Psychology School's referee reports which are available at www.adelaide.edu.au/psychology.

As a first step, students applying for these degrees must have their qualifications assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS). Students applying for consideration into a Masters degree require a post-bachelor year with a strong research component.

Students obtaining an Honours degree within Australia do not need to have their qualifications assessed by the APS.

The fourth year of Psychology study, which is an entry criterion, needs to be an Honours equivalent, i.e. study of Psychology at advanced level, and offering the evidence base for applications rather than teaching professional skills.

Students must have undertaken a substantial research project that carries a final assessment weight of one to two thirds of the years work, and that is independent in the sense that the student participates in all the steps including the formulation of the research question, the research design, the collection and analysis of data, and the preparation of a thesis of 9000-15000 words.

For students who have gained at least Honours 2A or the equivalent, the selection process will take into account referee reports, and usually an interview by a panel of at least two staff members, one being eligible for membership of the relevant College of the Australian Psychological Society.

International Students applying for Postgraduate Research

Applications for a PhD or Master of Medical Science must first be submitted to the International Office (www.international.adelaide.edu.au).

The School of Psychology will make the final decision on the application by considering the quality of the proposal and the School's ability to support the application. The criterion for a PhD is a degree equivalent to four years of study at undergraduate level with a research intensive year in psychology in the fourth year. Undergraduate qualifications do not need to be assessed by the Australian Psychological Society, as a postgraduate research degree does not lead to APS accreditation.

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