

NUS Degree Programme

Department of Psychology, National University of Singapore

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OBJECTIVES

This two-year full-time coursework Masters degree is an entry level training programme for graduates who are seeking training in the professional practice of Clinical Psychology.

This programme is based on the scientist-practitioner model and includes the building of both theoretical knowledge and core competencies for clinical practice. It will be taught through a combination of coursework, research and practical placement experience. This approach permits students' research activities to be informed by clinical and professional issues.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

The programme will commence in August. For application procedure and deadline, please refer to <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/gd-applncw.html>

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All candidates must demonstrate readiness for full-time graduate study for a period of four semesters and meet the following **minimum** requirements:

1. hold a good Honours degree (second class and above) or equivalent (e.g. a four-year Bachelors degree with at least an average grade of B or equivalent) in psychology or a closely related discipline from a recognized university, or in exceptional circumstances, such other qualifications and experience that meet with the approval of the Board of Graduate Studies; and
2. pass a placement test (interview and/or written test) set by the core programme staff; and
3. pass any preparatory modules as indicated by the core programme staff on a case-by-case basis; and
4. provide evidence of meeting NUS language requirements if English is not a candidate's first language, and the tests must have been taken not earlier than two years before the proposed date of admission.
 - IELTS score of 6.0; or
 - 85 for the internet-based TOEFL (with a minimum score of 22 for the writing section); or
 - 580 for the paper-based TOEFL; or
 - 237 for the computer-based TOEFL

DURATION

The normative or minimum period of study is two years (4 semesters) and the maximum period of candidature is four years.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The curriculum is founded on a scientist-practitioner model. Students receive extensive supervised clinical experience in hospitals and clinics and they are expected to develop research skills relevant to evidence-based practice (EBP).

Students will require 64 modular credits for graduation. This will comprise both coursework (26 MC; 41% of the credit requirements), practical training (16 MC; 25% of the credit requirements) and research (22 MC; 34% of the credit requirements).

- **Coursework:**
Seven coursework modules will be offered as required for all students. Coursework will be conducted two semesters, each lasting 13 weeks (August-December and January-May).
- **Practical training:**
Four coursework modules will be offered as required for all students. There will be four placements in community or hospital clinic settings, with each placement lasting for 12-15 weeks. The student will work under the supervision of a clinical supervisor. Mid-placement and end-of-placement structured evaluation will be conducted by the supervising clinician.
- **Research component:**
The research component includes a graduate research methods seminar, research proposal and research project. The student will work under the supervision of a member of the faculty. He/she will be guided and evaluated by the research supervisor on a continuing basis and the final assessment will be based on submission and oral presentation of a final report.

Students will complete seven core modules and their first supervised clinical placement during the first year. In the second year, they will complete the remaining three modules and three clinical placements.

DIAGNOSTIC ENGLISH TEST

All successful applicants are required to take the Diagnostic English Test. Students will be placed on a graduate English module or be exempted from the module, depending on their performance in the proficiency test. A Masters student is required to achieve an intermediate level of proficiency (at least grade C) in the English modules.

CURRICULUM SUMMARY

MODULE TITLE	Module Code	YR	SEM	Module Credits	Programme Components: Coursework(C) Practical (P) Research (R)
Graduate Research Methods	PLC5008	1	1	2	R
Psychological Assessment	PLC5001	1	1	4	C
Introduction to Psychological Disorders	PLC5002	1	1	4	C
Medical Psychology	PLC5003	1	1	4	C
Psychological Intervention and Therapy	PLC5004	1	2	4	C
Psychopathology	PLC5005	1	2	4	C
Research Proposal	PLC5009	1	2	8	R
Clinical Placement 1	PLC5011	1	2	4	P
Clinical Practice in an Asian Setting	PLC5006	1	2	4	C
Advanced Psychological Practice	PLC5007	2	1	2	C
Clinical Placement 2	PLC5012	2	1	4	P
Clinical Placement 3	PLC5013	2	1	4	P
Clinical Placement 4	PLC5014	2	2	4	P
Research Project	PLC5010	2	2	12	R
Modules	Type of Training				MCs
7	Coursework: Scientific Foundation of Clinical Psychology (41%)				26
4	Practical: Practice Skills for Clinical Competence (25%)				16
3	Research: Research Skills and Evidence-Based Practice (34%)				22
Total = 14					Total = 64

MODULE EXEMPTION

Module exemption will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants who have completed equivalent modules in Clinical Psychology elsewhere may be exempted for no more than 50% of their module requirements at NUS. The modules accepted as replacements must not have been accredited to another degree. Exemption will be allowed only for modules taken less than 5 years before the date of admission.

EXAMINATION

Students will be examined each semester using a combination of written examination papers, laboratory reports on field work, oral examinations, seminar participation, skill assessments, supervised clinical practice and a research thesis. Student performance on each of the four clinical placements will also be considered.

An open-book Professional Competency Examination will be conducted at the end of the first semester of year 2 and prior to the commencement of students' third Clinical Placement. This examination will not contribute to the assessment of any individual module, but a pass will be required for students to enter into the 3rd and 4th placements. The rationale for this additional layer of assessment is that final clinical placements require students to operate as increasingly independent clinicians, which necessitate an adequate integration of knowledge acquired in each of the individual Clinical Psychology modules.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The minimum Cumulative Average Point (CAP) for fulfilment of the degree requirement is 3.0.

The grades of all 14 modules will be considered in assessing whether the student has met the degree requirement. Students must also have at least a B- for each module. A student's CAP must not fall below 2.5 for two consecutive semesters or 3.0 for three consecutive semesters. A student who fails to maintain the minimum CAP as stipulated will have her/his candidature terminated. For any semester in which the student's CAP falls below 3.0, she/he will be issued a warning. If, in the following semester, the student's CAP again falls below 3.0, but above 2.5, she/he will be placed on probation.

Students who do not meet the minimum satisfactory (B-) grade for any clinical placement will need to repeat a placement of a similar nature. Students who do not meet the minimum satisfactory (B-) grade for the same placement, or any two clinical placements, will be discontinued from the program regardless of CAP. Students who are unable to pass the Professional Competency Examination after two attempts and are thus unable to proceed to their final placements will also be discontinued from the program.

FEES

\$15,200 per semester or \$30,400 per annum (with GST) for Singapore citizens/permanent residents/foreigners.

Non-refundable fees for the first semester (\$15,200 with GST) are due upon acceptance of the admission offer to the programme.

Successful applicants can apply to the competitive MOH Holdings (MOHH) Healthcare Graduate Studies Award for financial support [[detail](#)]