



**SCIENCE**  
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

## **POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

This programme is restricted to **New Zealand** and **Australian citizens/permanent residents.**

Applications open on the **1<sup>st</sup> of September** and must be received **before the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.**

The dates for the selection processes and interviews will be 21- 25 November.

### **2022 INFORMATION SHEET FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS**

The Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) has accreditation from the New Zealand Psychologists Board, and graduates are eligible to be registered in the Clinical Psychology Scope of Practice of the Psychologists Board. The Doctor of Clinical Psychology takes three years, and applicants for the DClinPsy must have already met the minimum academic and other entry requirements to be considered for admission.

To gain admission into the Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) Programme candidates must have completed an Honours or Masters degree in Psychology with at least a B+ average, have passed required clinical papers ((PSYCH 708, 718, 723) with at least a B+ average and meet the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003) for Professional and Ethical behaviour. These prerequisites can be achieved by being selected into the one year preparatory clinical psychology qualifying courses. Decision on entry to the DClinPsy must have the approval of the Director of the Clinical Psychology programme, Head of the School of Psychology and the Board of Graduate Studies or their delegates.

Entry into this preparatory clinical psychology qualifying year is by application and is highly selective. It will require evidence of strong academic ability, significant relevant work experience, and demonstration of qualities appropriate to clinical psychology in a written application form and interview and attested to by written references. Note that successful completion of the preparatory year is a prerequisite but not a guarantee of acceptance into the DClinPsy.

Courses in the preparatory qualifying year will be taken under an Honours degree or a bridging programme (for those who already have an Honours or a Master Degree in Psychology). The courses in the qualifying programme include compulsory preparatory clinical courses (PSYCH 708, 718, 723).

Please note that all applicants, whether for the qualifying year or the DClInPsy, will need to complete the enrolment process on the Student Services Online as well as the relevant Clinical Programme Application Form that is found on our Forms and Guides page

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/forms-and-guides.html>

## Preparatory Clinical Psychology Qualifying Programmes

**A)** If your highest qualification in psychology is a bachelors degree (i.e., not an honours, masters or doctorate in psychology) you must apply for either the **BA (Hons)** or **BSc (Hons)** in **Psychology (Preparatory Clinical Psychology pathway)**.

**B)** If you already have a higher degree in Psychology, you must apply for a **Certificate of Proficiency in Science** (bridging programme) in the courses that you are lacking. (Note: Even if your qualifying degree is in the Arts, you must still apply for a CoP under Science.)

### Academic Prerequisites for Entry into the Honours Degree for Preparatory Clinical Psychology Students with a Bachelors Degree

In order to be eligible to be admitted to the BA(Hons) or BSc(Hons) Psychology (Preparatory Clinical Psychology pathway) a student needs to meet the minimum academic requirements for entry to the honours degree, namely:

- Have completed the University of Auckland requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology or attained an equivalent qualification, as approved by senate or its representative.
- **and**, have completed at least 90 points above Stage II (*BSc(Hons) only*)
- **and**, meet the GPA entry requirement (5.0). The GPA is calculated from 45 points in Psychology courses above Stage II;
- **and have completed the PSYCH 306 (Research Methods in Psychology) course or equivalent.**

Note: These are minimum requirements only.

### Supplementary Application Requirements

The Supplementary Application form AND two supporting references are to be submitted between 1 September and 1 November. You can find the forms on <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/forms-and-guides.html>

You must arrange two references. Preferably one tertiary academic (e.g., a research supervisor, or postgrad course coordinator) and one clinical/work reference (e.g., a line manager in your clinically relevant work). References must **not** be from a family

member or friend. Please ask your **two** referees to e-mail their Confidential Letter of Reference to [psych-postgradapp@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:psych-postgradapp@auckland.ac.nz)

It is your responsibility to check with your referees that receipt of the letter has been acknowledged before the nominated closing date (see Reference Form). Letters of Reference received after this date will not be considered.

### **Postgraduate Students NEW to The University of Auckland**

Applicants for postgraduate programmes who have not been enrolled previously at The University of Auckland must apply for admission using the online application process.

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/applications-and-admissions/apply-now.html>

This application for admission to The University of Auckland must be made as early as possible to prevent delays in the assessment of your qualifications.

**Do not apply under the Doctoral application.** All successful applicants will start as a Preparatory year cohort.

***Verification of your previous university qualification is required before your application to the School of Psychology for the Preparatory Clinical Psychology Programme can be considered.***

A separate application to the School of Psychology must be made by **1 November**. School of Psychology supplementary applications can be submitted from 1 September onwards.

- It is important you do not miss this step. Without the supplementary application form, the Selection Panel cannot review your application.

### **The Selection Process**

The Selection Committee consists of two School of Psychology staff members in Clinical Psychology, a Māori Clinical Psychologist and a senior Māori Clinical Psychologist from the community.

There are three steps in the selection process.

- (a) Applications will be reviewed to check that minimum academic criteria, as outlined above, are met. Applicants who do not meet these requirements cannot be selected.
- (b) Eligible candidates will be shortlisted for interview based on their academic record, relevant work experience, supplementary application form, and referees' reports
- (c) Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed to judge more accurately their suitability for the programme. The dates for the clinical interviews are set each year for November. It is not possible to interview applicants outside of these dates, and where possible interviews will take place in person. Details of the interview process will be provided to shortlisted applicants.

Affirmative action will be applied to those individuals identifying as Māori or Pasifika. The certification in the Supplementary Application form will also need to be completed in this case.

## DECISION:

For the 2023 intake, up to 14 applicants will be made a firm offer for a place into one of qualifying programmes, either the preparatory clinical psychology programme or COP in the bridging course. The School aspires to offer up to 50% of the available places to suitably qualified Māori students. The remaining places will be offered based on the selection score.

Every effort will be made to notify applicants as early as possible whether they have been successful, unsuccessful, or placed on the short waiting list. The programme will begin at the beginning of Semester One (end February/beginning March. Exact dates will be available on the university website) and students are expected to be available for orientation to the course one week before that date.

There are no mid-year intakes.

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## Things to think about in preparing your application

- **Work Experience:** this refers to paid and/or unpaid work experience, but only if it is relevant to the clinical psychology field of practice, particularly with mental health consumers. One of your referees must be able to comment on this work experience.
- **Communication Skills:** the ability to communicate with a wide range of people in a non-judgmental, accepting and genuine manner. This includes good listening skills as well as being able to express yourself clearly.
- **Compassion:** able to be warm, supportive and patient, and for this to be sufficiently overt for it to be perceived by clients and colleagues.
- **Self-awareness/reflexivity:** awareness of your own values, motivations, issues and limitations.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** have experience with and level of sensitivity towards people from different cultural backgrounds.
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** We are looking for your behavioural commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and how they have informed your identity.
- **Ability to Contribute:** ability to contribute in a group (staff team, student class), including willingness to offer ideas, skills and knowledge, assertiveness, ability to be cooperative and supportive of others.

## The preparatory programme structure

For those selected, the courses for the preparatory clinical programme will be either an Honours degree consisting of:

PSYCH 708 A & B Clinical Neuropsychology	(30 points)
PSYCH 718 Psychotherapeutic Assessment and Formulation	(15 points)
PSYCH 723 Mental Health Problems: Aetiology and Assessment	(15 Points)
PSYCH 779 Research and Communication	(15 points)
PSYCH 780 Honours research project	(30 points)
Elective Course (we recommend PSYCH 707 Forensic Psychology)	(15 points)

OR

(For those already deemed to have an equivalent Honours degree)  
a bridging programme in:

PSYCH 708 A & B Clinical Neuropsychology	(30 points)
PSYCH 718 Psychotherapeutic Assessment and Formulation	(15 points)
PSYCH 723 Mental Health Problems: Aetiology and Assessment	(15 Points)

**Applicants for direct entry to the Doctor of Clinical Psychology** Applicants must have already met (or be expected to meet for those currently studying the qualifying courses) the minimum academic requirements for entry to the DClinPsy in order to apply directly for admission into the DClinPsy. The current minimum academic requirements are:

In order to be admitted to this doctoral degree, candidates must have:

a (i) completed the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology from this University with a Grade Point Average of 6.0 or higher

*or*

(ii) completed the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science in Psychology from this University with a Grade Point Average of 6.0 or higher

*or*

(iii) an equivalent qualification in Psychology with a Grade Point Average of 6.0 or higher as approved by the Board of Graduate Studies

*and*

b (i) passed PSYCH 708, 718, 723, 779 with a Grade Point Average of 5.0 or higher, or the equivalent as approved by Senate or its representative

*and*

(ii) passed PSYCH 780 with a Grade Point Average of 6.0 or higher, or the equivalent as approved by Senate or its representative

*and*

c demonstrated in accordance with the approved selection criteria determined by the Faculty of Science the qualities necessary for a person seeking to be a Doctor of Clinical Psychology. This will normally require an interview, submission of academic transcripts and appropriate letters of reference.

3 Candidates must continue to meet the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003) for Professional and Ethical behaviour.

**NB:** If you have completed your prior tertiary study at another institution and believe that you have completed courses equivalent to PSYCH 708; PSYCH 718 and PSYCH 723, you should apply to have these courses assessed by the School before you submit your application or you run the risk that they will not be considered equivalent. There are not considered to be any courses within Aotearoa New Zealand that are equivalent to PSYCH 708.

Students must submit an Expression of Interest to be admitted to the DClinPsy, once they have completed the Preparatory requirements.

To be eligible for continuation into the DClinPsy students must have met the academic prerequisites for the DClinPsy, and also demonstrate the qualities necessary for a person seeking to be a Doctor of Clinical Psychology. This may require referee's reports, an interview process, and police vetting. Candidates must continue to meet the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003) for Professional and Ethical behaviour.

Also, note that the DClinPsy is a limited entry programme and if more eligible applications are received than places are available a selection process will apply.

You should apply online for the Doctor of Clinical Psychology, and submit the required supplementary application form available here:

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/for-ms-and-guides.html>

## DClinPsy structure

### DClinPsy 1

<b>PSYCH 800</b> Scientist Practitioner Model—Part 1	(15 points)
<b>PSYCH 890</b> Thesis—Part 1 (includes 200 hours of placement)	(105 points)

### DClinPsy 2

<b>PSYCH 800</b> Scientist Practitioner Model—Part 2	(30 points)
<b>PSYCH 890</b> Thesis—Part 2 (includes two placements of 200 hours each)	(90 points)

### DClinPsy 3

<b>PSYCH 800</b> Internship	(75 points)
<b>PSYCH 890</b> Thesis—Part 3 (includes 1500 hours of internship)	(45 points)

### DClinPsy 4

<b>PSYCH 890</b> Thesis—Part 4	(120 points)
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(Candidates may submit anytime in this fourth year, and fees will be adjusted accordingly)

## Additional Information

**A Treaty of Waitangi** 12-hour introductory course is incorporated into the Orientation week. This is an essential requirement for the programme.

**Academic Integrity course** (online) undergraduate and postgraduate students admitted for the first time to a programme at the University are expected to complete this course in the first semester (see <http://www.auckland.ac.nz/ua/home/about/teaching-learning/academic-integrity>).

**The Children's Act** was introduced in 2014 in an effort to further support child protection. It sets out procedures for the vetting of all children's workers who provide a regulated service in a specified organisation. The services included under the Act include mental health services, Oranga Tamariki, schools etc. Students on placements qualify as children's workers under the Act.

Police vetting is different to the Police check/Criminal Conviction History report. Vetting involves Police searching any records they have of you, and then reporting directly to the Agency (School of Psychology). **You must consent to allow us to do a Police vetting** in order to cover you for any work in DHBs etc. for a three year period. In your internship year you will be vetted again by the Psychologists' Board and by employers (independently).

The process involves:

- Identity verification that includes sighting the originals of primary and secondary identity document. The primary identity document will usually be a passport or birth certificate, and the secondary document a New Zealand driver license or New Zealand student ID card. If the person's name is different from that on their

- identity documents, s/he must provide supporting name change documents;
- New Zealand police vetting service;
  - Reference check helps to determine whether the person poses a risk to the safety of children. If the first referee raises concerns, then obtaining further references would seem appropriate;
  - Interview in person;
  - Self-Report form;
  - Work history over the previous 5 years, including memberships of or licensing/registration by relevant professional organisations. If such membership/registration exists, this must be confirmed with at least one of the organisations named. Confirmation can be done through an electronic register.

**Immunisation** will be required if accepted into the DClinPsy programme. Applicants should note that clinical placements in hospitals and other health care settings require that people providing clinical services in these settings are immunised against certain diseases. If accepted into the DClinPsy programme, vaccination requirements must be completed prior to semester two of DClinPsy 1 year for placements to proceed.

The University of Auckland requires all students involved in contact with patients, children or other members of the public to complete the same infectious disease screening procedures as qualified psychologists working for District Health Boards.

The purpose of this screening/immunisation procedure is to minimise the risk of infectious disease transmission between staff, students and patients, specifically those involved in direct patient contact.

- Contact your local General Practitioner as soon as possible for advice on how to organise and prepare for your immunisation screening programme. Your GP will also need to sign-off your test results.
- If you are intending to travel over the holiday period please inform your GP as this may have implications for the timing of your screening programme. The immunisations process must be completed by June. Please note that immunisation against hepatitis B (if required) involves a course of three injections over a 3-6 month period.

Please be aware that there will be a charge for testing and for any immunisations that are required. If you have a community services card (CSC) please take it when you go for your immunisation screening programme. Application forms for CSCs are available from WINZ. These take a couple of weeks for WINZ to process so if you need one please apply well in advance. Students are responsible for all costs related to their immunisation testing/screening and for any immunisations needed. No reimbursement is possible for students. You will also be advised of any risks associated with immunisation, for example, pregnancy should be avoided for the first three months after MMR vaccination.

Infectious diseases targeted by our Immunisation Screening Programme are: measles, mumps, varicella zoster, rubella (German measles), hepatitis B, hepatitis C antibody, tuberculosis, methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) carrier status.

- COVID-19 vaccination is required by The University of Auckland and all current placement settings.

Other immunisations that should be considered:

- Immunisation for Meningococcal C is recommended but not required. This is because there seems to be an increased rate of Meningococcal C disease in young people living in hostel accommodation or other crowded environments and so this is potentially applicable to all students, not especially to those engaged in health care studies.
- Immunisation for Seasonal Flu is recommended but not required. It is recommended annually to protect students, patients and reduce community spread.
- Immunisation for Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Pertussis is recommended but not required. Most students will have completed vaccination in childhood.
  - Booster recommended around age 20.
- Immunisation for HPV (human papillomavirus) is recommended for female students but not required.
- Pertussis is required if you have a placement on paediatric wards in a hospital. You will be informed of this by the Director of Clinical Education.

### **Demands of the Clinical Psychology Programmes**

The Clinical programmes make heavy demands on time, energy and personal resources. In addition to high academic demands of learning theory, research and professional practice. The process of becoming a good clinical psychologist may challenge your existing behaviour patterns and beliefs regarding yourself in interaction with others. If you have not already done so, please consider for yourself if any of the following would seriously threaten your ability to undertake the programme at this time:

- Current severe stresses such as major financial difficulties, recent losses or major illness or medical condition;
- Lack of social support networks;
- A "40 hour/week job" orientation. The nature of the training (and clinical work in general) is that there are times of intense activity and times of lulls – you will sometimes need to work longer than regular hours. Students will also need to remain active over semester breaks, especially in regard to the Doctoral Thesis;
- This is an Auckland-based training programme. Applicants need to be aware that all clinical field placements and the Internship will be undertaken in the Auckland region. Applicants need to seriously consider this prior to applying for this programme.

### **Financial Support**

We cannot guarantee that all internships will be as paid employment. The DClinPsy programme is considered a full-time activity. Upon consultation with staff, we do accept that students may undertake limited outside employment.

Students completing the DClinPsy should also apply for grants and scholarships, the details of which are available from the Scholarships Office (<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/scholarships-and-awards/scholarship-types/postgraduate-scholarships.html> ).

**Confidentiality**

The information in the applications and the referees' reports will be treated as confidential and be used only for the selection process or determining any appeals. After the selection process is complete (including any appeals), all applications and referee reports of unsuccessful applicants will be securely destroyed.

**CLINICAL PROGRAMME DIRECTOR** Dr Susan Cowie [s.cowie@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.cowie@auckland.ac.nz)

Summary:

1 <sup>st</sup> year	Honours/Preparatory
2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Doctor of Clinical Psychology year 1
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	Doctor of Clinical Psychology year 2
4 <sup>th</sup> year	Doctor of Clinical Psychology year 3
5 <sup>th</sup> year (if required)	Doctor of Clinical Psychology thesis only

• **Preparatory Year:**

PSYCH 708 A & B Clinical Neuropsychology	(30 points)
PSYCH 718 Psychotherapeutic Assessment and Formulation	(15 points)
PSYCH 723 Mental Health Problems: Aetiology and Assessment	(15 points)
PSYCH 779 Research and Communication	(15 points)
PSYCH 780 Honours research project	(30 points)
Elective Course (we recommend PSYCH 707 Forensic Psychology)	(15 points)

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(For those already deemed to have an equivalent Honours degree)  
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PSYCH 718 Psychotherapeutic Assessment and Formulation	(15 points)
PSYCH 723 Mental Health Problems: Aetiology and Assessment	(15 Points)

**DClinPsy**

To be eligible for continuation into the DClinPsy students must demonstrate the ability and personal qualities necessary to undertake a doctoral level research oriented course of study that satisfies the eligibility requirements for registration to practice as a Psychologist. Students must also maintain a B+ average in their Honours year.

**DClinPsy 1**

<b>PSYCH 800</b> Scientist Practitioner Model—Part 1	(15 points)
<b>PSYCH 890</b> Thesis—Part 1 (includes 200 hours of placement)	(105 points)

**DClinPsy 2**

<b>PSYCH 800</b> Scientist Practitioner Model—Part 2	(30 points)
<b>PSYCH 890</b> Thesis—Part 2 (includes two placements of 200 hours each)	(90 points)

**DClinPsy 3**

<b>PSYCH 800</b> Internship	(75 points)
<b>PSYCH 890</b> Thesis—Part 3 (includes 1500 hours of internship)	(45 points)

**DClinPsy 4**

<b>PSYCH 890</b> Thesis—Part 4	(120 points)
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