POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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

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

The dates for the selection processes and face-to-face interviews will be late November.

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 up to four 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 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 through an application and interview and attested to by 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 admission process as well as the relevant application questions found on the Application for Admission page.

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

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 **BSc (Hons)** in **Psychology (Preparatory Clinical Psychology pathway).** (Note: Even if your qualifying degree is in Arts, you must still apply for Honours under Science.)

B) If you already have a higher degree in Psychology, we suggest applying under the BScHonours in Preparatory Clinical Psychology to be able to access the required questions. If you are blocked, please contact us on scifac@auckland.ac.nz.
(Note: Even if your qualifying degree is in Arts, you must still apply for a University of Auckland 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 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 45 points from the Stage III Psychology major schedule, or equivalent;

- **and**, meet the Grade Point Average of 5.0 or higher either overall or in 60 points above Stage II (including at least 45 points from Stage III Psychology Major Schedule).

- **and have completed the PSYCH 306 (Research Methods in Psychology) course or equivalent.**

Note: These are minimum requirements only.

References

If you are shortlisted for an interview, you must be able to provide 2 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. Your referees' names and contact details will be required in the Application to Study. Please make sure your referees are aware of this and may be contacted by a member of the selection panel.

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**. Where possible, please apply under the BScHonours in Preparatory Clinical Psychology. This will give you access to the required questions. If you already have a postgraduate degree, and are offered a place in the programme, we will arrange the most appropriate bridging degree.

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.

It is important you do not miss any steps. Without all information, the Selection Panel cannot review your application. Applications are administered through the Admissions office and will be linked to your Application for Admission.

The Selection Process

The Selection Committee may consist of three School of Psychology staff members in Clinical Psychology, an external Māori Senior Clinical Psychologist and an expert in Mental Health with lived experience.

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 assessed for shortlisting for interviews based on their application, academic record, relevant work experience, personal qualities 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. 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, Pasifika and LGBTQIA+Takatāpuhi. The certification for Māori and Pasifika https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/forms-and- guides.html will also need to be completed and will be reviewed by the two Māori Clinical Psychology staff members on the selection committee. Please upload this to your application.

DECISION:

For the 2027 intake, up to 14 applicants will be made a firm offer for a place into the 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.

==========

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.
- **Resiliency**: Ability to adapt and recover from challenging situations.

- **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 708A & 708B 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 (recommended: PSYCH 707 Psychology of Offending)	(15 points)
OR (for a bridging programme)	
PSYCH 708A & 708B 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:

13 To be admitted to the DClinPsy programme, applicants must satisfy the University's Admission regulations, be a New Zealand or Australian citizen or a New Zealand permanent resident and are required to:
a in their most recent attempt at a relevant qualification:
(i) have completed the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology with at least a B+ average at the University of Auckland
or
(ii) have completed the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science in Psychology with at least a B+ average at the University of Auckland
or
(iii) have completed the requirements for a qualification approved by the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) as equivalent to a Bachelors Honours or Masters degree in Psychology with at least a B+ average at the University of Auckland
and
b (i) have passed PSYCH 708, 718, 723 at the University of Auckland with at least a B+ average, or the equivalent as approved by the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate)
and

(ii) have satisfied the requirements of the doctoral candidate research capacity policy and procedures
and
c demonstrated to the satisfaction of the DClinPsy Admission Board in the School of Psychology, in accordance with the process determined by the Faculty of Science, the qualities necessary for a person seeking to be a Doctor of Clinical Psychology
and
d meet the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003) for professional and ethical behaviour
and
e have satisfied the University of Auckland postgraduate English language requirements and any further requirements for evidence of English language proficiency set by the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate)
and
f have a research project approved by the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) as consistent with the requirements of Regulation 2 and capable of satisfying the requirements for the award of the DClinPsy degree
and
g have the approval of the Head of Psychology or their nominee for the purposes of doctoral matters ("the Academic Head") with regard to the availability of appropriate supervision and the availability of the research resources deemed necessary by the Academic Head.

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 be 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 DClinPsy is a limited entry programme and if more eligible applications are received than places are available a selection process will apply.

DClinPsy structure

DClinPsy 1

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

DClinPsy 2

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

DClinPsy 3

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

DClinPsy 4
PSYCH 890 Thesis—Part 4 (120 points)
(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/uoa/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;
- Accurate and honest, fully completed application form
- Selected candidates will be interviewed in person;
- 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 or Student Health and Counselling at Grafton Campus as soon as possible for advice on how to organise and prepare for your immunisation screening programme. Your GP/Student health and Couselling will also need to sign-off your test results using an Immunisation Status report (ISR) form.

- 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.

Students require immunity to measles, mumps, varicella, rubella (German measles), hepatitis B, pertussis, and will be screened for infection for Tuberculosis and hepatitis B and C. If your tests show no immunity, or you have no record of up-to-date immunisation, you will require vaccination.

•COVID-19 vaccinations may be required by The University of Auckland and placement settings.

In addition, students are advised to review with their doctor their immunisation status with regard to infections that they may be at increased risk of acquiring as the results of changes in their living situation (e.g. hostel or student flat accommodation, new relationships, etc). Such immunisations include **HPV** and **Meningococcal vaccines B & ACYW.** ACYW, known as Menactra is available funded if you are living in the halls of residence.

Students are also advised to ensure that they are up to date with standard recommended vaccinations as per New Zealand Immunisation Schedule as well as **influenza**.

Demands of the Clinical Psychology Programmes

The Clinical programme makes 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 and/or psychological conditions;
- 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 course teaching and research is likely to take place in Auckland and the majority of 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).

Confidentiality

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

Please use the Contact Us link for queries relating to the admission requirements for the course.
https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/about-us/connect-with-us/contact-us

For other queries please email: psych-gsa@auckland.ac.nz

CLINICAL PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Dr Tania Cargo t.cargo@auckland.ac.nz

Summary

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

Preparatory Year:

PSYCH 708A & 708B 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 (recommended: PSYCH 707 Psychology of Offending)	(15 points)
OR (for a bridging programme)	
PSYCH 708A & 708B Clinical Neuropsychology	(30 points)
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 atleast a B+ average in their Honours year.

DClinPsy 1

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

DClinPsy 2

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

DClinPsy 3

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

DClinPsy 4

PSYCH 890 Thesis—Part 4	(120 points)

The University of Auckland makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information published on its websites is as accurate and up to date as possible.