



Course Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
<i>Awarding Institution//Body</i>	University of Bath
<i>Teaching Institution*</i>	
<i>Validated/Franchised/Licensed (if appropriate)</i>	
<i>Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)*</i>	Application for accreditation by British Psychological Society in process.
<i>Programme approved by (including date & minute number of Senate)</i>	Senate, 2 February 2022 minute 15084
<i>Final award</i>	MSc
Programme title*	Clinical Associate in Psychology (Adults)
<i>UCAS code (if applicable)</i>	N/A
<i>Subject Benchmark Statement*</i>	N/A
<i>Intended level of completed programme (in line with FHEQ e.g. 5, 6, 7,)*</i>	Level 7 = M
<i>Duration of programme & mode of study*</i>	18 months parttime
<i>Date of Specification preparation/revision*</i>	Exemptions to the Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations (PGTAR) have been approved by EQSC (published on 11-10-23).
<i>Applicable to cohorts (e.g. for students commencing in September 2016 or 2016/17-2017/18)*</i>	For Student Apprentices commencing in September 2023

Synopsis and academic coherence of programme*

The MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (CAP) (Adult) degree apprenticeship course combines education in the fundamental academic knowledge and clinical competencies required to work as a Clinical Associate Psychologist with adults. The course is delivered in partnership with participating NHS Trusts (or other relevant health/social care settings) and combines teaching at the University of Bath with practice-based learning and supervised clinical practice in a workplace context.

The MSc course will run for eighteen months. Teaching will be delivered using a blended approach, with Student Apprentices attending taught activities on average 2 days per week. Apprentice learning will be achieved through lectures, seminars, tutorials, skills workshops and workplace-based assignments. In the NHS Trust (or relevant health/social care setting), Student Apprentices will complete practice-based learning tasks while undertaking clinical work. The clinical practice experience will be organised by the employer and supervised by a registered clinical psychologist.

The CAP degree apprenticeship will equip Student Apprentices with the knowledge, skills and behaviours necessary to practice safely and effectively as a Clinical Associate Psychologist including knowledge of governance, ethical and organisational issues. They will further develop

their clinical psychology practice knowledge and skills in psychological assessment, psychological formulations, psychological interventions and the evaluation of practice. As a reflective, ethical and competent practitioner, they will develop the skills to contribute to the effective provision of psychologically informed care across the wider health and social care system.

Student Apprentices will be employed under the supervision of a registered clinical psychologist. This will enable them to apply the above knowledge and skills, whilst developing and demonstrating the necessary clinical competences required to work as a Clinical Associate Psychologist.

This CAP degree apprenticeship is intended for graduates in Psychology, who are interested in developing careers as applied psychological practitioners for adults.

Educational aims of the programme*

The Masters in Clinical Associate in Psychology will enable Student Apprentices:

- To become skilled professional Clinical Associate Psychologists (CAP) for adults
- To become adaptable and compassionate practitioners who will work with adults, addressing health inequalities by drawing on an individual, formulation-based approach and using evidence based psychological assessment and intervention.
- To support service development through quality improvement.
- To work effectively across a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary psychosocial care service to support psychologically informed care.
- To help those they work with to manage their difficulties in an effective and practical manner, drawing on psychological principles and resources within the community.

Intended learning outcomes * (including teaching, learning and assessment methods, specifying those applicable for interim awards where appropriate)

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course will be taught through a combination of university-delivered teaching and learning and on-the-job training.

Student Apprentices will gain experience on the job through practice-based learning and clinical work, supervised by clinical psychologists.

Student Apprentices will also attend university-delivered teaching activities comprising lectures, tutor-led seminars and tutorials, apprentice-led seminars, skills workshops, guided reading, group work, dissertation supervision, monitoring of personal development with personal tutor and problem-based scenarios.

Assessment Methods

The course uses a range of formative and summative assessments, as appropriate to assessing the learning outcomes relating to the core competencies. Types of assessment will typically include:

- Executive summary reports including critical appraisal and review of research evidence
- Essays
- Oral Presentations
- Competency Log and Professional Practice Reflective Log
- Clinical Research Proposal
- Clinical case reports demonstrating theory-practice links in clinical assessment, formulation and intervention

- Portfolio of Clinical Experience
- Direct assessment of clinical competence
- Professional Discussion

Intended learning outcomes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge & Understanding: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge of the biological, psychological and social aspects of mental health problems 2. Knowledge and psychological understanding of common clinical presentations relevant to adults 3. Knowledge and psychological understanding of complex clinical presentations with complexity characterised by severity, enduring nature, intellectual disability, neurodevelopmental context and/or co-occurrence with physical health conditions. 4. Knowledge and critical understanding of the development and implementation of relevant practice guidance frameworks (e.g. NICE and SIGN) 5. Knowledge of the practice and research standards requirements of the BPS Code of Ethics and Conduct. 6. Knowledge of the legal, statutory and ethical responsibilities of working in healthcare settings as a clinically supervised practitioner. 7. Knowledge of a range of psychological assessment methods and how to apply them. 8. Knowledge of how to develop individual formulations for complex clinical presentations drawing on relevant theory. 9. Knowledge of how to apply a range of psychological treatments to individuals and groups appropriate to the needs of patients in the context in which they experience distress. 10. Demonstrate the ability to provide a range of psychological interventions when working with complex and chronic needs within scope of practice, selecting and implementing interventions where an established evidence-base is absent. 11. Demonstrate the ability to choose appropriate psychological measurement tools for ongoing evaluation of psychological treatments that make a significant contribution to the continuous enhancement and quality improvement of clinical practice. 12. Demonstrate the ability to provide training to others in order to inform psychological interventions across a range of service settings 13. Demonstrate the ability to design and conduct applied psychological research within clinical services 14. Knowledge of psychological models of clinical supervision 15. Knowledge of how to conduct risk assessments and risk formulations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual Skills: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To evaluate others' arguments and research 2. To learn independently and to be able to assess one's own learning needs.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To critically evaluate and assess research and evidence. 4. To gather information, data, research and literature from a number of different sources. 5. To synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding. 6. To use a range of standard and specialised research instruments/techniques either individually under supervision or as part of a research team. 7. To disseminate research in appropriate formats (e.g., presentation for multi-disciplinary audience, service report, research publication). 8. Skills in creating and managing databases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Practical Skills: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop practice and professional skills that are underpinned by psychological theory, evidence and understanding. 2. Develop a reflective and professionally safe practice informed by professional codes of conduct. 3. Maintain the practice and research standards and the requirements of the BPS Code of Ethics and Conduct. 4. Demonstrate the ability to use clinical and professional supervision effectively. 5. Demonstrate the ability to work as a reflective and ethical practitioner. 6. Make appropriate decisions within the range of your expertise, seeking guidance where appropriate, and where limits of expertise are recognised to make referral to a qualified practitioner. 7. Understand the impact of difference, diversity and social inequalities on people's lives, and their implications for working practices within health and social care services. 8. Show an understanding of the roles and remit of a pre-registration workforce in applied psychology. 9. Capacity to adapt to, and comply with, the policies and practices of a host organisation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferable/Key Skills: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicating effectively to a variety of different audiences 2. The capacity to summarise and communicate the results of psychological assessment, formulation and interventions. 3. Maintain appropriate records and make accurate reports. 4. Demonstrate the capacity to work effectively within groups, teams and multidisciplinary contexts. 5. Work effectively with service users to facilitate their involvement in service delivery. 6. Awareness of service delivery systems for adults with

	<p>complex needs.</p> <p>7. Contribute to the development of services</p>
<p>Structure and content of the programme (including potential stopping off points and diet of core and key optional units)</p>	
<p>The Clinical Associate in Psychology MSc is an 18-month part-time course.</p> <p>The MSc award comprises 90 ECTS credits of masters' level (FHEQ Level 7) units and is divided into two integrated sections.</p> <p>The first section comprises university taught units that provide the conceptual and theoretical understanding necessary to apply psychological theory to clinical practice to become a clinical associate psychologist.</p> <p>PS50218 Clinical and Health Psychology for Adults and PS50217 Clinical Psychology Practice for Adults provide a solid foundation in clinical psychology theory and practice and offer Student Apprentices the opportunity to critically review and evaluate alternative approaches within the field of clinical psychology. PS50218 Clinical and Health Psychology for Adults enables Student Apprentices to develop an in-depth understanding of the main theoretical models of mental health conditions affecting adults and to critically review these models. PS50217 Clinical Psychology Practice for Adults introduces Student Apprentices to the fundamentals of clinical psychology practice including the range of assessment methods, formulation of clinical problems drawing on theory and assessment practice and psychological interventions underpinned by cognitive and behavioural theories.</p> <p>PS50216 Research Skills for Health Service Contexts will equip Student Apprentices with the ability to design and conduct applied psychological research within clinical services (e.g., service-evaluation, audit, small N design). These skills are then employed to design and conduct an applied empirical research project within a clinical service.</p> <p>The second section consists of the Clinical Practice Unit PS50215 and the End Point assessment unit PS502021.</p> <p>PS50215 Clinical Practice Unit (Adults) provides the opportunity for Student Apprentices to demonstrate the ability to implement psychological interventions for adults, using formulation as a basis for the planned interventions, and taking account of the psychological and social circumstance of the client in a collaborative manner.</p> <p>The clinical practice unit combines work experience with practice-based teaching on a focused topic in seminars, relevant to the Student Apprentice's workplace. Assessment methods for this unit will include clinical case studies, reflective practice logs or competency-based assessments. The clinical practice unit will enable Student Apprentices to demonstrate their application of the legal, statutory and ethical responsibilities of working in healthcare settings as a clinically supervised practitioner and to integrate psychological practice within the broader care system. It will provide the opportunity for Student Apprentices to demonstrate the ability to engage in reflective and culturally competent practice.</p> <p>The Clinical Practice Unit is sequenced to enable developmental progression as a practitioner. There will be some flexibility about the timing of assessments as workplace opportunities may not align precisely with the taught component.</p> <p>The Clinical Practice Unit is assessed with an assessment of clinical competence, a written formulation of case and reflective feedback.</p> <p>The End Point Assessment provides the opportunity for Student Apprentices to demonstrate that they have attained the required skills, knowledge and behaviours set out in the</p>	

apprenticeship standard for the Level 7 Clinical Associate in Psychology (CAP) (Degree) to be occupationally competent. Successful completion of the End-Point Assessment leads to achievement of the apprenticeship.

Training on the job

A defining feature of this course is that Student Apprentices will gain valuable, practice-based training, supervised by a registered practitioner psychologist, whilst undertaking clinical work in a relevant setting. This will take place at the Student Apprentice's place of work or other relevant setting as designated by the employer.

All Student Apprentices will be supervised by a registered practitioner psychologist in the UK and will be required to comply with contractual arrangements as outlined by their employer, including occupational clearances such as Standard/Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service clearance required to work with the general public and potentially vulnerable people.

Details of study abroad requirements

Not applicable

Admissions criteria (including arrangements for APL/APEL)

The course is open to graduate psychologists who have been recruited to Clinical Associate Psychologist posts by statutory health and social care providers. The University of Bath will collaborate in the recruitment process to ensure that potential Student Apprentices are eligible and suited to the planned course of study.

UK graduates will normally be expected to have been awarded an honours degree in Psychology (second class or above) and to have completed a programme that is recognized by the British Psychological Society (The Graduate Basis for Registration).

Applicants must submit a personal statement that provides evidence of how their academic, professional and personal experiences equip them to meet the demands of the programme. As part of the statement, they will also be asked to document their reasons for wishing to study as a clinical associate psychologist.

Overseas applicants with equivalent qualifications will only be eligible if they meet the eligibility criteria for the student apprenticeship as set out in the Education and Skills Funding Agency's Funding Rules; namely if they have permission from the UK government to live in the UK (not for educational purposes), and have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least the previous three years before the start of the apprenticeship, and meet the NHS employment regulations.

These admissions criteria are a baseline expectation for all candidates.

English requirements:

IELTS 7.0 (with at least 7.0 in each of the four components).

These are the minimum levels required.

Applicants may be interviewed in-person or online using video conferencing facilities according to the employer's requirements.

Eligibility Requirements English and Mathematics

Applicants are expected to be able to provide evidence of Level 2 attainment in English and Mathematics.

If a Student Apprentice does not meet this requirement on admission to the course, they will be required to achieve and provide evidence of Level 2 attainment in English and Mathematics

prior to Gateway Review to progress to End Point Assessment and successfully complete the apprenticeship. Student Apprentices will be supported to complete these requirements.

Summary of assessment and progression regulations:

The MSc is determined in accordance with the Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations (PGTAR):

[Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations \(bath.ac.uk\)](http://bath.ac.uk/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations)

The following exemptions to PGTAR apply to the course:

Exemption from Rule A (para. 11): There are normally no barriers to progression on a postgraduate taught course.

Student Apprentices must meet Gateway progression requirements before starting the End Point Assessment (EPA) unit. Gateway progression requirements are detailed in the CAP EPA Assessment Plan:

- Pass all other MSc Clinical Associate Psychology course units (80 ECTS credits)
- Achieve Level 2 standard in English and maths
- Confirm the Student Apprentice's employer is satisfied they have achieved occupational competence and are ready to progress.

Exemption from Rule B (para. 18): A unit is passed, and credit is awarded, when the weighted average of all summative assessments within the unit meets or exceeds the pass mark of 50%. Any additional, agreed pass requirements or thresholds for the unit must also be met and will be described in the unit specification.

The assessment items for the End Point Assessment unit comprise:

- 1) Demonstration of Practice, which is marked Pass/Fail.
- 2) Professional Discussion, which is marked Pass/Fail/Distinction.

The EPA unit mark is decided based on the marks for the summative assessments:

- If either summative assessment mark is Fail, the EPA unit mark is Fail
- If both summative assessment marks are Pass, the EPA unit mark is Pass
- If the mark for Demonstration of Practice is Pass and the mark for Professional Discussion is Distinction, the EPA unit mark is Distinction.

The EPA unit is passed, and credit is awarded, where the unit mark is Pass or Distinction.

Exemption from Rule B (para. 22): Failed units may re-assessed but study will not be repeated.

Students Apprentices may be required to engage in further study prior to taking reassessment for the End Point Assessment unit.

Exemption from Rule C (para. 27): Students will only take reassessment in failed assessment(s) within a failed unit.

Where a Student Apprentice fails the End Point Assessment unit and takes reassessment within the same End Point Assessment Period (detailed in the Assessment Plan), they will be reassessed only in those assessment items which they failed.

Where a Student Apprentice fails the End Point Assessment unit and does not take reassessment within the same End Point Assessment Period (detailed in the Assessment Plan),

the Student Apprentice must then take reassessment in all assessment items contributing to the End Point Assessment unit.

Exemption from Rule C (para. 28): When a unit is passed following reassessment, a capped mark of 50% will be awarded for the unit and will be used in the calculation of the Overall Course Average (OCA).

Reassessment marks for the End Point Assessment unit are not capped.

Exemption from Award Rules (para. 43): The Overall Course Average (OCA) is the credit-weighted average of the marks from all units required to contribute to the award. The OCA is calculated and rounded up to be reported to two decimal places.

End Point Assessment unit carries 10 ECTS credits but is zero weighted for the purposes of calculating the Overall Course Average.

The End Point Assessment must be completed within an End Point Assessment period lasting typically 3 month(s), after the End Point Assessment gateway.

Successfully graduating with a Masters qualification is required to qualify as a practicing Clinical Associate Psychologist.

Student Apprentices must successfully pass the End Point Assessment in order to be awarded both the Masters degree and the apprenticeship.

Sources of other information

- University of Bath Programme and Unit Catalogues (<http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/>)
- The British Psychological Society (2020); Standards for the accreditation of applied psychology Programmes for Associate Psychologists (Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education, 2020)
<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Accreditation/Associate%20Psychologists%20-%20Standards%20for%20Accreditation.pdf>
- Institute for Apprenticeships Clinical Associate in Psychology (CAP) Apprenticeship Standard
<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/clinical-associate-in-psychology-cap-integrated-degree-v1-0>

Programme code	THPS-APA17
Programme title	MSc CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PSYCHOLOGY FOR ADULTS
Award type	
Award title	MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology (Adults).
Mode of Attendance	PART TIME
Length	18 months
State any designated alternative programme(s)	
Approving body and date of approval	

Year 1 (for implementation with effect from 2023/24)

	Stage	Normal period of study for this Mode	Unit code	Unit title	Unit status	Credits	MPU status	SRU status	Taught, or Dissertation / project credits	Notes
1										
	AY		PS50215	Clinical Practice Unit (Adults)	C	30	MPU	SRU		
	AY		PS50218	Clinical and Health Psychology for Adults	C	15	MPU	SRU		
	AY		PS50217	Clinical Psychology Practice for Adults	C	15	MPU	SRU		
	DIS		PS50216	Research Skills for Health Service Contexts	C	20	MPU	SRU		
	GATEWAY TO END POINT ASSESSMENT									
2	S2		PS50221	End Point Assessment	C	10	MPU			