



**Professional Programs**

**in**

**Clinical Psychology**

**Handbook**

**2016**

Please advise any errors to [maria.hennessy@jcu.edu.au](mailto:maria.hennessy@jcu.edu.au).

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## SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

### WELCOME

Welcome to the handbook for the postgraduate programs in clinical psychology at James Cook University. This handbook is intended as an overview for new and continuing students in our APAC-accredited programs: the MPsych, DPsych and MPsych/PhD. Further details can be found on the JCU website.

This handbook should also be read in conjunction with our other handbook: Professional Programs Placement Handbook.

JCU also offers a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Psychology, and a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology. These are not APAC-accredited programs and are not covered by this handbook. If you are interested in these degrees, please refer to the JCU website.

### OUR VISION

Our vision is to advance the practice of clinical psychology in the North Queensland region. Our training model aims to produce graduates who are scientists and competent researchers, as well as practitioners who apply their knowledge and evidence-based practice when working with clients. We aim to integrate our teaching and research with the needs of our region, and produce graduates who are engaged with their local communities.

Our course is a mix of coursework, research and practical placements. Clinical training is busy, demanding, and challenging, and we recommend full-time study. You will find a supportive and collegial group of academic staff and fellow students to support you on your journey. Our location in North Queensland is also ideal for that other important part of clinical training – which is making sure you take time out to relax and enjoy yourself.

I trust you will find the handbook useful, and welcome any comments on its structure and content.

**Dr Maria Hennessy**

**Director of Professional Programs**

## AN OVERVIEW OF OUR PROGRAMS

Our programs offer coursework, research and practical clinical experience for psychologists wishing to specialise in clinical psychology. These APAC-accredited two-year and four-year programs comprise academic training in the theoretical knowledge and skills required of clinical psychologists, work experience in different situations to gain practical knowledge and applied skills, and a research thesis. They provide advanced training for future endorsement to practice as a clinical psychologist by the Psychology Board of Australia (<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/>). Graduates are also eligible to become members of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists (<http://groups.psychology.org.au/cclin/>).

| Program                                    | Years of Full-time Study |
|--|--------------------------|
| Master of Psychology                       | 2                        |
| Doctor of Psychology                       | 4                        |
| Master of Psychology/ Doctor of Philosophy | 4 to 4.5                 |

The DPsych and MPsych/PhD are 4-year higher degree research programs. They are administered by the Graduate Research School at JCU. Further information on these degrees can be found at <https://www.jcu.edu.au/graduate-research-school>.

## OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our program values the input of other members of our local psychological community. Our Advisory Committee consists of JCU psychology staff, psychologists from the community, graduates from our course, and current enrolled students. Our committee meets twice a year, and an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be a student member is made at the beginning of each year.

## STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

|  |   |
|--|---|
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## SECTION 2 COURSEWORK

### OVERVIEW

Our programmes are delivered in a flexible format incorporating intensive workshops. This has made access to the various components of the programme easier for students with work or family commitments, or those who live elsewhere and cannot travel to the Townsville campus on a weekly basis.

Attendance at all days of each workshop is compulsory. Students need to note the dates of planned workshops to ensure they can attend, as these workshops contain a large proportion of the teaching material for a subject, and absence will result in a student being unable to complete the subject. Note that some workshops may occur on weekends or outside regular study period times.

The MPsy degree consists of 48 credit points, of which 24 points are coursework (8 subjects of 3 points each); 12 points are placements (3 placements of 4 points each); and 12 points are thesis/research (4 subjects of 3 points each).

### PROGRAM SEQUENCE 2016

The program sequence for full-time study in the MPsy is shown below. Information regarding the learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each of these subjects is available on the JCU website.

#### Year 1, Semester 1

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Psychological Assessment  | PY5001 |
| Adult Psychopathology     | PY5003 |
| Working with Clients      | PY5013 |
| Methods of Intervention 1 | PY5011 |

#### Year 1, Semester 2

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Child and Family Therapy                 | PY6015 |
| Methods of Intervention 2                | PY5012 |
| Practicum 1                              | PY6001 |
| Evaluation and Research (thesis subject) | PY6010 |

#### Year 2, Semester 1

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Health and Rehabilitation | PY5007 |
| Practicum 2               | PY6002 |
| Research Thesis A         | PY6201 |

#### Year 2, Semester 2

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Clinical Neuropsychology        | PY5006 |
| Practicum 3                     | PY6003 |
| Research Thesis B (Part 1 of 2) | PY6202 |
| Research Thesis B (Part 2 of 2) | PY6203 |

Colour code: Red = coursework; Black = Practica; Blue = thesis.



## COURSEWORK TIMETABLE 2016

### SEMESTER 1

Semester 1 or SP1 starts on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

| SP1         | Subject            | Staff |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|
| 23 February | Orientation 2-5 PM | All   |

#### Workshop 1

|                |                                  |                      |
|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 24-26 February | PY5013 Working with Clients      | Prof Russell Hawkins |
| 1-3 March      | PY5001 Psychological Assessment  | Dr Maria Hennessy    |
| 16-18 March    | PY5011 Methods of Intervention 1 | Dr Meegan Kilcullen  |
| 21-23 March    | PY5003 Adult Psychopathology     | Dr Beryl Buckby      |
| 30 Mar-1 Apr   | PY5007 Health and Rehabilitation | Dr Meegan Kilcullen  |

#### Workshop 2

|             |                                  |                      |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 13-15 April | PY5001 Psychological Assessment  | Dr Maria Hennessy    |
| 18-20 April | PY5013 Working with Clients      | Prof Russell Hawkins |
| 4-6 May     | PY5011 Methods of Intervention 1 | Dr Meegan Kilcullen  |
| 18-20 May   | PY5003 Adult Psychopathology     | Dr Beryl Buckby      |
| 23-25 May   | PY5007 Health and Rehabilitation | Dr Meegan Kilcullen  |

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**SEMESTER 2**

Semester 2 or SP2 starts on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Workshop 1**

| <b>SP2</b>   | <b>Subject</b>                   | <b>Lecturer</b>     |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 29 July      | PY6010 Evaluation and Research   | Dr Anne Swinbourne  |
| 1-3 August   | PY6015 Child and Family Therapy  | Dr Meegan Kilcullen |
| 17-19 August | PY5012 Methods of Intervention 2 | Dr Beryl Buckby     |
| 22-24 August | PY5006 Clinical Neuropsychology  | Dr Maria Hennessy   |

**Workshop 2**

|                 |                                  |                     |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 14-16 September | PY6010 Evaluation and Research   | Dr Anne Swinbourne  |
| 19-21 September | PY5012 Methods of Intervention 2 | Dr Beryl Buckby     |
| 5-7 October     | PY6015 Child and Family Therapy  | Dr Meegan Kilcullen |
| 10-12 October   | PY5006 Clinical Neuropsychology  | Dr Maria Hennessy   |

## SECTION 3 RESEARCH

### RESEARCH COMPETENCIES

Clinical psychologists should maintain a scholarly and critical approach to the scientific basis of their profession, have a desire to contribute to the development of clinical psychology, and be able to critically appraise new developments. The research components of our program support the development of these important professional skills. These components are: the coursework subject PY6010 Research and Evaluation; and three thesis subjects PY6201, PY6202 and PY6203.

Beginning with Semester 2 of the first year, students are expected to be actively planning their thesis research. The second year of the program has significant emphasis on the development of research competencies through the writing of a literature review, data collection and analysis, thesis submission, and professional dissemination of the thesis results.

It is important that students do not lose a focus on their thesis progression, and actively plan to commit time and activity to the thesis each week. This is particularly crucial from the beginning of the second year, to ensure timely completion of the MPsych degree.

### PY6010 RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

The coursework subject PY6010 Research and Evaluation focusses on the development of research knowledge such as major design and measurement decisions, practical management of research, human research ethics, and the critical interpretation and evaluation of research. Additionally this subject focusses on the development of a research proposal for the thesis, and on the skills and methods that will support timely completion.

### RESEARCH THESIS

Students should approach academic staff at any stage in the first year of the program to begin to discuss research ideas. Indeed students are encouraged to do this as soon as possible. Students should prepare their research ideas in consultation with their supervisor and consult other staff as necessary on their design and proposed analysis.

The thesis topic must be of direct relevance to clinical psychology. Its size is equivalent to 12 months of part-time study, and is generally considered to be of the same scope and size as an Honours thesis. Its format can take a number of types including:

- Traditional empirical research project
- A literature review
- Program evaluation
- Experimental single case design
- Critical review, pilot study and full grant application
- Critical review and meta-analysis
- Critical review and secondary data analysis.

To pass each of the three thesis subjects, students will need to have submitted the first part of the thesis in the form of a maximum 5000 word literature review (PY6201 Research Thesis Part A), submitted the remainder of the thesis document (PY6202 Research Thesis Part 1 of 2), and presented their thesis results in a professional forum (PY6203 Research Thesis Part 2 of 2).

## ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Students must be enrolled as a student in a thesis subject while collecting data, during the period in which they are writing the thesis, or otherwise receiving official supervision. Students are not entitled to receive supervision unless they are formally enrolled in a thesis subject.

In the event that there is a change of supervisors, the student must ensure that the Director of Professional Programs is advised. Any relevant Human Research Ethics Committees may also need to be informed.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RESEARCH

The cost of a research project will influence its viability as a thesis topic, and any budget should be carefully considered in collaboration with your research supervisor.

A student engaged in an MPsych research project is entitled to a total of \$500 from Psychology, CHS. This money is to support relevant research costs such as:

- Photocopying
- Internet charges related to the project.
- Essential interlibrary loans
- Reasonable expenses for undertaking approved research at libraries and archives external to the JCU campuses
- ISD and STD telephone calls and fax costs related to the project
- Cost of access to service facilities
- Data analysis and other specialized computer packages
- Fieldwork expenses appropriate to the research project (sufficient to enable the research to be conducted in accordance with the University Workplace Health & Safety Policies)
- Laboratory consumables specific to the research project
- Postage associated with essential research activities (e.g., surveys).

## SECTION 4 PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS

### PSYCHOLOGY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

All students enrolled in a psychology higher degree accredited at a fifth year or higher must be provisionally registered from the start of enrolment in the degree. Provisional registration must be maintained for the duration of enrolment in any component of an accredited qualification including coursework, practicum and research thesis.

Further information is available at <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au>.

### PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS

Format practical training begins in the second half of the first year. For a Masters course, a minimum of 1000 hours of practical training is required, of which 400 hours should be in face-to-face contact. Each student in our course undertakes three clinical placements, of which one (usually the first) is in the JCU Psychology Clinic, followed by two further external placements in the community. Students must be enrolled in one of the three placement subjects prior to commencing their placement (Practicum 1 PY6001, Practicum 2 PY6002, Practicum 3 PY6003).

During Semester 1 of the first year, all students should meet with the Clinical Placements Coordinator to plan their placement program over the two years. External placements in the community cover a wide range of government and non-government agencies providing mental health services, across the developmental lifespan. Student preferences for placements are balanced with availability each year. Limited capacity for placements is available outside of the north Queensland region.

It is important to note that a new placement may not be commenced until all required documentation from the previous placement has been submitted.

Students are referred to the “Professional Programs Placement Handbook” for more detailed information.

Time management is essential for a successful placement completion. In general, each placement involves an average of 2 days per week for 20 weeks, assuming an 8 hour day. It is important that placement days are limited to a maximum of 2-3 per week to enable time for the successful completion of other course requirements such as coursework and thesis.

### PSYCHOLOGY CLINIC

The JCU Psychology Clinic is an integral part of our clinical psychology program, and provides closely supervised practical experience for students in a supportive environment. There are multiple consulting rooms, all of which have facilities for audio and video recording. The Clinic offers specialised services to the community for individuals (adult or child) or families requiring assessment and/or treatment. The Clinic operates on a fee-for-service basis.

## SECTION 5 USEFUL INFORMATION

### AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Australian Psychological Society (APS) is the peak professional body for Australian psychologists. All students are encouraged to actively participate in the society, both at a local branch and College level. Student information and resources are available at <http://groups.psychology.org.au/cclin/students>.

### COURSEWORK ATTENDANCE AND GRADES

It is compulsory that students attend all sessions on each day of the workshops in the coursework subjects. This typically involves attendance at two 3-day workshops per subject per semester. Workshops are the main forum for face-to-face teaching in the programme and a significant amount of experiential learning occurs in them.

Grades from "Pass" to "High Distinction" will be given for coursework subjects. Practicum subjects and dissertation components will be awarded a non-graded pass if performance is satisfactory. Further information on grades is provided in each of the Subject Outlines.

### ACADEMIC PROGRESS

In the event that a student fails to make satisfactory progress with either academic or professional components of the program, the Academic Group reserves the option of suspending or terminating the student from the program. Unsatisfactory progress may be indicated by the failure of the same subject twice or by unsatisfactory ratings during in a placement review.

The JCU policy on Academic Progression can be found at <https://www.jcu.edu.au/policy/student-services/academic-progression-policy>.

The academic staff also have an ethical obligation to PsyBA to report cases in which they feel that psychologists, including students with provisional registration, may be impaired practitioners. In these instances, the relevant PsyBA procedures are followed and can be found on their website (<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/>).

It is an expectation of professional practice that students learn to monitor and manage their own health so that they do not compromise their ability to perform in a fully capable manner with their own clients. Efforts to identify and manage problems in their early stages are far preferable to attempts to deny the existence of health concerns. Resources are available both on campus and in the community to assist students, and staff can assist in locating an appropriate source of assistance.

### FEES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Students of coursework degrees such as the MPsych will incur fees. Students will be offered either a domestic tuition fee paying or a Commonwealth supported place. Such arrangements will be confirmed on enrolment. Further information on fees and financial help can be found at <https://www.jcu.edu.au/students/fees-and-financial-support>.

Information on potential scholarships is available via the JCU website at <https://www.jcu.edu.au/scholarships-@-jcu>.

Additionally, the Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH) group also offers Clinical Psychology Scholarships each year. Further information can be found at <http://www.sarrah.org.au/content/clinical-psychology-scholarships-cps>.

The APS College of Clinical Psychologists also offers a Student Prize for postgraduate clinical psychology students who demonstrate high levels of clinical skill, combined with the ability to design and conduct clinically relevant research. The prize is offered each year at each university offering an APAC-accredited program. Further information can be found at [www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/cclin\\_student](http://www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/cclin_student).

## PSYCHOLOGY TEST LIBRARY

The Psychology Test Library is located within the JCU Psychology Clinic, on Level 2 of the Clinical Practice Building (CPB). A wide range of psychological tests, reference books, and video material are held in the Psychology Test Library for use by undergraduate and postgraduate psychology students and academic staff for both teaching and research purposes. The Psychology Test Library is managed by a member of academic staff, with its daily running being the responsibility of the Clinic Manager-Psychology.

Certain tests and resources are required for postgraduate students on placement at the Psychology Clinic. These materials may be viewed, but not borrowed or removed as they are required for clinical practice.

Access to the Test Library is via the Psychology Clinic's Administrative Officer. All materials must be signed in/out using the Booking Folder located inside the Psychology Test Library.

## COMPUTER ACCESS AND PHOTOCOPYING

Several computers in a computer lab and a photocopier-printer are available for the use of postgraduate students in the Psychology Clinic. The university also has a range of student computer labs, and additional access in the JCU library.

Post-graduate students are permitted a limited amount of photocopying for research purposes. Code numbers, to permit access to these machines, are issued to students for whom this has been approved.

## IMMUNISATION

Students who undertake placements in a facility operated by Queensland Health are required to be immunised against Hepatitis B prior to their undertaking a placement. All students doing such placements must provide evidence of Hepatitis B vaccination. Vaccination is highly recommended for the following diseases as well: chicken pox, diphtheria, Hepatitis A, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), poliomyelitis, rubella, and tetanus.

## STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

In order to circulate important information and for prompt contact when necessary, all students should update their details on e-Student for addresses and contact details (including work or private phone numbers and email addresses) plus any changes should they occur. Students should check their JCU e-mail regularly. Important information is sent to students by JCU email on matters relating to courses, subjects, enrolment, and university matters.



## SECTION 6 HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR MPSYCH THESIS

### MPSYCH THESIS SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The administrative process for the examination of the Master of Psychology dissertation is handled by Psychology, College of Healthcare Sciences.

1. Thesis supervisors should discuss the selection of examiners with the candidate several weeks before the planned date of submission of the dissertation. Examiners should be knowledgeable in the area of the dissertation, normally have at least a research Master's degree, and preferably have both experience as an examiner and a record of relevant publication. Conflicts of interest should be avoided, and the student may request that particular examiners are not involved.
2. The thesis supervisor should complete the Nomination of Examiner's Form and submit it to the Director of Professional Programs for approval. At least one examiner should be external to the University.
3. The format of the dissertation should follow that outlined in the *Handbook for Research Higher Degree Students*, which is available from the Graduate Research School at <https://www.jcu.edu.au/graduate-research-school/policies-and-procedures/hdr-thesis-format-guidelines>
4. An electronic version of the thesis in pdf form should be submitted to the relevant CHS Administration Officer. The *Check List* for the contents and format of the thesis should also be submitted with electronic versions of the thesis.
5. The examiners' reports will be reviewed by the Director of Professional Programs, who will recommend one of the options provided for in the degree rules on the basis of the examiners' reports and, where relevant, will sign off on any nominated corrections. The student should provide a written statement about how each correction suggested by the examiners has been addressed.
6. In those cases in which the Director of Professional Programs supervised the student, the Head of Academic Group will substitute.

If the advisor is concerned that the dissertation does not meet the standard required for an MPsych, he/she should inform the student of the concerns in writing. The student should respond to these concerns in writing, but has the right to submit the thesis. A copy of both the statements of the advisor and the student (if any) should be provided to the Director of Professional Programs.

**James Cook University**

**Psychology, College of Healthcare Sciences**

**CHECK LIST TO BE SUBMITTED WHEN LODGING AN MPSYCH THESIS FOR EXAMINATION.**

Tick each area as appropriate:

- I have proof read my thesis carefully and have corrected all typing, spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors.
- The various sections in the thesis are in the order as set out as below:  
(Examples at: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/graduate-research-school/policies-and-procedures/hdr-thesis-format-guidelines> )
- Title page of the thesis
- Signed statement of access
- Signed statement of sources
- Statement on the contribution of others including financial and editorial help. Further paragraphs should be included in the statement if applicable specifying:
  - that all research procedures reported in the thesis received the approval of the relevant Ethics/Safety Committees (*see declaration below*);
  - the extent of collaboration with another person or persons in the design of your research, and the collection and analysis of data;
  - the extent and the nature of any other assistance received in the pursuit of the research and preparation of the thesis;
  - the contributions of all authors to any co-authored accompanying papers.
- Declaration of ethics
- Acknowledgements
- Abstract (300 words)
- Table of contents
- List of tables
- List of figures
- Main text (ie. body of thesis)
- References
- Appendices

Candidate's signature:..... Date:.....

I agree to my examiners' reports being used (anonymously) for quality assurance purposes.

- Yes  No

## MPSYCH THESIS MARKING CRITERIA

The examination of the thesis will be based on the system summarised below. Both internal and external markers use the same rating system and categories, which are then evaluated under the framework on the following examination rating scale.

| CLASS               | LITERATURE REVIEW   | RESEARCH PAPER  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>1A (85-100%)</b> | Outstanding command of expression and logical argument in a skilful structured manuscript   | Outstanding command of expression and logical argument in a skilfully structured manuscript   |
|                     | Superior evaluation and integration of existing literature  | Sophisticated understanding of research methods, with evidence of careful attention to critical design issues in the execution of the project                           |
|                     | Evidence of significant insight and original thought in dealing with the critical issues  | Thoughtful and appropriate choice of data analysis and outstanding presentation and reporting of results  |
|                     | Clear and coherent interpretation of the results of other studies   | Clear and coherent interpretation of the data   |
|                     |   | Comprehensive understanding of the importance of the results in the context of the theoretical framework  |
| <b>2A (75-84%)</b>  | The evaluation and integration of the existing literature is very sound   | Evidence of a solid understanding of research methods   |
|                     | Reasonable insight and some evidence of original thought in dealing with the critical issues  | Adequate design of the research project, although possibly containing minor but retrievable errors  |
|                     |   | Choice of data analysis that is appropriate for the design (although less well justified than might be expected of Class 1 standard), and clear presentation of results |
|                     |   | Generally sound but not particularly creative interpretation of results and their importance to the theoretical context   |
| <b>2B (65-74%)</b>  | Generally competently written, although some problems exist in the logical organisation of the text and the way it is expressed               | Basic but somewhat limited understanding of the research methods  |
|                     | Provides an adequate coverage of the literature, although it tends to be more descriptive than evaluative, and arguments are often disjointed | The design of the research project is generally adequate but is marred by errors and oversights   |
| <b>3 (50-64%)</b>   | The work is not well written and shows flaws in the structuring of logical  | Knowledge and/or application of research methods is deficient   |

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
|                       | arguments  |   |
|                       | Coverage of the necessary literature is weak, with insufficient information provided to support the arguments made, or conclusions drawn | Serious flaws exist in the design of the research project making it difficult for the research to meet its aims                         |
|                       | Little evidence of insight and ideas tend to be highly derivative  | Data analysis techniques are arbitrary or inappropriate   |
|                       |  | The results are poorly presented  |
|                       |  | Interpretations are superficial, demonstrating a weak understanding of the results and their relevance to the theoretical framework     |
| <b>Fail (&lt;50%)</b> | The work is very poorly written and shows a serious inability to structure and present a logical argument                                | Knowledge and/or application of research methods is seriously deficient   |
|                       | Coverage of the necessary literature is inadequate, with little information provided relevant to the claims made, or conclusions drawn   | Serious flaws exist in the design making it difficult or impossible for the research to meet its aims                                   |
|                       | Serious misunderstanding of key concepts and issues  | Data analysis techniques are inappropriate and the results are presented inadequately   |
|                       |  | An inability to show how the results of the research project relate to the theoretical framework; serious misinterpretations of results |