

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY



GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

2010

INFORMATION FOR
INTENDING APPLICANTS

Program Coordinator: Assoc Prof Amanda LeCouteur

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in studying at The University of Adelaide. The Graduate Diploma in Psychological Sciences has been designed for students who have an undergraduate degree that either (i) does not include Psychology or (ii) does not include more than Level I Psychology. It requires one year of full-time study, or a maximum of two years of part-time study. It includes all the Level II and Level III courses required by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) to allow students to apply for entry into Honours Psychology.

QUOTA

At present there is no quota for this program.

PRE-REQUISITES

The pre-requisites for the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Sciences are an undergraduate degree and Psychology IA and Psychology IB (or equivalent). Students who do not have the pre-requisite psychology studies can attend an intensive summer course, Introductory Psychology.

ADMISSION

All applicants must have a completed Bachelor's degree. Applicants who have completed Level II or III Psychology subjects are not eligible unless only 6-units or less have been completed (credit towards the Graduate Diploma will be granted in such cases).

SATAC code 3GD048

Applicants who have successfully completed university Level I Psychology within the last 10 years apply through SATAC (www.satac.edu.au) for the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Sciences.

SATAC code: 3GD060

Applicants without Level I Psychology (within the last 10 years) must complete an intensive summer course (Introductory Psychology) as non-award study. Applicants will need to apply for the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Sciences (with qualifying studies).

Applicants will not be considered for an offer after 27 November 2009 if they have not met the Level I Psychology prerequisite. Only applicants who have already met the prerequisite Psychology IA and IB requirements will be considered after this date.

International Applicants

Application

International applications for this program can be made through the International Office at The University of Adelaide www.international.adelaide.edu.au

Applications close on 31 October 2009

Applicants must have the equivalent of a recognised three-year degree, in any discipline, from a tertiary institution.

English Requirement

IELTS overall band score of 6.5 with no individual band score below 6.

TOEFL score of at least 575 including a TWE of 4.5 or better (paper based), or 230 including an Essay Rating of 4.5 or better (computer based).

SUMMER COURSE – PSYCHOL 6100 INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY

Students who do not have the equivalent of Psychology IA and Psychology IB can study these courses through an intensive program over the Summer Semester, which runs from 5/01/2010 to 12/2/2010. Although not officially part of the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Sciences, PSYCHOL 6100-Introductory Psychology is available only to students intending to enrol in this program.

It is expected that students will be available to study during the entire Summer Semester. There are 3-4 contact hours each week, and the remainder of the time is spent in directed study and self-directed computer learning.

STUDY PLAN

Full-time study (1 year)

Semester 1

PSYCHOL 6020 – Doing Research In Psychology: Research Design, Methods & Analysis

PSYCHOL 6022 – Foundations of Perception & Cognition

PSYCHOL 6026 – Individual Differences, Personality & Assessment

PSYCHOL 6028 – Psychology, Ideas and Action

Semester 2

PSYCHOL 6021 – Foundations of Health & Lifespan Developmental Psychology

PSYCHOL 6023 – Psychology in Society

PSYCHOL 6024 – Doing Research In Psychology: Advanced Research Design, Methods & Analysis

PSYCHOL 6027 – Perception & Cognition

Part-time study (2-years)

Although the program is designed for one year of full-time study, students may study the Graduate Diploma over two consecutive years of part-time study. Students who wish to take this option must study the Level II courses in the first year and Level III courses in the second year.

Year 1

Semester 1

PSYCHOL 6020 – Doing Research In Psychology: Research Design, Methods & Analysis

PSYCHOL 6021 – Foundations of Health & Lifespan Developmental Psychology

Semester 2

PSYCHOL 6022 – Foundations of Perception & Cognition

PSYCHOL 6023 – Psychology in Society

Year 2

Semester 1

Choose two from following three:

PSYCHOL 6026 – Individual Differences, Personality & Assessment

PSYCHOL 6028 – Psychology, Ideas and Action

PSYCHOL 6029 – Psychology in Society: Advanced

Semester 2

Choose one from either PSYCHOL 6025 or PSYCHOL 6027:

PSYCHOL 6024 – Doing Research In Psychology: Advanced Research Design, Methods & Analysis

PSYCHOL 6025 – Health & Lifespan Developmental Psychology

PSYCHOL 6027 – Perception & Cognition

FEES

Both the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Sciences and the summer course, Introductory Psychology, are fee-paying programs.

In 2010 the fees for the Introductory Psychology will be \$2500 and for the Graduate Diploma \$10,500.

FEE-HELP is available for both the Introductory Psychology and the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Sciences.

FEE-HELP

FEE-HELP is a loan facility for eligible Australian students who are enrolled in fee-paying, postgraduate non-research studies. Under this scheme the Commonwealth pays the amount of the loan directly to the University and the student repays their loan through the Australian taxation system. FEE-HELP works in the same way as the HECS deferred payment arrangements.

Introductory Psychology

To apply for FEE-HELP you must complete a "Request for FEE-HELP Assistance" form that can be obtained from the School of Psychology or the Student Centre and lodge this with the University before the census date of the term in you wish the application to take effect. This cannot be done electronically.

Graduate Diploma in Psychological Sciences

FEE-HELP forms can be completed electronically as part of the online enrolment process through Access Adelaide.

More information is contained in FEE-HELP information 2009 available from the Student Centre or online at www.hecs.gov.au.

PSYCHOLOGY AFTER THE GRADUATE DIPLOMA

Completion of the Graduate Diploma allows students to apply for entry to Honours Psychology at most Australian Universities. Students should be aware that entry into Honours Psychology is competitive, and selection is based solely on academic merit in Psychology courses.

Honours Psychology is the basic academic requirement for registration as a Psychologist. The degree in which students are accepted into the Honours program at the University of Adelaide is the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) program.

To give you an idea of the range of topics covered in the Honours program, topics being offered for 2010 include cognition, social psychology, gender, intelligence, psychological assessment, evidence-based practice, ageing, organisational psychology, public health, and research methods. It should be noted, however, that although there is considerable continuity in Honours programming, topics may change from year to year.

Completion of the Honours degree opens up a number of alternative career pathways.

- (1) At present those with four years of university study in Psychology are, after an additional two years of approved, supervised practical experience, eligible to seek registration to practise as a Psychologist in South Australia.
- (2) Application may be made for entry into various formal courses of professional preparation. A range of such courses is offered by various universities within Australia, but typically, as is the case within this School, they are of two years' duration and lead by coursework to a Master of Psychology degree and eligibility to seek professional registration. Once again there is competition for the limited number of places available in such programs.
- (3) Honours graduates may also seek to enrol for a higher degree (PhD or Master) by research. These typically require two years of study for a Master degree and three to four years for a PhD. A range of scholarships is available for pursuing this option, of which the most common is the Australian Postgraduate Award. A First Class Honours degree is required to obtain one of these scholarships. Opportunities may also exist for elite students to complete a combined Master/PhD degree.

In recent years the employment prospects for psychologists have been good in comparison to those of many other university graduates, and projections of future employment prospects continue to be comparatively optimistic.