PGDipPsych(Clin) Selection Information 2021

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGY (CLINICAL)

Thank you for your interest in the Clinical Psychology programme at the University of Waikato. The information below outlines everything you will need to apply for admission for 2022 entry. Please read this information in conjunction with the Programme Handbook as this resource provides more information regarding the nature of our programme, its focus, and its philosophy of training.

How to Apply

Applications open on: 1 September 2021

The deadline for applications: 1 October 2021, midnight (NZDT)

There is a TWO-STEP application process for the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology - PGDipPsych(Clin). It is important that you complete BOTH steps before the deadline for the selection panel to review your application.

Step One: MyWaikato application

- Apply for the PGDipPsych(Clin) qualification via the MyWaikato portal - https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/apply
- If you meet basic entry criteria, you will be contacted by the Clinical Administrator and asked to complete the PGDipPsych(Clin) selection form (available from 1 September).

Step Two: PGDipPsych(Clin) selection form

You will be asked to upload the following documentation:

- A copy of your academic transcript: Applicants who have completed academic qualifications at another university: please attach certified transcripts to this application.

- A Curriculum Vitae: Please upload a copy of your most recent CV, with details of your educational experience, degrees obtained, honours and accomplishments, work experiences, and other professional kinds of activities. Please do not include general letters of recommendation from past employers.

- Statement of Purpose: Outline your reasons for considering clinical psychology as a career, a brief overview of your major interests within psychology and what you might hope to accomplish in your training.

- A cultural essay: your personal reflections about cultural diversity with reference to the Treaty of Waitangi.
Letters of recommendation: You will be sent a letter template (along with the link to the application form), which you will send to TWO referees who will be able to provide a confidential evaluation of your suitability for clinical psychology training. We recommend one academic who knows of your performance in psychology courses and one clinical/work reference. Work references should be from a line manager, not a colleague. Please ask your referees to email their confidential letter to Chellie Keenan – chellie.keenan@waikato.ac.nz. It is your responsibility to ensure these letters are received by the closing date of 1 October 2021. Letters received after this date will not be considered.

Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Entry Requirements

- A Bachelor’s degree with Honours in psychology - BA(Hons), BSc(Hons), BScSc(Hons) or a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology (PGDip(Psy)) with a minimum B+ grade average from a New Zealand university, or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University and approved by the Head of Department.

- Clinical candidates are required to complete a Masters in Psychology prior to the third-year internship. Masters applications are considered separately. Please apply via MyWaikato. Queries specific to the Masters application process should be directed to naomi.russell@waikato.ac.nz. The deadline for Masters applications for prospective Clinical students, is also 1 October.

- Students who are in the process of completing their Honours or PGDip year may still apply; however, offers of admission are contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma prior to enrolment in the programme. The following papers are pre-requisites:

  - PSYCH556 Advanced Topics in Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing
  - PSYCH562 Theories of Psychotherapy
  - PSYCH564 Developmental Psychopathology
  - PSYCH575 Indigenous Psychologies
  - PSYCH581 Psychological Assessment

If you have not completed one or more of these papers at the University of Waikato, but believe that you’ve completed a similar paper at another university, please look at the outline of the paper(s) and note the details - https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/subjects/psychology. You maybe be able to be apply to the paper convenor for a waiver for that paper.

- If you have one or two pre-requisite courses outstanding you may still apply. If you are selected for the programme, a plan for completion of your outstanding papers will be arranged with the clinical team.

For students who are new to the University of Waikato: If you have gained academic qualifications at a university outside of New Zealand, you must first meet the criteria for admission to the University of Waikato before applying. You will need to apply via the MyWaikato portal on https://www.waikato.ac.nz/. Please apply as early as possible to prevent delays in the assessment of your qualifications.
Selection Criteria

Entry into the programme is competitive. The number of places available is limited by the number of practical clinical placements and internships available. 10 places were offered in 2021 from over 60 applicants. The main criteria for selection are based on:

- **Academic record**: We need to see evidence that you can perform very well in academic tasks such as critical reading of the literature and written communication, and have a solid background in the concepts and methods of psychology. Postgraduate grades must be at least a B+ average.
- **Letters of recommendation**: Two letters are required. Please choose people who can comment on your academic skills and record, and your suitability and capacity to relate to others. Ensure they are received by 1 October 2021.
- **Suitability for training**: Consideration is given to demeanour, self-awareness, relevant experience, maturity, capacity for critical thinking, motivation to complete a three-year programme, and fitness for registration.
- **Personal essay**: a one-page essay outlining your reasons for considering clinical psychology as a career, include a brief overview of your major interests within psychology and what you might hope to accomplish in your training.
- **Cultural essay**: include personal reflections about cultural diversity with reference to the Treaty of Waitangi.
- **Work experience**: paid or unpaid relevant work experience

Selection Process

The Selection Committee consists of staff from the clinical psychology team, and psychologists from the community.

- Full and complete applications must be received by midnight on **1 October 2021** (NZDT). Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please be aware that the application is a two-step process; both the MyWaikato enrolment application and the PGDipPsych(Clin) selection form must be received by this deadline.
- Incomplete applications will not be shortlisted.
- Shortlisting will take place in the last week of October. Applicants who are shortlisted will be contacted to arrange for an interview.
- **Interview Dates are**:
  - **Wednesday 18 November** – Selection Day - All shortlisted candidates to attend this day which involves involve a group activity and two assessments in the morning. Individual 20-minute interviews will take place in the afternoon for candidates from outside of the Waikato region.
  - **Thursday 19 November** – Individual interviews continue.
- Interview dates cannot be changed and applicants must be able to attend in person.
- The final decision on who will be offered a place in the programme will be based on your performance on the selection day, your application material, and references.
- Candidates will be advised of their application status by the end of November. If you are not successful in the first instance, you may be offered a place on the waitlist.
- You may receive a conditional offer if you need to complete further course work in the first year of training.
- The Selection Panel decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.
- Successful candidates will start on the 7 March 2022, at the Hamilton campus.
**Additional Information**

**Masters degree**
All clinical psychology students must complete a Masters research thesis. If you already have a Masters or PhD in Psychology, you will only need to apply for the clinical programme. All other students must apply for a Masters degree as well as submitting their application for the clinical psychology programme.

**What if I don’t have some or all of the prerequisites required by the University of Waikato clinical programme**
We will still consider your application if you meet the other submission criteria. Students who completed their Psychology Honours (or equivalent) at the University of Waikato will likely have some of the prerequisites and be able to complete 1-2 others alongside the first year if the clinical programme. Students who completed their Psychology Honours (or equivalent) elsewhere may not have any of the prerequisites (or equivalent papers). In this situation, it may be possible to be conditionally accepted into the programme and complete an additional year of prerequisites before then beginning the first year of clinical training (subject to adequate academic performance).

**Police Vetting**
Government safety checking regulations made under the Children’s Act 2014 require all those who work with children for state-funded organisations or as part of an educational or vocational training course be safety checked. All students who are offered a position in the clinical programme at the University of Waikato must comply with police vetting requirements. If the police vetting highlights information that suggests you may be a risk to children or vulnerable clients, the information will be discussed with the Programme Directors and other clinical staff and your offer for a place maybe withdrawn.

You will be asked to complete the required documents after accepting the offer of a place in the programme. Students will not be allowed to attend the first clinical practicum training if the police vetting has not been returned by the start of Trimester A.

**Vaccination for health care workers**
As students will be completing placements and internships with a variety of community organisations, proof of student’s vaccination status is required. These vaccinations comply with the Waikato District Health Board Vaccination for health care workers policy. All students who accept a position in the clinical programme at the University of Waikato must have proof of up-to-date vaccinations submitted before any clinical practica can begin. This may require significant costs (approximately $500).

The series of vaccinations required may take up to three months to complete, so students are encouraged to make an appointment with their GP immediately after accepting the offer of a place in the programme. Students will not be allowed to attend the first clinical practicum training if they have not submitted their completed proof of vaccination by the due date. Your vaccinations must be completed and you must submit proof of vaccination before the start of Trimester A.
Demands of the Clinical Psychology Training

This is a three-year Waikato based training programme. Applicants need to be aware that some Year 2 placements and Year 3 internships may be offered outside of Hamilton City. This year, for example, some students were placed in Rotorua, Tauranga and Thames.

Please take time to consider whether there may be issues that may limit your ability to complete the training at this time. These may include:

- High academic demands – completing a Masters degree concurrently with the clinical diploma classes
- Client issues or behaviours that may be challenging and confronting.
- Family commitments, financial issues and other personal circumstances – you may need to study during semester breaks to complete your thesis
- We cannot guarantee that all internships will be as paid employment.

Need more information?

- See University of Waikato’s degree regulation for the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical psychology: [https://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/regulations/diplomas/pgdippsychclin](https://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/regulations/diplomas/pgdippsychclin)
- See the PGDipPsych(Clin) Handbook in the documents section: [https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/postgraduate-diploma-in-psychology-clinical](https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/postgraduate-diploma-in-psychology-clinical)
- Email Chellie Keenan, Clinical Administrator - chellie.keenan@waikato.ac.nz or phone 07 837 9288 for Clinical Psychology application related enquiries
- Email the Co-Directors, Dr Carrie Barber (carrie.barber@waikato.ac.nz) or Dr Amy Bird (amy.bird@waikato.ac.nz) for additional queries related to the programme