Master of Clinical Neuropsychology 8266

Program Guide

Program Summary

Contacts:

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Faculty: Science

Campus: Sydney

Career: Postgraduate

Minimum Entry Requirements:

- Current registration as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia with Area of Practice Endorsement in Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Educational and Developmental Psychology or equivalent.
- Successful completion of a 6-year APAC accredited sequence of study in psychology, including a major research thesis.
- Psychology qualifications from overseas must include a major research thesis/project and must be assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) as comparable to a six-year APAC-accredited sequence of psychology completed in Australia.

Applicants will be selected competitively based on interview and assessment processes.

Program Description

The Master of Clinical Neuropsychology (MCN) is designed to be a one year, Level 4 Post-Masters bridging program offering specialisation in Clinical Neuropsychology. The MCN is designed to meet the Area of Practice Endorsement standard (Clinical Neuropsychology) of the Psychology Board (PysBA) of the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The course aims to train clinical and professional skills with the intention that graduates will be 'job ready' to take up a variety of employed positions.

This program is designed specifically for practicing Psychologists with one Area of Practice Endorsement to upgrade their skills in neuropsychology and to provide them with a pathway to gain a second endorsement as a Clinical Neuropsychologist from the PsyBA.

This program involves supervised practice in a range of clinical settings, working with children, adults and older adults with developmental, neuropsychiatric, neurological and degenerative disorders. The focus is on both assessment and intervention with some options to conduct placements remotely.

The program takes a problem-based learning approach whereby fundamentals in ethics, brain function and its disorders, assessment approaches, interventions and

7. Critically evaluate evidence with respect to neuropsychological knowledge, assessment practices and interventions

8. Communicate effectively via oral and written mediums with a wide range of audiences, from people with cognitive impairment through to other professionals.

These PLOs align with the specific accreditation requirements of the Psychology Board (PsyBA) as follows.

1. Knowledge of the discipline

Graduates will be expected to apply advanced neuropsychological knowledge of: structure and function of the central nervous system and brain–behaviour relationships, as well as recent neuroscience understandings with respect to cognition, behaviours and emotions. They will also be able to evaluate the impact on social and interpersonal functioning; explain the aetiology, course, incidence, prevalence, risk, protective and maintenance factors of neuropsychological conditions; and critique psychopharmacology as related to neuropsychological disorders.

2. Ethics, legal and professional matters

Graduates will be able to work at a high level of autonomy as a clinical neuropsychologist across settings, with an ability to understand and manage the professional, ethical and legal issues relevant to practice, showing deference to individual perspectives and cultural considerations while being guided by an overarching obligation to protect the public, through reflective practice and adherence to evidence-based practice.

3. Assessment

Graduates will be able to conduct competent, sensitive assessments to diagnose and treat neuropsychological disorders. They will be able to critically evaluate

6. Practice across the lifespan

After graduating from this program, graduates will be able to apply advanced knowledge concerning normal development and ageing regarding cognition, emotion and behaviour, and psychosocial context in order to select suitable instruments for each age group and level of ability, and deliver evidence-based interventions for different ages.

7. Research, critical thinking and evaluation

Graduates will also be able to critically evaluate clinical neuropsychology research, the validity of assessment measures, both old and emerging, and the evidence for interventions. They will be able to creatively use transdiagnostic evidence to expand assessment and intervention protocols, independently undertake ethical research activities, demonstrate skills in research design, and present a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences.

8. Communication and interpersonal skills

Finally, upon graduation, it is expected that graduates will be able to use high level oral and written skills to communicate the findings of assessment and interventions suitable for a range of recipients, in a confident, professional and sensitive manner, noting the cognitive and other challenges of clients, and the needs of a wide range of professionals. They will be able to communicate the general principles of neuropsychology in a manner that is clear, accurate and meaningful.

Program Structure

The program encompasses six core courses (48 units of credit), two courses per term, as follows.

		UOC	Offered
PSYC7240	Neuropsychology 1: Disruptions	6	T1

during terms to cater for those who are continuing to work. International students are not currently eligible for the program.

Program Sequence

Each course is offered only once in an academic year and intake occurs once a year only. The courses are designed to be completed in a single year (full time study load) or longer (part time study load). All students are expected to commence enrolment with Neuropsychology 1 PSYC7240. Full time students are addtionally required to enrol in NPEP1 PSYC7237 in T1 at the commencement of the program. In subsequent terms, students can choose which (available) course/s they wish to take. Examples of full time and part time progressions plans are provided in the tables below.

Example Full time Progression:
Program completion in one year.

Term 1	**Term 2**	**Term 3**
PSYC7240	PSYC7241	PSYC7242
PSYC7237	PSYC7238	PSYC7239

Example Part time Progression:
Program completion in two years.

Year 1:

Term 1	**Term 2**	**Term 3**
PSYC7240	PSYC7241	PSYC7242

Year 2:

Term 1	**Term 2**	**Term 3**
PSYC7237	PSYC7238	PSYC7239

Academic Courses

PSYC 7240: Clinical Neuropsychology I: Disruptions

Course aims: This course aims to provide clinical neuropsychology trainees with the information and skills to conduct assessments of cognitive function in clients with suspected brain conditions based on the latest neuroscientific evidence and most appropriate test instruments, to identify common neurological and psychiatric disorders and their consequences in terms of disorders of thought, emotion and behaviour, and to provide meaningful reports of their findings, effective management strategies, and evidence based treatment approaches. The emphasis of this course is to train clinical neuropsychologists to provide safe professional practice to members of the public who are at risk of, or who experience, cognitive and emotional impairment related to brain disorders. The approach encompasses consideration of multi-cultural

disorders. The approach encompasses consideration of multi-cultural factors in assessment and remediation, and how to work within a inter-disciplinary team.

Course summary: This course builds on Neuropsychology 1: Disruptions by providing an in-depth understanding of how neuropsychological function and disorders manifest across the life span. The course focuses on normal and abnormal development of the central nervous system, a range of developmental, acquired and genetic disorders that can disrupt neural and cognitive development in childhood the impact of these disorders when acquired in adulthood. Students will participate in active problem solving of common issues that arise with respect to assessment and interventions in children and adults, as well as methods for working within the broader context of families, schools and support providers. Major categories of brain disruption will be covered including damage arising from head trauma, stroke, epilepsy, neurological disease (Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's Disease), neurosurgery, oncology, and substance use.

The course combines weekly asynchronous lectures (1 – 2 hours) with two-hour practical tutorials or, occasionally full day workshops. The content is designed to focus on specific cases using problem-based learning approaches. Thus, for example, when discussing a case of foe

assessment, report writing and communication with clients. The aim of this course is to provide an orientation to the profession of clinical neuropsychology, an introduction to the practical components of clinical neuropsychology and a graded entry into neuropsychological work with clients with an emphasis on working with older adults. It also equips trainees with the foundation of clinical neuropsychology competencies needed to assess, diagnose and treat clients who experience cognitive, emotional and behavioural impairments reflecting neuropathology. In addition, it will hone skills in case formulation and risk assessment skills in neuropsychological populations and emphasise the need for protection of the public when practicing as a neuropsychologist.

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one external placement and also training through clinical workshops and personal research for their capstone/research project.

Assessment for Courses: NPEP1-3.

For specific assessment requirements and deadlines for each of these courses, please refer to the relevant course outlines. In general, each Neuropsychological Professional Practice course requires the successful completion of the placement including the required number of direct contact hours, supervisor feedback, end of placement review and completion of a logbook of placement activities. In addition, in each professional practice course, students will be required to attend more than 80% of workshops, submit reflections regarding these, and present a case at Case Presentation Day. They will also be required to submit a de-identified case report, either of an assessment or intervention, with a requirement being that at least one of each type of report is submitted across the three courses. All courses will be assessed as Pass/Fail, each individual assessment will be required to Pass for the Course to be graded as a Pass. Specific rubrics for meeting Pass criteria will be provided with each assessment.

Capstone/Research Project:

Across NPEP 2 and NPEP 3, students will be expected to develop and complete a capstone/research project that enables them to demonstrate high level critical thinking, research design, implementation, analysis and communication in an area of clinical neuropsychology. There is flexibility with respect to the nature of the project. For example, it could entail an evaluation of a program using qualitative/quantitative methods, an evaluation of an intervention using single case experimental design, addressing a new research question using existing data, or the development of a podcast that provides accurate, meaningful information to the public concerning an area of neuropsychology. Satisfactory progress and completion of the project is an additional requirement for passing NPEP2 and NPEP3 respectively.

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks	There is no single book that adequately covers Clinical Neuropsychology as taught in this program. Within each course, references to books, chapters and papers that provide excellent overviews will be provided. For your reference the following textbooks provide overviews of the knowledge base of clinical neuropsychology and topics covered in various courses: Brown, G.G., Crosson, B., Haaland, K.Y. & King, T.Z. (Eds.) 2023, APA handbook of neuropsychology: Vol. 1. Neurobehavioral disorders and conditions. American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433840005 Brown, G.G., Crosson, B., Haaland, K.Y. & King, T.Z (Eds.), 2023 APA handbook of neuropsychology: Vol. 2. Neuroscience and neuromethods. American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433840005

	Kolb , B. & Wishaw, I (2021) *Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology* [8th Edition| Schoenberg, M.R. & Scott, J. G. (2011) The Little Black Book of Neuropsychology: A Syndrome-Based Approach Goldstein, L.H. and McNeil J.E. (2004) *Clinical Neuropsychology: A Practical guide to assessment and management for clinicians.* Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. Andrewes D. (2001) *Neuropsychology: from Theory to Practice.* Hove: Psychology Press. McDonald, S. (Ed) 2021 *Clinical disorders of social cognition. Routledge*: ISBN 9780367461195 David, A., Fleminger, S., Kopelman, M., Lovestone, S., Mellers. J., (2012) Lishamn's Organic Psychiatry: *A textbook of neuropsychiatry* (4th Ed) Wiley Sherman, E.M.S., Tan, J.E. & Hrabok, M. (2022) *A Compendium of Neuropsychological Tests: Fundamentals of Neuropsychological Assessment and Test Reviews for Clinical Practice*. (4th ed.) OUP Lezak, M.D. Howieson, D.B. & Bigler, E. & Tranel, D. (2012) *Neuropsychological Assessment*. [5th Edition], Oxford University Press, New York. Mitrushina, M, Boone, K.B., D'Elia, L.F. (2005) *Handbook of Normative data for Neuropsychological Assessment* (2nd Edition). New York: Oxford University Press. Wilson, B.A., Winegardner, J., van Heugten, C.A., Ownsworth, T. (2017) *Neuropsychological rehabilitation: The international handbook*. Routledge
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	• Readings provided by lecturers on Moodle • School of Psychology Student Guide.
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning Centre ELISE Turnitin Student Code of Conduct Policy concerning academic honesty Email policy

supervised practice (the Clinical Psychology Registrar Program), you can apply to the PsyBA for full membership and endorsement as a clinical neuropsychologist.