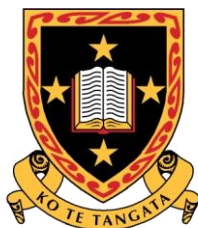




Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology

**A guide for students
interested in applying
in 2011 (for 2012)**

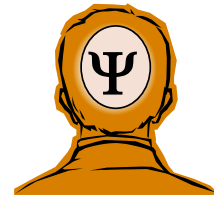
**School of Psychology
Faculty of Arts and
Social Sciences**



**The
University
of Waikato**
*Te Whare Wānanga
o Waikato*

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 What is Clinical Psychology?

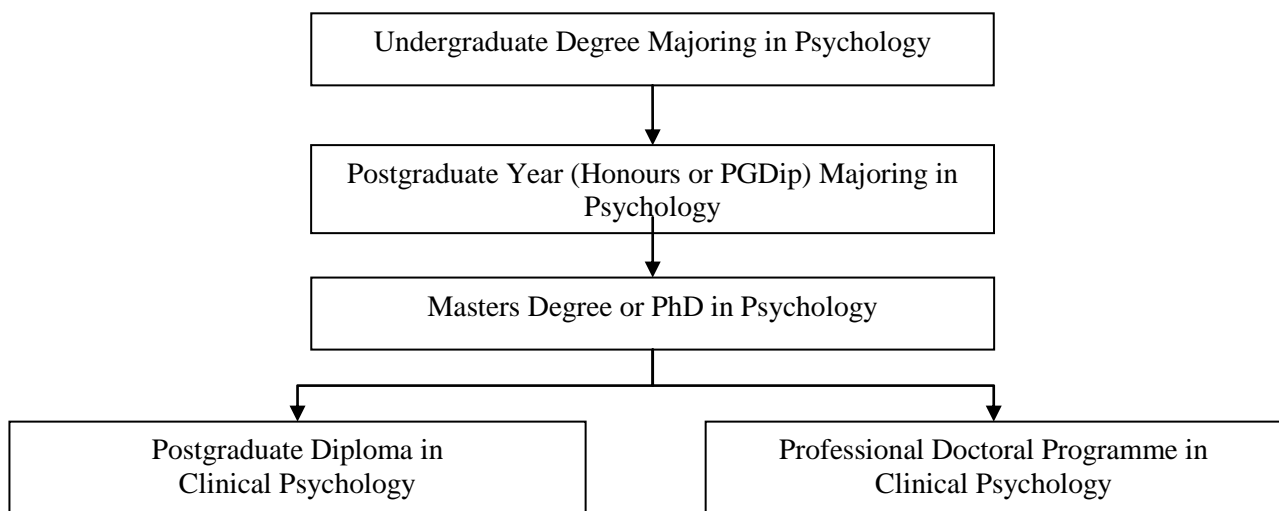
Clinical psychology is a discipline characterised as an applied science, with a firm empirical foundation, and an emphasis on objective data to support assessment and treatment. Training in clinical psychology is based on the “Boulder model” where the emphasis is on the use of research-based knowledge to develop practical competencies, rather than on the generation of new knowledge through primarily research focused activities. An integration of science and practice is emphasised so that research informs practice, practical understanding and issues guide meaningful research, and where individualised and unique clinical work is strengthened by scientific method.

1.2 What does this mean to a practising Clinical Psychologist?

Clinical psychologists base their assessment and treatment on the evidence generated through research. Assessment and treatment with clients raises new questions which helps design research. For these reasons, clinical psychologists need to be trained in both the practice and theory as well the integration of the two.

1.3 What qualifications are needed to practise as a Clinical Psychologist?

To practice as a clinical psychologist in New Zealand it is necessary to become registered. The most common way of obtaining registration as a clinical psychologist is by gaining a minimum of four different qualifications (as shown below). Note, that the University of Waikato only offers a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology (not a Professional Doctorate). The Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology programme is half-time in the first two years, and is often taken alongside the a half-time Master’s thesis during that time; the third and final year is a full-time internship.



Applicants for registration must complete the appropriate academic programmes, and provide character references as well as a record of criminal convictions to the New Zealand Psychologists Board. If an applicant does have a criminal conviction, registration must be considered individually by the Board, based on materials the applicant submits regarding the criminal history. If you are considering training as a clinical psychologist and do have a criminal conviction, we recommend that you consult with the Psychologists Board before beginning training, in order to be certain you will be eligible for registration.

1.4 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology at the University of Waikato

The Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology programme at this university is a three year programme, whereby students typically complete their MSocSc in addition to coursework and practical clinical experience for the diploma. Normally it is expected that these three years are consecutive. In special circumstances the clinical programme team will decide whether a break in training can be allowed. Some of the academic and research content of the diploma programme is incorporated into general graduate papers. Students normally undertake coursework and clinical work for the diploma programme concurrently with their Masters and after completing their honours or postgraduate year. Following completion of MSocSc or PhD, the third and final year of the programme involves supervised clinical work in an internship setting four days per week, and one day per week of university classes and meetings.

The Diploma can, however, be taken subsequent to a MSocSc, provided the appropriate clinically relevant coursework has been completed. In these cases the coursework and practical clinical experience required for the Diploma are still spread over three years, but the first two years are half time, and students should be aware that this limits their eligibility for student assistance grants. Of course, since the programme is half time, the student may work part-time, but needs to be clear with the employer about the schedule and requirements of the programme.

Enrolment in a PhD instead of the MSocSc is feasible; however, the Postgraduate Diploma cannot be awarded until after the PhD has been completed, assuming that the student has not already completed a Masters degree. Once selected for the programme, students interested in this option should discuss their programme of studies with one of the PGDipPsych(Clin) programme team. This usually involves taking a year or more of deferral from the clinical programme to complete the PhD.

The Diploma programme is made up of coursework, academic research and supervised clinical practice. There is a gradual transition over the three years from a substantial coursework component in the first year, to mainly supervised clinical experience (internships) in the final year.

The clinical programme at Waikato is regionally-focused; this means that placements, internships, agency visits, and other programme activities all take place in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions. Attendance at classes is mandatory, and in the first and second years, students will have class and programme activities on at least three days per week. In the internship year, students will have classes in Hamilton one day per week, and four days per week of supervised clinical work. It is recommended, therefore, that students plan to live in Hamilton or nearby, or be prepared for significant expenditures of time and money for travel.

An important goal of the clinical programme at Waikato is to produce clinical psychologists who are able to implement the most current and effective methods of assessment and treatment in a socially relevant and sensitive way. Scientific and technical knowledge is not sufficient to have an impact on social problems if the professional clinician does not have the social and interpersonal understanding to recognise the needs of contemporary New Zealand society and the many cultures and varied individuals who make up that society. Thus, professional responsibility, high ethical standards and practice matched with integrity, and a dedication to resolving societal needs, are all considered an essential part of the development of a well-rounded clinician.

2.0. Clinical Diploma Staff

The programme staff consist of the Programme Director Senior Lecturer Carrie Barber, Associate Professor Doug Boer, Senior Lecturer Jo Thakker and Senior Clinical Tutor Kyle Smith, who are responsible for all curriculum and policy developments. Jan Cousens serves as programme administrator to the clinical programme and can often be consulted for administrative assistance.

Carol Cornsweet Barber, PhD (Vanderbilt University), Programme Director

Carrie's clinical experience is with assessment and treatment of children and adolescents, as well as perinatal mental health and issues relating to parenting. Her research experience includes evaluation of the outcomes of intensive mental health services to children and adolescents, as well as social services to homeless youth; her current research focus is on perinatal mental health and transition to parenting.

Associate Professor Doug P Boer PhD, MSc (Alberta),

Associate Professor Doug's clinical and research interests include risk assessment, offender treatment, and expert witness testimony

Jo Thakker, PhD, PG DipClinPsyc (Canterbury), Senior Lecturer

Jo's clinical experience includes work with refugees and with the Department of Corrections in Australia and New Zealand. Her research interests include offenders (mainly sexual offenders), theoretical psychology, substance use and abuse, and environmental psychology.

Kyle J.H. Smith, MSocSci (Honours), PGDip(Clin)Psych (Waikato)

Kyle has clinical experience in adult mental health and specialises in the assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders and in group treatment approaches. Her research interests include post-natal depression and anxiety.

3.0 Required Course Work



3.1 Undergraduate course work¹

Students at the University of Waikato are expected to have **completed** the following courses prior to application:

- PSYC301 Community, Culture and Diversity
- PSYC307 Research Methods
- PSYC337 Psychological Measurement
- PSYC338 Abnormal Psychology

Recommended Courses

- PSYC314 Behaviour Analysis
- PSYC319 Psychological Perspectives on Child Development

¹ In special circumstances, or where a paper was not offered previously, a proven pass in an alternative but relevant paper may be substituted. Applying students must discuss these options with the clinical liaison person at least two months before the start of the academic year.

Applicants **from other Universities** will need to demonstrate that they have completed courses that are similar in content to the above or be prepared to enrol in some additional courses to reach the required standard in these topics.

3.1. Grades

There are **no** entry criteria based solely on grades. In other words, better grades will be useful, but are not the only criterion on which applicants are assessed. However, a minimum of a B+ average in Honours courses is generally required for entry into a Masters programme. Students with less than a B+ average would need to provide compelling evidence of academic preparation and capability.



3.2. Graduate course work¹

Students who are enrolled in the PGDipPsych(Clin) are **required** to take or have completed the following graduate courses:

3.2.1. In order to commence the programme, students should have completed an Honours or postgraduate degree in psychology. The degree should include the following courses:

- PSYC556 Advanced Topics in Abnormal Adult Psychology
- PSYC562 Theories of Clinical Psychology
- PSYC564 Child Psychopathology
- PSYC575 Psychological Applications and the Treaty of Waitangi
- PSYC581 Psychological Assessment

These papers are considered fundamental in the training of clinical psychologists. Applicants from other Universities will need to demonstrate that they have completed courses that are similar in content to the above or be prepared to enrol in some additional courses to reach the required standard in these topics.

3.3 Recommended courses

The following papers are **recommended** for clinical students in this programme:

- PSYC510 Evaluation Research
- PSYC539 Graduate Research Methods in Psychology
- PSYC560 Applied Behaviour Analysis - Theory and Issues
- PSYC580 The Psychology of Criminal Conduct
- PSYC590 Directed Study

If you have completed your postgraduate degree, but have not completed one or more of the required courses, and you are accepted into the programme, you will be required to complete the papers you have not completed during your first year of study.

4.0 Relevant Experience

Applications should show **relevant experience**. Relevant experience may include a previous employment history in related areas such as social work, nursing, drug and alcohol services, occupational therapy etc. It may also include voluntary work with people with psychological or social problems; students have gotten valuable experience by volunteering at organisations such as Lifeline and Youthline (telephone counselling services), Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Hospice, Autism New Zealand, etc.

The importance of such experience is that it allows applicants to demonstrate that they appreciate, understand and empathise with the issues that people from a range of backgrounds may face. This kind of experience can also be valuable to you in clarifying your career goals and seeing how comfortable you are with the kinds of roles clinicians can take.

It is also critical that applicants can demonstrate understanding of the role and practice of clinical psychology. It is often helpful if they have sought out experienced clinical psychologists and discussed professional activities with them.

5.0. Age, Gender, and Ethnicity

There is no upper or lower age limit. All applications will be treated on the basis of the applicant's previous academic and personal experience, bicultural appreciation, commitment to training and understanding of the profession.

Neither gender is considered more appropriate than the other. The selection process is undertaken in a way which seeks to attract the best applicants rather than favouring one gender over the other. However, given that there is a shortage of males in the profession and a shortage of Maori, if two applicants are equal in all of the above mentioned criteria, then gender and cultural identity may be considered in choosing an applicant

New Zealand is a bicultural country which is also fortunate to have peoples of many and varied cultures. We welcome applications from a wide range of cultural identities, providing the applicants are competent English communicators.



6.0. References

All applicants are required to have two current letters of recommendation. It is also very helpful if the referees know something about the practice of clinical psychology and can support the applicant's strength in this area. It is suggested that one should be an academic staff member who can report on the applicant's performance in psychology courses. The other letter should be by someone who can discuss the applicant's personal strengths as they relate to the field of clinical psychology (e.g., the applicant's interpersonal and communication skills, responsibility, reliability, and honesty.) References need to come from people who know the applicant well, ideally in some relevant professional context such as a volunteer or paid job, but **not** relatives or whanau.

7.0. Approaches to Practitioners

If you think that clinical psychology is the career choice for you but you are not certain about what the job actually is, it is helpful if you approach someone who is practising to find out. Clinical psychologists are employed in many different sectors, including the Psychological Service in Corrections, Specialist Services in the Child Youth and Family Service, Group Special Education, private practice, disability services and at The Psychology Centre (TPC) which is the clinic affiliated with the Waikato Clinical training programme in Hamilton. You may wish to talk to someone at one or more of these services in order to gain more information, but please remember that clinical psychologists are busy people and may not be able to see you within a short time-frame.

8.0. Programme Activities²

Currently all of the classes are held at the University. For students who have not completed their MSocSc degree before enrolling, the combination of the Masters work and the Diploma is a full-time commitment.

8.1. Course Outline

The following describes the programme structure during 2011; the days and time allocations may shift from year to year.

Year 1

Papers Clinical papers (PSYC521) for 2 hours each Monday, plus 3 hours clinical skills classes on Tuesdays. Bicultural Practice Workshop (PSYC522) scheduled for three full days, typically Fridays in June, July, and August or September.

Practica Two afternoons of workshop preparation followed by observation of clinical evaluations 2-3 half days per week over a three week period. One of the cases observed will be written up as a case study and presented to the programme in a case conference setting.

There are also approximately 15 agency visits (2 hours each) and associated brief reports spread throughout the year, typically on one afternoon of the week.

Year 2

Papers One clinical papers (PSYC523/524) for 3 hours each Monday during term time.

Practica Two consecutive placements are offered for each student, normally one at The Psychology Centre and one in a field agency. They each occupy two days a week for about three months.

An Interviewing Workshop and other pre-placement training are held at the beginning of the first semester, lasting four full days during one week.

Please note that Year 1 and 2 students may also be completing their Masters theses – and that these must be submitted prior to beginning their Internships.

Year 3 (referred to as Interns)

Papers One three hour (PSYC525) paper on Mondays during term time.

Practica Two consecutive placements are offered for each student, usually one at The Psychology Centre and one in a field agency. They each occupy four days a week for about five months.

²There will, occasionally, be additional activities that will be offered, to those enrolled in the programme. Involvement in these activities may be mandatory. Where possible considerable advance warning will be provided. Such activities may include hui, local and national conferences, workshops, and seminars.

In addition, for *All Years*

- All students are required to attend Case Conference seminars which are held on Mondays, from 11.15am to 12.30pm at the University. Case Conference involves practitioners and students presenting a current clinical case in which they discuss their assessment and treatment procedures as well as any safety and ethical issues that arose whilst working with the client.

The activities outlined above ensure that students are extremely busy keeping up with the demands of the programme. Students who enter this training programme need to be committed and well-organised.

8.2. Internships

Internships are offered in a range of work places such as Adult Mental Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Child Development Centre, the Community Living Trust, Child Youth and Family Service, Group Special Education, and Corrections. Each year the internships available to us vary slightly. Before the beginning of the third year, prospective interns are advised which internships are available and guided by programme staff on their options. However, there is frequently competition for internships so we cannot guarantee that everyone's choice will be available, nor can we guarantee that all internship placements will be paid.



Normally, as noted above, the Internship year will consist of two placements - one in a field agency and one at The Psychology Centre. Each of these placements is for approximately half the year, with the first one starting the day following the Auckland Anniversary Day. Interns spend four days a week (excluding Mondays) in their placement. Mondays are kept free for University programme requirements and related studies.

Note: *your thesis (Masters or PhD) must be completed prior to the beginning of the internship.*

9.0. The Psychology Centre (TPC)

The Psychology Centre is a not-for-profit organisation which receives funding from the Waikato DHB to assist in the development of the clinical psychology workforce. Students will experience a number of activities at TPC across all the years of their training. TPC is staffed by four experienced clinical psychologists who provide training and supervision for our students, conduct research activities and who generally involve themselves in a range of clinical endeavours. TPC is situated at 5 King Street, Frankton.

10.0. Research Expectations

As has been mentioned the integration of research and practice is one *of the* hallmarks of a professional clinical psychologist and so also of a clinical psychology training programme. Research activities should be thought of as a direct part of clinical training, not as an add-on or hurdle that you have to overcome in order to obtain the Clinical Diploma.



All students at some point in their training are required to engage in some research activity. This is most likely to be at postgraduate level (e.g., a Directed Study or honours thesis), and Masters (i.e., thesis), but may also be in the form of a PhD.

A research study, for those enrolled in the Clinical Diploma, is expected to focus on work related to clinical psychology practice.

Students enrolled in the Clinical Diploma are encouraged to present their research findings in forums outside the Programme including hui, symposia, and national and international conferences.

11.0. Commitment

As has been outlined in this document, clinical psychology training is quite intensive. Therefore, applicants are expected, prior to selection, to have considered their commitment to *at least three consecutive years of intensive study and practice*. Part time enrolment is not normally permitted.

At the present time, up to eight places are offered each year with the expectation that unless formal dispensation is provided by the Programme Director, each student will proceed through each year in sequence contingent on passing each year's examinations. Permission will normally be granted to deviate from this norm where a student is enrolled in doctoral study. Consideration of other matters such as ill-health and family commitments is at the discretion of the Programme Director.



12.0. Financial Matters

Students are expected to self-fund their training. While internships are generally paid positions in field agencies, there have been times when interns have had to cover their own costs. The programme cannot predict or be responsible for market opportunities.

There are a number of organisations that provide scholarships for graduate students. Please make yourself known to the Scholarships Office (scholarships@waikato.ac.nz) as they have up-to-date information on what is available.

As with any tertiary course, training is expensive and many students do have to apply for student loans.

13.0. Professional Bodies

There are currently two professional organisations for clinical psychologists in New Zealand. They are the New Zealand Psychological Society and its Institute of Clinical Psychology, and the New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists. Each of these offers free student membership and access to professional training opportunities. It is highly advisable that you join both of these professional bodies as early as possible in your psychology training.

The Psychologists' Registration Authority is the government-constituted body which oversees the registration and practice of registered psychologists. It is referred to as an "Authority" in the Health Professionals Competency Assurance Act (2003).

14.0. Web Links

Some useful web links (Psychology Department, Registration Authority, NZ Psychological Society, and the College of Clinical Psychologists) are as follows:

<http://psychology.waikato.ac.nz/>

<http://www.regboards.co.nz/psychologists>

www.psychology.org.nz

www.nzccp.org.nz

www.tpc.org.nz

15.0. Registration Matters

Clinical psychology students who satisfactorily complete our three year training programme apply to the Psychologists' Registration Authority for registration. Registration carries with it various rights and responsibilities and is required in New Zealand in order to practice clinical psychology. All successful graduates are strongly encouraged to become registered and maintain an Annual Practising Certificate as protection for themselves, and under the HPCA Act, their clients.

Under the new act, interns need to be registered as intern clinical psychologists. Second year students are advised to complete and submit the appropriate forms (downloadable from the registration board website) by July of the preceding year.

16.0. Career Options

Clinical psychology opens many different doors in terms of career development, such as:



- Health, including work with young children who have developmental and/or behavioural problems, children and adolescents with mental health difficulties, clients with mental health difficulties who live in the community and/or who may be in-patients for a period, clients in crisis, older people, rehabilitation for those with neuropsychological impairment, clients who experience pain, in forensic psychiatry, and so on.
- Corrections (Psychological Service) employs clinical psychologists throughout the country. In this setting psychologists work with offenders who are on probation or in prison, sometimes in specialist units such as the Youth Offenders Unit or units that provide treatment for sexual offending.
- The Child, Youth and Family (Specialist) Service employs clinical psychologists in some cities. These clinicians work with children, caregivers and/or families assisting social workers by providing assessments and sometimes treatment.
- A less traditional agency for clinical psychology, Group Special Education, is focused on assessing and intervening with children and young people whose behaviour is considered serious in the context of school and sometimes family.
- Others work with people with disabilities, physical and intellectual, in specifically developed settings (in Hamilton we have the Community Living Trust).
- Many clinicians eventually become self-employed in private practice after fairly extensive experience, and work with clients who self refer as well as those who are referred by other individuals and agencies.

17.0. What You Really Want to Know

The following are some commonly asked questions of both staff and students in the diploma programme. The list is not meant to be exhaustive but does cover some of the main issues.



What is so special about Waikato?

-
- All programmes have individual characteristics that allow trainees the opportunity of following particular interests. At Waikato we focus on the application of the scientist-practitioner model through thorough training in understanding and implementing the cognitive-behavioural theoretical model. There is a strong focus on clinical skill development and the training of practitioners for a wide variety of service settings. Because our Department is fortunate enough to have Māori representation we can offer a Kaupapa Māori framework and a bicultural approach to research. The clinical psychology programme has a commitment to a bicultural focus and where possible explores bicultural perspectives in clinical practice.

- What's the difference between clinical and community psychology in practice?

Clinical Psychologists specialise in the application of psychological knowledge and theory to the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of emotional, cognitive or behavioural problems affecting adults, children, couples, and families. The practice of Clinical Psychology focuses on understanding how individuals' problems have occurred, on identifying their strengths and supportive environments, and on finding ways of working with clients to change the ways they function from maladaptive to adaptive.

Community Psychology is characterised by an ecological approach in which social problems are conceptualised as arising from an interaction between people and their environments. Community Psychologists pay particular attention to the conditions that give rise to social problems. The practice of Community Psychology emphasises the application of psychological and social science knowledge to promoting justice and equity, improving the quality of community life, enhancing health and well-being, and preventing psychological or 'life-style' problems.

- What is the difference between a clinical psychologist, a counsellor, and a psychiatrist?

As mentioned above, clinical psychologists specialise in the application of psychological knowledge and theory to the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of emotional, cognitive or behavioural problems affecting adults, children, couples, and families. They may work with an individual client, or with couples or families and other significant persons.

Counsellors generally provide one-to-one advice on a range of matters, some of which may be in mental health, whereas others may be more about lifestyle.

Psychiatrists have a medical degree and additional specialist medical training. Their particular speciality is the provision of medication for psychiatric disorders, and evaluation and treatment of mental disorders within a medical model.

- I have come straight through University after leaving secondary school. Do I stand a chance of being selected?

There are no age barriers or preferences to selection. Applicants with well-rounded life experiences and well-developed interpersonal skills are likely to be preferred. The selection committee will consider an application on the basis of academic preparation, experiences and exposure to clinical issues, commitment to psychology as a career, which includes really understanding what a career in psychology entails, and the social skills and maturity that are necessary to work with people in distress. It is possible to develop this kind of knowledge and experience base during undergraduate and honours study, but it does go beyond the typical purely academic programme.

- I am an older student and am told you take only young ones. Is that true?

Again, age by itself does not constitute an advantage or disadvantage. Applicants are selected because of what they have to offer the discipline of clinical psychology.

- I am a bloke and they say you are only interested in women. Is it worth me even applying?

Men and women are equally as acceptable although there are often fewer men than women who are interested in the helping professions, thus all other factors being equal a male may be chosen ahead of a female.

- What experience should I have had?

Experiences that have involved you interacting with people and finding ways of assisting them are generally useful. Some applicants have worked previously in related fields such as nursing, teaching, social work, and occupational therapy. Others have been involved in volunteer organisations.

- I want to do a PhD as well, is that OK?

Yes it is, providing you meet the entry requirements for PhD study, can cope with work, and have sufficient funding for the extended period of training. Your PhD should bear a relationship to clinical matters. You will typically take two years full time after Year 2 to work full-time on your research while maintaining an association with the programme.

- What happens if I am applying to other University programmes and I get more than one offer?

All the University programmes have an agreed-upon date by which time applicants with more than one offer will have decided where their preference is. For the 2008 intake, all applicants must have informed the University of their decision by the second Friday in December 2008 (see Appendix B).

- I am really only interested in working with a certain population of clients. Why do I have to do three years training?

All NZ University Clinical Diploma programmes are three years long, to enable each student complete a generalist training in the understanding and application of sound, empirically determined psychological principles. Once students graduate they should have a knowledge base and sufficient practice skills to allow them to work in a range of relevant workplaces. Successful completion of our training programme, and the other University-based programmes, leads directly to registration as a clinical psychologist.

- Will I get a job at the end of the programme?

There is an extremely high rate of employment throughout New Zealand for students who graduate with the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology. You will likely gain references in the practical components of your intern year that will assist you in gaining employment.

- How do students juggle the programme, whanau, work commitments, and have a life as well?
- It is recognised that the programme is very demanding. It is important that students in the programme realise the need to balance their academic life with their personal one. It is also important that students have good organisational skills and clear boundaries, as well as enlisting family/whanau understanding and support. There will be busy times, but the staff are there to help when you feel you are under too much pressure.



Appendix B

National Guidelines for Students Applying to the Postgraduate Clinical Psychology Programme

Introduction: The six New Zealand Universities offering postgraduate training programmes in clinical psychology have adopted the following uniform acceptance procedures to assist applicants. Competition for clinical training is considerable, and these procedures have been carefully designed to help you in the event that you are applying to more than one programme.

Uniform Acceptance Date: All programmes will attempt to make offers of admission by the second Friday in December. Offers may be slightly earlier or slightly later because each programme follows different selection procedures. Once admission has been offered to a student, that student has until 5.00pm on the second Friday in December to accept the offer. In other words, the offer will not be withdrawn by the University programme before that date and time, nor can the student be required by the programme to give them an answer prior to the second Friday in December.

This allows a student who is admitted into one programme, but who has a preference for another programme, not to feel pressured that he or she needs to accept the first offer received. However, if your top choice of programme makes you an offer of admission, you should accept immediately (i.e. not wait until that date). Thus, you should not “collect” offers or keep programmes waiting unnecessarily. In fact, once you have accepted an offer from one programme, it would be helpful for you to contact all the other programmes to which you applied indicating that you have accepted another offer and are withdrawing from further consideration. These procedures are designed to expedite offers to other students who will be waiting to hear about admission.

If the programme that has made you an offer does not hear from you by 5.00pm on the second Friday in December, they will assume that you are not accepting their offer and they have the right to withdraw their offer to you and offer the place to someone else. This means that some students may still be notified of an offer of admission after this date. In that situation, you are advised to accept or decline the offer immediately.

Other considerations: You will see the importance that your acceptance is actually received by the programme. Therefore, you should not simply leave a message on an answer machine or on email. You should obtain some confirmation that the admissions committee received notification of your acceptance or rejection of the offer.

Students are reminded of their ethical obligation to decline subsequent offers from another programme once they have accepted elsewhere. Unpredictable events, such as a health or family emergency that might preclude you from taking up the position in the programme, will typically involve a deferment of admission until you are able to enter the programme, or re-application for entry into a subsequent intake. What is not appropriate is to accept an offer from one programme and then break that contract and accept an offer from another programme. The outlined procedure is designed to ensure that you do not accept one University’s offer simply because you are doubtful you will be admitted to another programme on your list.

**University of Waikato
Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology (Clinical)
Application Package**

Thank you for your interest in the clinical psychology programme at the University of Waikato. This package contains all the materials you will need to apply for admission to the programme. Please read it over carefully. It is assumed that you have read our [Graduate Handbook](#) (The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences) as this provides more information regarding the nature of our programme, its focus, and its philosophy of training. You can also access the Department's website and look at the description of the Clinical Programme.

Eligibility

There are certain minimum academic requirements for entry to the programme. These are a postgraduate degree **in psychology** including, in particular, courses in abnormal behaviour, psychological assessment, research design and statistics, and an area of experimental psychology such as behaviour analysis, learning and cognition or physiological psychology. Appropriate supporting courses would include child development, social, and community psychology. (Note that the University of Waikato Diploma in Social Sciences is also an eligible qualification, however students should make sure that their range of psychology papers has provided them with the necessary academic background as described above.) The School of Psychology has certain minimal grade requirements for entry into the BSocSc(Hons) and MSocSc degree programme (see Psychology Graduate Handbook); applicants to the clinical programme must meet those requirements since they will be simultaneously admitted to the graduate degree programme and the postgraduate diploma programme..

If you have done equivalent courses at other universities you need to provide information about the course content. The clinical team will then determine whether any alternative course is equivalent.

All applicants would be expected to have knowledge of and interest in cultural issues, however this need not be demonstrated by formal course work. Please comment in your Statement of Purpose as to what formal or informal experiences you have had relating to cultural diversity.

Many students, knowing the competitiveness of clinical training programmes, often ask us what **other** characteristics we are looking for. However, these are very complex and vary from individual to individual, so it is not easy to define them precisely. We urge potential applicants to find out as much as you can about the profession of clinical psychology in New Zealand and to talk to your academic advisor prior to submitting an application.

We are aware that some students may not have completed their postgraduate degree by November of a given year and will not have grades from courses in which you are currently enrolled. In this situation please indicate the courses you are currently taking and provide grades estimates from your various course convenors. Offers of admission are contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the honours degree prior to enrolment in the programme, however if you have one or two honours courses outstanding you may still apply. It will then be up to the discretion of the selection panel whether you are short-listed. If you are selected for the programme, a plan for completion of your honours papers will be arranged with the clinical team

APPLICATION PROCESS

Information we need This package contains an Application Form which you should complete and sign. We also require a Statement of Purpose, which is an outline of your reasons for considering

clinical psychology as a career, as well as a brief overview of your major interests within psychology and what you might hope to accomplish in your training. Further we ask you to discuss cultural competence..

Please attach a full curriculum vitae. This will provide us with details of your educational experiences, degrees obtained, honours and accomplishments, work experiences (positions held, voluntary activities), and other professional kinds of activities. Please do not include general letters of recommendation from past employers. If you are not a graduate of the University of Waikato please enclose an official transcript of your current academic record.

Finally, **you** are responsible for having forwarded to us two current letters of recommendation, using the attached invitations. Be sure to insert your name clearly on the form. We suggest that at least one of your referees should be an academic staff member who knows of your performance in psychology courses. Other suitable referees are current or recent employers, professionals who are familiar with your academic or volunteer activities. Please avoid family friends, relatives, or people who know you only socially rather than in terms of your academic or professional work. **Remember that referees always have the best intentions but may need to be reminded to finish the letter and mail it to us. We recommend that you contact them before the due date to ensure that the reference is completed.**

Completed applications for admission to the programme must be received by 1 October of the year preceding entry. We suggest you keep a xerox copy of your application for your personal files.

The procedure we follow

All applications are screened by a selection committee. From these, a number of applications will be selected for an interview. You will be notified in writing if you are being invited for an interview. However we do also try to phone people to let them know that they have been shortlisted, so please ensure we have your current telephone number.

The selection will take place in the Psychology Department over a 2-day period; and will include a number of tasks, including an interview. Details of the selection procedure will be sent to those who are shortlisted.

The selection committee includes programme staff, practicing clinical psychologists from the community. There will be a chance to meet current students and to look around the campus. Further details regarding location and procedure will be provided closer to the time. Interview dates for 2011 have been set for Wednesday 9 November and Thursday 10 November.

Following the interviews, offers of admission to the programme are extended. You will be advised at interview of the date on which offers will be made, and by which date they should be accepted. If we are not able to consider you further for admission in 2011, we will notify of this as soon as possible. After receiving an offer, applicants have until 5.00pm on 10 December to accept the offer (see attached National Guidelines). After this date the offer is automatically withdrawn and the place will be offered to another candidate. This date is agreed upon by all New Zealand universities with clinical training programmes. Your acceptance can be a verbal one initially, but you will then be asked to provide a written acceptance. All unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing as soon as possible. The panel's decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

To protect your right of privacy, we will destroy letters of recommendation and other application materials when the selection process is complete. If you would like to have application materials returned to you, please supply us with a self-addressed envelope; do not include postage. We will not keep any application materials on file.

APPLICATION FORM
PGDipPsych(Clin) Programme

- 1 Name _____
2. **Permanent address** _____

3. **Current postal address** (to which letters may be sent) _____

4. **Current phone number** (include area code): _____
If different, the phone number you can be reached at during December _____
5. **Email address:** _____
6. **Date of birth:** _____
7. **Nationality/Citizenship:** _____
[optional]: Iwi _____ Hapu _____
8. **University qualifications:** (show degree(s) completed or to be completed, University and date of completion (or expected date)

**If some of these qualifications were gained outside of New Zealand please provide a short description of each course. This assists us in determining whether these courses are equivalent to our prerequisites.*

Please attach an official transcript of your current academic record. Waikato students may attach a copy of their I-gate transcript. Also please provide your grade point average (GPA). At Waikato this is available from the scholarships office.

9. Please answer the following personal questions which are designed to find out if there are any special considerations we need to be aware of prior to commencing clinical training. These will not necessarily exclude you from consideration criteria, but we need to be aware of possible barriers to programme completion:
 - a) Do you have any criminal convictions? **Yes/No**
 - b) Do you have a disability or medical condition that would require special educational supports? **Yes/No**
 - c) Are there any personal or family reasons that would prevent you from engaging in full-time study for three years? **Yes/No**

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please provide a short note of explanation (attach on a separate page).

I agree that the University of Waikato may use the information I have provided for the purposes of selection into the PGDipPsych(Clin) programme only.

I understand the processes and criteria for selection into the PGDipPsych(Clin) programme, as set out in the 2010 Handbook; I accept that the decision of the selection panel will be final.

Signed: **Dated:**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Essays

1. Please write a personal statement in which you describe your interests in psychology and your reasons for considering clinical psychology as a career, and what you hope to accomplish in your training at Waikato. Discuss how your academic or other experiences have influenced you and helped to prepare you for a career in clinical psychology. Please limit your statement to one page (single spaced).
2. Write an essay (up to one page) addressing the following points:
 - What is your experience with Maori culture?
 - What classes or workshops have you attended that related to Maori culture?
 - At what level is your cultural competence currently, and what steps do you foresee that you need to take to develop in this area?

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Te Kura Kete Aronui
The University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton, New Zealand
Department of Psychology
Telephone 64-7-856 2889
Facsimile 64-7-858 5132
http://psychology.waikato.ac.nz



**FOR REFEREES OF APPLICANTS FOR TRAINING
IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Date:

Dear Referee,

Applicant

You have been asked by the above person to write a letter of recommendation in support of his/her application to the graduate programme in clinical psychology at the University of Waikato. It would be most helpful if you would provide a written evaluation, addressing the following topics (in any order), and other issues you consider pertinent to the professional practice of clinical psychology.

1. In what capacity do you know the applicant?
2. In your opinion what are his/her personal and academic attributes?
3. Please explain how you think the applicant is suitable for the profession of clinical psychology.

This letter is confidential, will not be shown to the candidate, and will be destroyed after the application process is complete.

Please send your letter **directly** to us by **1 October**, using the following address:

**Jan Cousens, Secretary, PGDipPsych(Clin) Programme
Psychology Department, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton**

Thank you very much for your assistance in the selection process.

Yours sincerely,

**Carrie Cornsweet Barber, PhD
Director of Psychology Clinical Training**

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Yours sincerely,

**Carrie Cornsweet Barber, PhD
Director of Psychology Clinical Training**

Please ensure that the application is complete by ticking the appropriate boxes in the following checklist:

- 1. Completed and signed Application Form
- 2. Statement of Purpose
- 3. A full curriculum vitae
- 4. An official transcript of your current academic record
- 5. Your grade point average (GPA)
- 6. The attached referee forms have been forwarded to two referees; their names and addresses are as follows:

(a) _____ (b) _____

- 7. A self-addressed envelope for return of application materials

Address the application to:

Jan Cousens, Secretary
PGDipPsych(Clin) Programme
Department of Psychology
University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton
New Zealand