

**Programme Specification**

GENERAL INFORMATION	
<i>Programme title</i>	MSc (PG Dip / PG Cert) Applied Clinical Psychology
<i>Awarding Institution//Body</i>	University of Bath
<i>Teaching Institution</i>	University of Bath
<i>Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)</i>	
<i>Subject Benchmark Statement*Subject Benchmark Statement:</i>	n/a
<i>Date of Specification preparation/revision</i>	
<i>Applicable to cohorts</i>	
<i>Programme Approved by</i>	

Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

The MSc Applied Clinical Psychology aims to provide students with the background knowledge and professional skills relevant for progressing into health service careers with a significant applied psychology component. The Masters programme equips students with an up to date knowledge of theory and practice issues relevant to UK and international mental health care settings. Students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake research and development in healthcare settings, including research design, governance, ethical and organisational issues. They are introduced to the foundation skills of clinical psychology practice including interviewing, observation and psychometric assessment. This Masters programme is intended for graduates in Psychology, who are interested in progressing to careers in the health professions as practitioners, researchers or managers, and current health service professionals with a degree in Psychology or related disciplines who wish to enhance skills and knowledge in the areas covered by the programme. Relevant posts for graduates from this programme may include assistant psychologist positions and these are general preparatory employment for doctoral training in clinical psychology.

Structure and Content:

The Masters in Applied Clinical Psychology is studied as a one-year full-time programme or a two-year part-time programme. The formally taught units are offered between September and May. The programme has three main themes each consisting of a number of units. Details of unit contents can be found from the Unit Catalogue from <http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/other.html> - please note that these are updated in July of each year to list units for the following academic year.

The first theme provides a grounding in the different ways of conceptualising physical and mental health problems in adults and children. Students develop a critical appreciation of psychological theories explaining physical and mental health problems in adults and children. They develop critical appreciation of the role of the clinical psychologist within and outside the UK

The second theme familiarises the students with the discipline of Clinical Psychology Practice in context. They are introduced to the theoretical underpinnings and practical skills involved in the practice of clinical psychology. They are familiarised with the governance and practice issues relevant to psychological research in health contexts; a range of assessment skills relevant to clinical psychology practice and the guidelines governing the conduct and practice of clinical psychologists

In the third theme, students explore the application of research methods, developing skills in research design and the appropriate statistical and qualitative methodology and in the collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data. Students complete a research proposal that provides them with the opportunity to develop a research proposal for their applied clinical psychology dissertation. Students put into practice the methods, theories and skills that they have learnt in an independent research project that they write up in the form of a dissertation.

The programme enables students to develop professional and personal skills relevant to working in a mental health context. These skills are highly valued in the work place and make the students who graduate from this programme highly employable.

For part-time students, the units selected, and the balance between one year and the next, will vary with the individual students' specific requirements. Students complete the taught component of the programme over a 21-month period, followed by a 3-month dissertation. Typically, students will take the first theme in the first year and the second theme in the second year. The third theme is split over both years.

Educational aims of the programme

The Masters in Applied Clinical Psychology will enable students:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of psychology applied to clinical/healthcare settings
- To develop general skills of Clinical Psychology Practice in context
- To develop general critical and analytical powers
- To develop critical, analytical problem-based learning skills and the transferable skills in preparation for postgraduate employment or further study
- To enhance the development of interpersonal skills
- To develop research skills
- To experience opportunities for collaborative learning with others
- To develop an awareness of the importance of Service User and Carer involvement in service development and research.

Learning outcomes

Dependent upon individual units successfully completed, students gaining an award from this programme should be able to:

- Identify and engage critically with appropriate and representative literature in the field of clinical psychology
- Critically evaluate current contributions of clinical psychology in both mental and physical health settings
- Demonstrate clarity of thought and quality of argument in clinical psychology theory and application
- Demonstrate fundamental clinical skills
- Have the ability to choose appropriate research designs and conduct appropriate statistical analysis
- Appreciate the uses of qualitative and quantitative methods and their application
- Locate issues and concerns of clinical psychology in the wider health sciences research context
- Demonstrate understanding of the psychological processes involved in the consultation and provision of treatment
- Appreciate how people cope with chronic and acute mental and physical health conditions
- Demonstrate understanding of the importance of the therapeutic alliance
- Demonstrate understanding of the impact of power imbalance in the context of engaging service users in assessment and treatment

In addition to the above, students successfully completing the dissertation and therefore who are awarded the Masters in Applied Clinical Psychology should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Select and justify the focus, scope and methodology of a study in clinical psychology
- Carry out independent research in clinical psychology
- Conduct appropriately focussed assessments in the context of clinical presentations
- Critically review, employ and engage with the appropriate literature on the study area
- Draw appropriate conclusions from the research study, being aware of its strengths and limitations.

Teaching and learning methods

The programme will be taught through lectures, tutor-led seminars and tutorials, student-led seminars, practical workshops, guided reading, group work, active participation in research seminar programmes, monitoring of personal development with personal tutor and problembased scenarios.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge & Understanding: 	<p>Dependent upon which units have been successful completed, graduates will have acquired some or all of the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the theoretical basis of clinical psychology. • Fundamental concepts of clinical psychology relevant to the student becoming an effective practitioner. • Theoretical basis of clinical psychology. • Current developments in practice and research in clinical psychology • To understand how these knowledge outcomes apply in work based situations. • The importance of the therapeutic relationship and power imbalances inherent in it • The range and scope of service user/carers involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual Skills: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To think creatively and analytically • To communicate an argument • To evaluate others arguments and research • To learn independently and to be able to assess own learning needs. • To critically evaluate and assess research and evidence as well as a variety of other information • To gather information, data, research and literature from a number of different sources. • To synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding • To utilise problem solving skills. • To work independently • To communicate an argument to other health professionals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Practical Skills: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To effectively and efficiently apply principles of clinical psychology. • To be able to identify and deploy appropriate assessment strategies • To have a sound knowledge of the principles and practice of psychological assessment • To develop writing skills for clinical and research reports • To have a sound knowledge of methods of clinical case study design. • To demonstrate understanding of research governance issues in health care settings. • To develop the knowledge of the governance, ethical and organisational issues of working in a mental health context.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferable/Key Skills: 	

- Study and learning skills
- Basic information and computing technology skills
- To be aware of ethical issues in carrying out research.
- Inter-personal and communication skills
- Essay research, preparation and writing skills.
- Time management and administration skills
- Presentation skills and verbal communication.
- Advanced information technology and computing technology (e.g. SPSS)
- Team and group working skills.
- To reflect on his/her academic and professional performance and take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.
- To solve problems in a variety of situations.
- To prioritise workloads.
- Independent and group working skills
- Advanced oral communication skills
- Advanced numeracy skills
- Leadership skills
- To understand career opportunities and challenges ahead.

Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

Progression Regulations and Awards

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through, coursework, practical presentations, skill based assessments and a dissertation.

The programme is fully compliant with the University's NFAAR-PGT regulations:

(<http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa>) Specific regulations for the Masters are summarised in Appendix 11 at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>.

Progression and exit awards

A student who achieves at least 30 credits in the taught stage but has been unable to achieve

60 credits may be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Clinical Psychology. A student who has successfully completed the 60 credit taught stage but who does not wish to, or is unable to, progress to the Dissertation stage may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Clinical Psychology. Students graduating with a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Clinical Psychology will have successfully completed less of the taught stage than students graduating with a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Clinical Psychology.

The taught stage of the programme provides students with the opportunity to study the fundamental concepts of clinical psychology and to gain an understanding of the theoretical basis of clinical psychology. It provides the opportunity to explore concepts of clinical psychology and develops students' knowledge and skills necessary for practicing clinical psychology in healthcare settings, including governance, ethical and organisational issues. Furthermore, students develop their statistical and research skills.

A student who successfully completes the Dissertation stage of the programme will be eligible for the award of a Masters in Applied Clinical Psychology. It provides students with the opportunity to develop their research skills and put into practice some of the methods, theories and skills that they have learnt in the first two semesters.

Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

Details of Study Abroad Requirements

Details of Professional Accreditation

Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements

The programme is open to graduates who have a degree in psychology or related discipline.

UK graduates will normally be expected to have been awarded a good honours degree in Psychology (upper second class or above).

Applicants must submit a personal statement that provides evidence of how their academic, professional and personal experiences equip them to meet the academic demands of the programme. As part of the statement they will also be asked to document their reasons for wishing to study clinical psychology at University of Bath and to outline their subsequent career intentions.

Overseas students with equivalent qualifications will be admitted in accordance with the University's regulations.

These admissions criteria are a baseline expectation for all candidates.

English requirements:

IELTS 6.5 (with at least 6.0 in each of the four components), . These are the minimum levels required.

Students may be interviewed by telephone.

Details of Support Available to Students

All taught students will be allocated a Personal Tutor who is responsible for monitoring and supporting the academic progress and general welfare of their students. There is also a Senior Tutor who has overall responsibility for the personal tutors and who can also be consulted in exceptional circumstances

Staff in these roles will be able to respond to many of the questions and concerns raised by their students. However, there is also a range of specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support these staff working with their students, as well as take referrals to work more directly with the students. Students can also self-refer to these services.

These services can provide information, advice and support in relation to accommodation, emotional difficulties, assessment of needs and provision of support relating to disability, student funding, general welfare, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, international students, spiritual matters, part time work, security and personal safety.

The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. More information about these services can be accessed via: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/>.

Department and Programme Specific Support Information

Programme web page

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/pg/programmes/msc - appl - clin - psyc/index.html>

British Psychological Society

<http://www.bps.org.uk/careers - education - training/careers - education - and - training>