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MASTER OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (MCP)
MASTER OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (MCP/PhD)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

STEP 1. Review course information and admission requirements

Master of Clinical Psychology (MCP) – Submit **one** online application (MACLIPSY1000) (Available to both domestic and international applicants)

Master of Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy (Science) (MCP/PhD) – Submit **two** Submit online applications for both MCP (MACLIPSY1000) and PhD (RPPHDSCI4000). (PhD application for MCP/PhD (RPPHDSCI4000) is different to standalone PhD (RPPHDSCI6000)) (Available to domestic applicants only). Upload all five (as relevant) supporting documents to BOTH online applications as MCP and PhD applications are assessed independently.

STEP 2. Prepare supporting documents for upload
   Applications with all supporting documentation must be submitted by the closing date.

IDENTIFICATION	
Residency	Domestic: Birth certificate, Passport or Certificate of Citizenship. International: Passport
Name change	Proof of change of name (if applicable)

ACADEMIC	
Transcript	Upload complete transcript with breakdown of individual subjects completed in your degree and grading system.
Grading system	Upload honours grading system (on reverse of your transcript) eg H1 80-100%. If not on transcript, upload grading system from your University handbook.
Testamur If graduated	Upload Testamur (degree certificate awarded at graduation ceremony) with date of completion, degree awarded, discipline, final result.
Proof of completion If not yet graduated	If you have one semester left to complete your current course of study, you should include transcripts up until your final semester, official documentation from your institution stating that you will finish at the end of the semester and the name of the degree you will be awarded or transcript showing enrolment in your final semester. If you have completed your studies but have not yet been awarded a testamur, you should provide official documentation from your institution stating the name of the degree and date of completion.
Honours result	Within the Faculty of Science in the University of Sydney, first class honours is considered to be an overall fourth year result of no less than 80%, i.e. H1 = 80%. If your institution uses a different grading scale, eg. H1= 90% or H1= 85%, your honours result will be re-scaled accordingly to ensure all applicants are considered equally. **Students currently completing honours** If you are currently enrolled in your fourth year, your final result may not be available at the time of application closing. If this is the case, please complete the authorisation form to provide written consent for your institution to release provisional results to the University of Sydney. The University of Sydney will contact your institution directly to request provisional honours results for the purposes of application ranking only. If your provisional results are not available prior to the selection interview, unfortunately, you will not be eligible to be considered for interview.

Current University of Sydney applicants are not required to the complete the authorisation form, as provisional results may be accessed internally.

Students who have completed honours

Please provide your transcript with evidence of:
-Overall honours result as a mark out of 100 (%) eg. 80% AND
-Honours class (H1, H2.1, H2.2) or equivalent AND
-Individual results for each unit of study completed in fourth year

If your overall honours result is not supplied on your transcript, not supplied on your transcript with a mark out of 100 (%) or is only available as a GPA or non-numeric grade, please provide a letter from your honours coordinator or administrator, with results for each unit of study, weightings for these units and overall honours result as a mark out of 100 (%).
If you are unable to supply the above letter, please provide results for each fourth year unit of study with relative weightings. Your numeric (GPA) or non-numeric grade will be mapped to the lower end of your institution's grade scale for ranking purposes. For example, if your institution uses GPA, with H1 = 85%, then GPA 7 will be mapped to 85%.

Your overall honours result should include results from fourth year honours units of study only. Results from the first three years of undergraduate study are not included in the calculation of the overall fourth year honours result or GPA.

ENGLISH (if applicable)	
English	Applicants must comply with both English language requirements by the closing date. Where standards are inconsistent, the higher standard will apply. • University of Sydney requirements: IELTS minimum of 7.0 overall and a minimum result of 7.0 in each band. Test scores must be less than two years old at the date of course commencement. • AHPRA Requirements: Applicants relying on primary, secondary and/or tertiary qualifications to satisfy AHPRA's English language requirements must provide evidence to demonstrate completion of the qualification, language of instruction, duration and recognised country (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, UK or USA).

RESEARCH (MCP/PhD only)	
Research supervisor	A research supervisor from the School of Psychology is required. You may nominate research supervisors from other Schools, Faculties or Universities as auxiliary supervisors. Prior to applying, you must arrange a supervisor by contacting academics to discuss potential supervision and your research proposal. You may search for supervisors through Research Supervisor Connect or the School webpage. Contact supervisors who are engaged in areas of research in which you are interested. When contacting supervisors, provide your academic and educational background with examples such as your academic transcript, CV, research area of interest and why you believe your research topic aligns with the supervisor. Consult with your supervisor regarding potential auxiliary supervisor/s. It is recommended to nominate an auxiliary supervisor with your application. Your application may be delayed if an auxiliary supervisor is not nominated. Upload evidence of contact with your research supervisor, with confirmation of acceptance. A copy of emails between you and your supervisor is accepted as evidence.

Research proposal	Once you have arranged a research supervisor, prepare a research proposal (at least 1000 words (2-4 pages)) to support your application. The research proposal should be developed in conjunction with your research supervisor, and outline the subject area, objectives, methodologies and significance of your research. Include the research supervisor name and research project title, and any prior research experience and, where appropriate, copies of papers already published.
Research scholarships	MCP/PhD applicants are advised to tick YES in the 'RTP consideration box' when applying, to be considered now for a research scholarship for 2022. MCP/PhD students are only eligible for Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) scholarships when enrolled full time in the PhD research degree from second year.
PhD standalone	By submitting a MCP/PhD application, you will be automatically considered for a stand-alone MCP place and a stand-alone PhD place, if not offered a place for the MCP/PhD double degree. MCP and PhD applications are assessed independently and considered equally on merit. Please do not submit an application for standalone PhD.
Advantages	• MCP/PhD completion time (4.5 years) versus MCP (2 years) plus PhD (3-4 years). MCP/PhD students complete one PhD thesis versus two theses. • Students may be eligible for Centrelink assistance when enrolled in MCP full time in first year, and eligible for RTP scholarships when in enrolled in PhD full time from second year. • Opportunity to meet international standards in UK and North America. • Pathway to work as both a clinician and an academic researcher.

Step 3. Arrange two references through Psychology Reference System

MCP applicants must submit two academic references. (If unable to provide a second academic reference, you may provide one academic reference and one clinically relevant work experience reference). MCP/PhD applicants must submit two academic references.

References must be provided via Psychology Reference System

- Applicants must register with Psychology Reference System and nominate two referees. Referees are then prompted to complete an online reference.

- Applicants who do not correctly provide completed references and share these with the University of Sydney via Psychology Reference System by the application closing date will not be considered.

- References are NOT uploaded to your online application in Sydney Student. References are confidential and not shared with the applicant.

- It is strongly recommended you request your referees to complete the online reference at least two weeks prior to the closing date, to allow your referee sufficient time to complete the reference.

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SELECTION PROCEDURE

TIMELINE	
Application closing date	Monday 24 October 9am
Interview offers sent	Thurs 24 November – Wednesday 30 November
Interviews	Thursday 1 December and Friday 2 December
First round offers	Tuesday 6 December onwards
University closedown	Friday 24 December 2022 – Monday 10 January 2023

1. Application assessment

After the closing date, applicants will receive notification if their application is incomplete, through the application portal. Following assessment of admission requirements and selection criteria, the Clinical Psychology Unit admissions committee rank applications upon the below criteria:

- Undergraduate academic performance in the honours fourth year, or equivalent

- Additional academic research qualifications in Psychology completed at an Australian institution: Master of Science by research, Master of Philosophy by research, Doctor of Philosophy, in Psychology. Masters by coursework are not considered

- Psychology references, via the online Psychology Reference System

2. Selection interview

The selection interview aims to identify applicants who have a demonstrated interest in clinical psychology, an awareness of clinical issues, and are personally suitable for clinical practice, with sound interpersonal and relational skills. We are looking for applicants who demonstrate the capacity to achieve high levels of scholarship, to be responsive to diversity, and to handle the stress and demands of clinical training. We aim that our graduates become emerging leaders in the profession, in clinical, research or academic contexts.

Applicants are encouraged to have gained some previous relevant work experience. The benefit of work experience is that it is likely to enhance the understanding of clinical issues and allow a prospective student to determine whether they would like to pursue working with a clinical population. If invited to interview, an applicant will be advantaged if able to draw upon previous work experiences, particularly in regard to answering questions that specifically assess understanding of clinical issues and potential difficulties of work in clinical contexts.

Interviews will be 1 hour in duration and held via Zoom. Applicants who are not available to attend the scheduled interview dates will not be considered for a place. Unsuccessful applicants falling below the interview cut off will be notified through the application portal.

Applicants will be asked a standard set of questions, rotating through three interview panels, assessing communication and interpersonal skills, ethical decision making and critical thinking in research. Each interview panel will be comprised of two staff members from the School of Psychology It is not necessary to bring any additional materials to the interview, as all application materials have been assessed prior to interview. Appropriate professional dress is recommended.

3. Offers

Places are offered full-time only. Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) are available for this course for eligible domestic students. This means that your course fees are subsidised by the Australian Government and you pay a student contribution amount. CSP places are limited in number and are allocated based on academic merit.

Applicants will be notified if placed on the reserve list. Second round offers sometimes continue into January. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified through the application portal. The University closes down over Christmas and we anticipate some delay over the closedown.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I study part time?
The MCP is offered full time, it is not available part time. The MCP is completed on-campus, it is not available by distance, to study abroad or exchange students.

Can I apply as a domestic or international student?
The MCP is available to domestic and international students. MCP/PhD is available only to domestic students. If you are an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, an Australian permanent resident visa holder or a permanent Australian Humanitarian visa holder, you may apply as a domestic student. All others apply as international students.

Is my international qualification equivalent?
All non-Australian qualifications must be assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) before an application may be submitted. The APS assessment is a requirement for admission to the MCP and for provisional registration as a Psychologist with AHPRA. The School does not assess international qualifications, we reply upon the APS assessment of equivalence.

Is application competitive?
Application is very competitive, last year we received over 500 applications and offered 70 interviews for 20 places. Applications will be assessed and ranked on fourth year honours results and psychology references. Overall fourth year results will be scaled where the grading scale differs to the University of Sydney. Application rankings vary from year to year, as they will be determined by the number and quality of applications, and the pool of applicants each year.

Do you consider additional qualifications?
For application ranking, an APAC accredited fourth-year degree plus a completed Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Philosophy or Master of Science by research in psychology may be considered. Masters by coursework are not considered. Additional qualifications must be completed by the application closing date and results available prior to interview in order to be considered.

I do not have a major in psychology
If you have not completed a major in psychology you may consider the completion of first year psychology units of study through Science Undergraduate Non-Degree, second and third year units of study through Graduate Diploma in Psychology, and fourth year through honours in psychology.

Do you consider non-Honours APAC accredited fourth-year qualifications?
Students who do not complete honours but complete an equivalent qualification are requested to include with their application, a letter from their fourth year coordinator, indicating whether the fourth year qualification is equivalent to, or identical to, or how it differs to, honours in psychology. For example: Research component (50%); Coursework component (%); Honours grades (H1, H2.1) awarded; Grades and benchmarking processes align with Honours; Individual or group thesis. We understand that some but not all, APAC accredited fourth-year qualifications, such as the Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced) may be identical to honours, with the same units of study, content and assessments, however, exist to provide a pathway for students who completed their 3-year APAC accredited sequence externally or via a Graduate Diploma of Psychology.

How will my results be considered if I am currently completing honours?
Complete the Authorisation form to provide consent. We will contact your fourth year coordinator to obtain provisional results in late November. If your institution does not release provisional results, the student must provide their result directly to Admissions admissions.blueteam@sydney.edu.au prior to interview. If provisional honours results are not available from your institution prior to interview, unfortunately you will not be eligible for consideration.

Do I need to submit a research proposal with my MCP application?
No. MCP applicants do not need a research proposal or supervisor on application, students will have an opportunity to outline their research interests, in order to be allocated to a research supervisor during the first semester of first year.

Do I need to submit a research proposal with my MCP/PhD application?
Yes. MCP/PhD applicants are required to submit a research proposal and evidence of research supervisor

and auxiliary supervisor contact and acceptance as part of their application. A research supervisor from the School of Psychology is required (Clinical Psychology Unit and School of Psychology). Other supervisors may be appointed as auxiliary supervisors. Students are advised to allow more than one month to develop their written research proposal with their research supervisor. Please be aware potential supervisors may decline students if there is not sufficient time to develop a research project proposal.

Do I need to apply for both the MCP and MCP/PhD?
To apply for the MCP/PhD double degree submit two online applications:
1. Master of Clinical Psychology (MCP) AND 2. Doctor of Philosophy (Science) (MCP/PhD), as both are assessed independently. Students who apply for the MCP/PhD double degree will be considered for both the MCP and MCP/PhD programs. Students who apply for the MCP/PhD but are not successful for the MCP component, will also be considered for an alternative offer for the standalone PhD.

Do I apply for the MCP or MCP/PhD?
By submitting an application for the MCP/PhD by the end of October, you increase your options, as you will be considered for three programs: MCP/PhD double degree, standalone MCP and standalone PhD. You will receive an outcome of your application for your decision in December.

Advantages to completing the MCP/PhD double degree, include:
- Shorter completion time (4.5 years) versus 5-6 years (2-year MCP, 3-4 year PhD)
- Requirement to complete one PhD thesis versus two theses (MCP thesis, PhD thesis)
- Funding available across all years (Centrelink in first year, research scholarships from second year)
- MCP/PhD unit of study requirement (Research Plan with literature review) for PSYC6076 Research Project 1 can be counted towards HDR1 Milestone requirement

How is the MCP/PhD structured?
The MCP/PhD double degree is 4.5 years. MCP/PhD students complete MCP coursework units of study full time (1EFTSL). During the second and third year of the MCP/PhD, students concurrently complete the PhD research degree full time and the MCP coursework degree part time (1.5 ETFSL for 2 years). From third year onwards, students continue the PhD research degree full time (1EFTSL). MCP/PhD students commence the MCP component from first year and the PhD component from second year.

In first year, MCP and MCP/PhD students are both enrolled full time in MCP units of study (48 credit points), with an identical enrolment plan. It is from second year that MCP and MCP/PhD students follow different enrolment plans, with MCP/PhD students completing MCP units of study part time in second and third year (24 credit points). MCP and MCP/PhD students complete the same requirements and assessments for all units of study, with the exception of the research project units of study, where MCP/PhD students complete a research plan with literature review and a systematic review.

How is the PhD component completed?
MCP/PhD students enrol full time in the PhD from second year. For the PhD component the earliest completion date is 3 years. Students are encouraged to submit at the 3.5 year mark, in order to have submitted, examined, completed emmendations (if any), and be awarded before the latest completion date of 4 years.

How are clinical placements structured?
Students complete a total of four clinical placements, two internal placements in the on-campus Psychology Clinic and two external clinical placements in hospital, community or clinic setting. Students commence internal placements from second semester of first year, and external placements from second year. Students complete internal Placement 1 in Semester 2 Year 1, in Semester 1 Year 2 concurrently complete internal Placement 2 and external Placement 1, then external Placement 2 in Semester 2 Year 2.

Students will complete 1200 placement hours and at least 400 patient contact hours. Clinical placements are 6-months long, completed 2-days a week for 24 weeks. Students meet with the Placements Coordinator in their first year, to discuss their clinical interests and plan their clinical placements. Clinical placements are allocated by the Placements Coordinator.

Cognitive-behavioural approach
Our program adopts a Scientist-Practitioner model with an emphasis on cognitive-behavioural approaches,

providing students with expertise, both practical and academic, to enable them to work as a professional Clinical Psychologist in a variety of clinical settings across the lifespan. Our clinical students become proficient in the application of CBT, but also are offered training in other approaches, such as family therapy, schema therapy, and integrated psychoanalytic psychotherapy. Advanced units of student and external clinical placements allow students to develop a depth and breadth of clinical experience as they are introduced to additional therapeutic approaches.

Emphasis on professional practice and personal development
The academic and practical components of the program are focused on providing a sound research based foundation of diverse knowledge for professional clinical practice and trainees are strongly supported in the application of this knowledge to develop skills, understanding, ethical values and approaches necessary for good clinical practice.

The Clinical Psychology Unit prides itself on developing a curriculum that responds to the social and emotional well-being of diverse populations. We aim to challenge students to engage in reflective practice and to examine their own privilege, to prepare students for work with aboriginal communities, refugee communities, and also to include direct engagement with peer workers and others involved in the mental health recovery movement. We from time to time include people with lived experience in the classroom, who tell their story alongside academic knowledge. Our aim is to maintain a progressive agenda in the development of scientist and activist practitioners, capable of critical analysis of the effects of the historical and social context on conceptualisations of mental health.

International equivalency
Students are advised to contact the relevant accreditation and registration bodies in their own country for accurate advice regarding international equivalency for accreditation and registration of the MCP and MCP/PhD programs. However, with careful selection of clinical placements and additional clinical placements hours, MCP graduates can meet UK and European standards, and MCP/PhD graduate may meet US and Canadian standards.

Can I work while studying?
The MCP is a full-time intensive program, with coursework, clinical placements and research. Students will need to plan around what is a very busy schedule in first year, and especially in second year. During the first semester of first year, students attend classes four days a week. From second semester of first year, students attend classes two days a week as well as clinical placements two days a week, plus research. Students are expected to devote around a half day per week to research in the first year, with this load increasing to one per week in the second year.

For some students, there may be more flexibility in first year, to find one full day to allocate to work or commitments. However, in second year, there is even less flexibility and it is unlikely a full day will be available. As students will concurrently complete an internal placement (two days a week) and an external placement (two days a week), in addition to one day of coursework, alongside research. It is important that students start thinking and planning ahead, as in second year it is unlikely there will be a full day available.

Financial support
Students enrolled in the MCP degree and the first year of the MCP/PhD are eligible to apply for Centrelink support. For the MCP/PhD double degree, full time enrolment in the PhD will allow students to be eligible to apply for research scholarships from the second year of the program. MCP and MCP/PhD students are eligible to apply for the Tanya Sackville Memorial Scholarship.