PSYC8981
Clinical Psychology Practical Placement 1
Session 1, Special circumstances, North Ryde 2021

Department of Psychology

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Notice
As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit’s iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Carolyn Schniering
carolyn.schniering@mq.edu.au
Michelle Player
michelle.player@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
(PSYC985 or PSYC8985) and (PSYC986 or PSYC8986)

Corequisites
(PSYC988 or PSYC8988) and (PSYC989 or PSYC8989) and (PSYC987 or PSYC8987)

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit is the first practical placement unit for the Master of Clinical Psychology program and is conducted in the Macquarie University Psychology Clinic on campus under close supervision. It provides the opportunity to put theory/techniques gained in coursework units into practice and develops the provisional psychologist's identity as a Clinical Psychologist. Activities include face-to-face assessment and treatment of genuine clients; professional administrative tasks such as risk management, note keeping and report writing; and supervision activities, both individual and group with an overall workload of approximately 500 hours. Students are required to complete at least a thousand hours across all placements in the program to meet accreditation requirements. By the time students finish this first placement unit, they will have gained basic competencies in 10 domains as identified by the accrediting body APAC as Core Competencies to become a Clinical Psychologist.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Apply depth and breadth of knowledge and scholarly understanding required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs and designing and implementing
evidence-based interventions

**ULO2:** Demonstrate higher level critical thinking skills in their ability both to generate and evaluate new, professionally-oriented knowledge.

**ULO3:** Communicate effectively across a wide range of client groups, colleagues and other professionals, using a variety of formats to function empathically within and across cultures and life stages.

**ULO4:** Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks relevant to clinical psychologists and undertake practice according to professional standards and the Psychology Board of Australia’s code of ethics

**ULO5:** Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practising clinical psychologists, along with the professional and personal skills for assessing continuous development needs

### Assessment Tasks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Supervision (WIL)</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Throughout the placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-placement review (MPR)</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50-80 client contact hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of placement review (EPR)</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>120-130 client contact hours</td>
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**Weekly Supervision (WIL)**

Assessment Type: Work-integrated task

Indicative Time on Task: 100 hours

Due: **Throughout the placement**

Weighting: 33%

This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Students participate in case management and intervention under close supervision of supervisors in the Macquarie University Psychology Clinic. Students will be assessed on several skills including formative assessment and treatment skills; professional conduct; self-reflection via log book; ethics and communication skills including professional report writing.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply depth and breadth of knowledge and scholarly understanding required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs and designing and implementing evidence-based interventions
- Demonstrate higher level critical thinking skills in their ability both to generate and
evaluate new, professionally-oriented knowledge.

- Communicate effectively across a wide range of client groups, colleagues and other professionals, using a variety of formats to function empathically within and across cultures and life stages.
- Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks relevant to clinical psychologists and undertake practice according to professional standards and the Psychology Board of Australia's code of ethics.
- Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practising clinical psychologists, along with the professional and personal skills for assessing continuous development needs.

**Mid-placement review (MPR)**

Assessment Type: Work-integrated task  
Indicative Time on Task: 1 hours  
Due: 50-80 client contact hours  
Weighting: 33%

This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

This is a mid-placement assessment of competency, conducted in the placement setting with the supervisor using a standardised, validated competency assessment (CYPRS) tool. Feedback is on developing competency to a PASS level on each of eleven domains, with PASS defined as a score of 2.5 out of 5 on each domain.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply depth and breadth of knowledge and scholarly understanding required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs and designing and implementing evidence-based interventions.
- Demonstrate higher level critical thinking skills in their ability both to generate and evaluate new, professionally-oriented knowledge.
- Communicate effectively across a wide range of client groups, colleagues and other professionals, using a variety of formats to function empathically within and across cultures and life stages.
- Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks relevant to clinical psychologists and undertake practice according to professional standards and the Psychology Board of Australia's code of ethics.
- Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practising clinical psychologists, along with the professional and personal skills for assessing continuous development.
End of placement review (EPR)

Assessment Type ¹: Work-integrated task
Indicative Time on Task ²: 2 hours
Due: 120-130 client contact hours
Weighting: 34%

This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

This is an end of placement assessment of competency, conducted in the placement setting with the supervisor using a standardised, validated competency assessment (CYPRS) tool. Feedback is on developing competency to a PASS ; level on each of eleven domains, with PASS ; specified as a score of 3 out of 5 on each domain.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply depth and breadth of knowledge and scholarly understanding required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs and designing and implementing evidence-based interventions
- Demonstrate higher level critical thinking skills in their ability both to generate and evaluate new, professionally-oriented knowledge.
- Communicate effectively across a wide range of client groups, colleagues and other professionals, using a variety of formats to function empathically within and across cultures and life stages.
- Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks relevant to clinical psychologists and undertake practice according to professional standards and the Psychology Board of Australia's code of ethics
- Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practising clinical psychologists, along with the professional and personal skills for assessing continuous development needs

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:
   - the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
   - the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation
Delivery and Resources

Delivery is in the placement setting with a range of resources including supervision, readings, and other assessment and treatment tools.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/
Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.