



PSYC8804

Clinical Psychology Placement 4

Session 2, In person-placement, On location 2026

School of Psychological Sciences

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Disclaimer

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General Information

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Credit points

15

Prerequisites

PSYC8801

Corequisites

PSYC8803

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is conducted in an external clinical service under the supervision of board approved psychology supervisors of Macquarie University. The placement has an overall workload of 250 hours, and provides the opportunity to further develop students' intermediate competencies in Clinical psychology in another setting with increasing independence. Activities include face-to-face assessment and treatment of genuine clients of the service; professional administrative tasks such as risk management, note keeping and report writing; and supervision activities, both individual and group as required and available in the service. A range of general clinical work with adults and/or children is mandatory and may include anxiety, depression, trauma, personality disorders and medical problems, as well as practice working in different therapeutic approaches. 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 Practical Placement 4, they will have attained competencies in 10 domains identified by the accrediting body APAC as Core Competencies to become a Clinical Psychologist. Students are required to complete at least a thousand hours across all placements, including 400 client contact hours and 180 supervision hours.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

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

ULO1: Apply depth and breadth of knowledge required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs, individualised case formulation, and implementing culturally responsive interventions, in the context of counselling techniques and person-centred care. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

ULO2: Demonstrate higher level of critical thinking skills to evaluate current research to inform practice, and to monitor the appropriateness of interventions within the wider environment, making modifications as a scientist-practitioner as needed. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar)

ULO3: Demonstrate effective interpersonal and communication skills 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. (Capability 3: Engaged global citizen)

ULO4: Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks and ethical codes relevant to clinical psychologists by demonstrating ethical attitude and behaviour in everyday practice, and good discernment and judgement in situations that arise. (Capability 4: Professional)

ULO5: Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practicing clinical psychologists, along with self-awareness, responsiveness to feedback, and capacity for self-correction, in the context of continuous reflective practice and professional development. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

ULO6: Apply advanced psychological knowledge required of clinical psychologists, in culturally responsive assessment, to diagnose, interpret data, and correctly apply assessment tools and processes to a wide range of disorders, to improve client outcomes and implement changes as appropriate. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

ULO7: Demonstrate professionalism via an organised and disciplined approach to record keeping and referral management, in line with policies and procedures, taking into account different organisational cultures and practices. (Capability 4: Professional)

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128 and 129).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes and meet any ungraded requirements.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day an assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Mid-placement review	0%	No	When approx. 50% of required placement hours have been met	Individual	No	Observed
Clinical placement logbook and development plan	10%	Yes	Monthly throughout placement	Individual	No	Observed
End of placement review (EPR)	60%	No	At end of placement when all required hours have been met	Individual	No	Observed
Case Portfolio	30%	Yes	Within two weeks of EPR completion	Individual	No	Open

Mid-placement review

Assessment Type ¹: Experiential task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 4 hours

Due: **When approx. 50% of required placement hours have been met**

Weighting: **0%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

This is a formative mid-placement assessment of competency, conducted in the placement setting with the supervisor using a standardised, validated competency assessment (Clinical Psychology Practicum Competencies Rating Scale; CYPRS) tool. The assessment will be based on self-ratings and supervisor ratings on CYPRS capabilities across a range of domains. A range of supervision techniques/methods are used to assess capabilities across the duration of placement including: a) observation of trainee performance followed by feedback (e.g., video, one-way mirror), b) case reports/notes, c) case presentation and discussion, d) role-play of skills with supervisor before discussion and feedback, e) self-evaluation of skills and self-correction, and f) feedback from peers/other professional staff in team settings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply depth and breadth of knowledge required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs, individualised case formulation, and implementing culturally responsive interventions, in the context of counselling techniques and person-centred care. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Demonstrate higher level of critical thinking skills to evaluate current research to inform practice, and to monitor the appropriateness of interventions within the wider environment, making modifications as a scientist-practitioner as needed. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar)
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal and communication skills 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. (Capability 3: Engaged global citizen)
- Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks and ethical codes relevant to clinical psychologists by demonstrating ethical attitude and behaviour in everyday practice, and good discernment and judgement in situations that arise. (Capability 4: Professional)
- Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practicing clinical psychologists, along with self-awareness, responsiveness to feedback, and capacity for self-correction, in the context of continuous reflective practice and professional development. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Apply advanced psychological knowledge required of clinical psychologists, in culturally responsive assessment, to diagnose, interpret data, and correctly apply assessment tools and processes to a wide range of disorders, to improve client outcomes and implement changes as appropriate. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Demonstrate professionalism via an organised and disciplined approach to record keeping and referral management, in line with policies and procedures, taking into account different organisational cultures and practices. (Capability 4: Professional)

Clinical placement logbook and development plan

Assessment Type ¹: Experiential task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 3 hours

Due: **Monthly throughout placement**

Weighting: **10%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

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

Students will be required to submit a written placement log book and development plan, at the completion of the placement. The development plan will comprise of self-reflection and action points for skill development, based on feedback provided. Total number of hours on placement should equate to 250 hours, including 100hours of client contact. The assessment is a hurdle as it relates to key competencies required for clinical practice related to registration with AHPRA.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply depth and breadth of knowledge required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs, individualised case formulation, and implementing culturally responsive interventions, in the context of counselling techniques and person-centred care. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Demonstrate higher level of critical thinking skills to evaluate current research to inform practice, and to monitor the appropriateness of interventions within the wider environment, making modifications as a scientist-practitioner as needed. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar)
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal and communication skills 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. (Capability 3: Engaged global citizen)
- Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks and ethical codes relevant to clinical psychologists by demonstrating ethical attitude and behaviour in everyday practice, and good discernment and judgement in situations that arise. (Capability 4: Professional)
- Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practicing clinical psychologists, along with self-awareness, responsiveness to feedback, and capacity for self-correction, in the context of continuous reflective practice and professional development. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Apply advanced psychological knowledge required of clinical psychologists, in culturally responsive assessment, to diagnose, interpret data, and correctly apply assessment tools and processes to a wide range of disorders, to improve client outcomes and implement changes as appropriate. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Demonstrate professionalism via an organised and disciplined approach to record keeping and referral management, in line with policies and procedures, taking into account different organisational cultures and practices. (Capability 4: Professional)

End of placement review (EPR)

Assessment Type ¹: Experiential task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 4 hours

Due: **At end of placement when all required hours have been met**

Weighting: **60%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

This is an end of placement assessment of competency, conducted in the placement setting with the supervisor using a standardised, validated competency assessment (Clinical Psychology Practicum Competencies Rating Scale; CYPRS) tool. The assessment will be based on self-ratings and supervisor ratings on CYPRS capabilities across a range of domains. Feedback is on developing competency to a PASS ; level on each of the domains, with PASS ; specified as a score of 4 out of 5 on each domain. A range of supervision techniques/methods are used to assess capabilities across the duration of placement including: a) observation of trainee performance followed by feedback (e.g., video, one-way mirror), b) case reports/notes, c) case presentation and discussion, d) role-play of skills with supervisor before discussion and feedback, e) self-evaluation of skills and self-correction, and f) feedback from peers/other professional staff in team settings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply depth and breadth of knowledge required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs, individualised case formulation, and implementing culturally responsive interventions, in the context of counselling techniques and person-centred care. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Demonstrate higher level of critical thinking skills to evaluate current research to inform practice, and to monitor the appropriateness of interventions within the wider environment, making modifications as a scientist-practitioner as needed. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar)
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal and communication skills 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. (Capability 3: Engaged global citizen)
- Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks and ethical codes relevant to clinical psychologists by demonstrating ethical attitude and behaviour in everyday practice, and good discernment and judgement in situations that arise. (Capability 4: Professional)
- Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practicing clinical psychologists, along with self-awareness, responsiveness to feedback, and capacity for self-correction, in the context of continuous reflective practice and professional development. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Apply advanced psychological knowledge required of clinical psychologists, in culturally

responsive assessment, to diagnose, interpret data, and correctly apply assessment tools and processes to a wide range of disorders, to improve client outcomes and implement changes as appropriate. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)

- Demonstrate professionalism via an organised and disciplined approach to record keeping and referral management, in line with policies and procedures, taking into account different organisational cultures and practices. (Capability 4: Professional)

Case Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 4 hours

Due: **Within two weeks of EPR completion**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

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

This assessment will involve either written or oral presentation of a case portfolio showcasing client work during the placement. Examples include case notes, case formulation, or case presentation based on clients seen at the site. The assessment is a hurdle as it relates to key competencies required for clinical practice related to registration with AHPRA.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply depth and breadth of knowledge required of clinical psychologists in determining client needs, individualised case formulation, and implementing culturally responsive interventions, in the context of counselling techniques and person-centred care. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Demonstrate higher level of critical thinking skills to evaluate current research to inform practice, and to monitor the appropriateness of interventions within the wider environment, making modifications as a scientist-practitioner as needed. (Capability 1: Scientist scholar)
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal and communication skills 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. (Capability 3: Engaged global citizen)
- Apply knowledge of the legislative frameworks and ethical codes relevant to clinical psychologists by demonstrating ethical attitude and behaviour in everyday practice, and good discernment and judgement in situations that arise. (Capability 4: Professional)

- Demonstrate the entry level capabilities required of practicing clinical psychologists, along with self-awareness, responsiveness to feedback, and capacity for self-correction, in the context of continuous reflective practice and professional development. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Apply advanced psychological knowledge required of clinical psychologists, in culturally responsive assessment, to diagnose, interpret data, and correctly apply assessment tools and processes to a wide range of disorders, to improve client outcomes and implement changes as appropriate. (Capability 2: Psychologist practitioner)
- Demonstrate professionalism via an organised and disciplined approach to record keeping and referral management, in line with policies and procedures, taking into account different organisational cultures and practices. (Capability 4: Professional)

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online and face-to-face learning activities, including readings, online modules, videos, lectures, clinical/professional placement, simulation etc. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Technology Used

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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 Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Artificial Intelligence Tools

Macquarie University recognises that artificial intelligence (AI), especially generative AI, is rapidly reshaping education and the modern workplace. As AI becomes increasingly accessible, the University and your teaching staff are committed to preparing you to use these tools effectively, ethically, and with strong professional judgment. Rather than restricting technology, the emphasis is on helping you understand when and how AI can be used to enhance productivity, support learning, and reflect real-world professional practice. Across your degree, we will support you to develop the critical thinking, adaptability, and values-based decision-making skills required to navigate evolving AI tools responsibly, including acknowledging their use appropriately. You should always appropriately acknowledge when you have used AI tools within assessment tasks, including which AI tools you have used and how you have used them.

To provide clarity, Macquarie University uses a simple, two-tiered approach to AI in assessment:

AI Open assessments allow you to fully incorporate AI, reflecting authentic tasks where AI would normally be used in professional settings.

Observed with AI Optional assessments involve tasks where you either demonstrate essential knowledge without technology or show how you apply AI under supervision.

Across both categories, the goal is to ensure you build foundational knowledge, exercise sound judgment, and engage with AI in ways that uphold ethical, cultural, and university values.

Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, and when on external clinical placement representing Macquarie University you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone including when on external/ clinical placement activities.

Professionalism

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, and when on external clinical placement representing Macquarie University you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone including when on external/ clinical placement activities.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)