

Postgraduate Psychology Programs

University of Tasmania

Master of Professional Psychology - M7Q Master of Psychology (Clinical) - M7L

Frequently Asked Questions

Are the UTAS postgraduate Psychology programs accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)?

Yes, the Master of Professional Psychology program, M7Q, comprises 1-year full-time study or equivalent part-time study (maximum of 3 years). In order to apply for general registration as a psychologist, graduates of this program will need to have completed all components of the MProfPsych program plus, a one year full-time or equivalent, supervised internship. The internship year commences after graduation from the 5th year, is entirely independent of the University and is managed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Candidates must remain provisionally registered from year 5 until they become eligible for general registration.

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) Program, M7L is a fifth and sixth year postgraduate degree accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council. It comprises two years of full-time study, or equivalent part-time study (maximum of 5 years). Although all coursework is delivered within the 2 academic years, course completion may take longer due to the timing of clinical placements or delays in progress with key milestones, such as progress with the research project. Following completion of the degree, candidates are eligible to apply for general registration as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA)

Does UTAS offer a combined Master of Clinical Psychology/PhD Program?

No. The Master of Psychology (Clinical) degree and the Master of Professional Psychology degree are the only postgraduate psychology training degrees currently offered.

Does UTAS provide postgraduate professional training in a range of specialised psychology fields (e.g. Health Psychology, Sports Psychology and Neuropsychology?)

No, the Master of Psychology (Clinical) degree and the Master of Professional Psychology degree are the only postgraduate psychology training degrees currently offered. It may be possible to focus on specific psychological areas of interest via the research project.

Is off-campus or external study available for the Postgraduate Psychology Programs?

No, all coursework units require weekly attendance at the Sandy Bay, Hobart campus. Full-time students are strongly encouraged to consider a part-time study option if they need to take on paid employment, due to the high coursework, research and placement load of the degree programs.

Can the programs be studied on the Newnham (Launceston) campus?

No, the Psychology postgraduate programs are offered only as Hobart based programs and all students accepting offers should be prepared to be Hobart based for *all* activities for the duration of the programs. It should be noted that centralised university timetabling of coursework classes may result in attendance being required over several days each week.

All coursework classes and research activities require attendance at the Sandy Bay, Hobart Campus. However, whilst initial clinical placements are usually at the University Psychology Clinic on the Sandy Bay Campus in Hobart, subsequent placements *may* be available in other locations Tasmania-wide.

Can the programs be studied on a part-time basis?

Yes, students unable to undertake full-time study may enrol part-time, with completion permitted over a maximum period of three (3) years for the Master of Professional Psychology program, and five (5) years for the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program. Prospective approval is required from the Division of Psychology for part-time enrolment, with the initial request directed to the Director of Postgraduate Programs in the Division. The study pathway for part-time students needs to be prospectively approved at the beginning of each academic year by the Director of Postgraduate Programs.

Is mid-year entry available?

No, mid-year entry is not feasible for either program due to the structure of the programs and professional training pre-requisites.

What is the closing date for applications for entry?

Applications open in August and close on 30 September of the preceding year.

Who is eligible to apply for the Postgraduate Clinical Psychology Program (M7L)?

Applicants for the postgraduate clinical psychology program must:

1. have completed, or be in the process of completing, a four-year APAC-accredited sequence in psychology within the last 10 years, **and**
2. have attained a minimum result of an Upper Second Class Honours (2A) psychology degree or equivalent, **and**
3. be eligible for Provisional Registration with the Psychology Board of Australia

Potential applicants please also note the following:

- a. Applicants who have *not* completed a four year APAC- accredited sequence in psychology, are required to have their qualifications assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS), and submit the resulting assessment report with their application. The APS assessment report must explicitly state that the applicant's qualifications are equivalent to a four-year, APAC- accredited sequence in psychology. Applicants must also provide a letter from their University indicating that their fourth year qualification is equivalent to an Upper Second Class Honours (2A) degree. For information about the process and fee structure of the APS assessment process go to: <https://www.psychology.org.au/About-Us/What-we-do/Assessing-overseas-qualifications>
A list of currently accredited courses is available from: <https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/APAC-accredited-psychology-programs-australia>
- b. Students who have completed a three-year, plus a fourth year, APAC-accredited sequence, without Honours grading, will need to provide a letter from their University indicating that their fourth year qualification is equivalent to an Upper Second Class Honours (2A) degree, or above.
- c. Meeting minimum entrance requirements *does not* guarantee entry to the Program. Each year the number of applicants greatly exceeds the number of available places and a competitive selection process is applied.

Who is eligible to apply for the Postgraduate Professional Psychology Program (M7Q)?

Applicants for the postgraduate clinical psychology program must:

1. have completed, or be in the process of completing, a four-year APAC-accredited sequence in psychology within the last 10 years, **and**
2. have attained either a minimum of a Second Class Honours (2B) degree or a Distinction minimum average across their psychology subjects in years 3 and 4 of their APAC accredited undergraduate training, **and**
3. be eligible for Provisional Registration with the Psychology Board of Australia

Potential applicants please also note the following:

- a. Applicants who have *not* completed a four year APAC- accredited sequence in psychology, are required to have their qualifications assessed by the Australian

Psychological Society (APS), and submit the resulting assessment report with their application. The APS assessment report must explicitly state that the applicant's qualifications are equivalent to a four-year, APAC- accredited sequence in psychology. Applicants must also provide a letter from their University indicating that their fourth year qualification is equivalent to Second Class Honours (2B) degree or above.

For information about the process and fee structure of the APS assessment process go to: <https://www.psychology.org.au/About-Us/What-we-do/Assessing-overseas-qualifications>

A list of currently accredited courses is available from: <https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/APAC-accredited-psychology-programs-australasia>

- b. Students who have completed a three-year, plus a fourth year, APAC-accredited sequence, without Honours grading, will need to provide a letter from their University indicating that their fourth year qualification is equivalent to a Distinction grade degree, or above.
- c. Meeting minimum entrance requirements *does not* guarantee entry to the Program. Each year the number of applicants greatly exceeds the number of available places and a competitive selection process is applied.

What are the Registration requirements for psychology?

Once accepted into an accredited postgraduate psychology program in Australia students need to obtain Provisional Registration from the Psychology Board of Australia in order to commence the degree.

The minimum educational requirement for Provisional Registration in Australia is an accredited four-year sequence of study.

Please be aware that Provisional Registration for Psychologists requires all applicants to disclose:

- all criminal history (N.B. in Tasmania this includes traffic infringement notices)
- a current international criminal check if you have *ever* spent six months or more resident outside Australia (*this requirement applies to domestic as well as international applicants*)
- any impairment that is likely to detrimentally affect your capacity to practise as a psychologist
- whether your registration in any profession is currently, or ever has been, suspended or cancelled in Australia or overseas

In addition, *all* international applicants are required to provide:

- proof of English language proficiency. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) requires that all international students entering the psychology postgraduate clinical program must evidence a minimum score of 7 in each of the four IELTS examination components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) in order to be eligible for Provisional Registration. Please note that only Academic IELTS scores are accepted and test results must be achieved no more than two years prior to the date of

application for Provisional Registration. IELTS documents must be provided at the time of application to the program in order for the application to proceed.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to review the current information regarding registration requirements, as set out in the English Language Skills Registration Standard of the Psychology Board of Australia available on the AHPRA website: <https://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Registration-Standards.aspx>

What are the selection criteria for the programs?

The postgraduate Psychology programs comprise research, academic, and practical aspects, designed to prepare professionals for practise in the field of psychology and entry to the training program is highly competitive. For this reason, a number of selection criteria are used, and information is sought from a number of different sources - referee reports, academic records, relevant work experience (paid or voluntary), and performance at interview. All are considered relevant to the selection process.

Academic record:

As the training program includes both coursework and research components, a strong academic track record is important. A minimum of an Upper Second Class (2A) Honours result is required for the Clinical program or a Distinction grade average for the Professional program, (or a qualification formally assessed as equivalent e.g. 2B Honours). Please note however that a strong academic record alone does not guarantee a place on either program.

Confidential Academic and/or Professional Referee Reports:

Domestic Applicants:

A minimum of one (1) academic plus two (2) professional references to be submitted directly by your referees to the National Online Referee System at www.psychologyreference.org

This system is now the same across all Australian Universities. To be able to use the system, you will need to have an active subscription. The subscription allows you access to the service during the 2020 intake from the 1st of August 2019 to 30th July 2020. The fee can be paid for through the "My Account" section in the payment tab.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their referee reports are submitted to the National Online Referee System by the application closing date as applications *will not* proceed without relevant referee reports.

International Applicants:

A minimum of one (1) academic plus two (2) professional references to be submitted directly by your referees to the Division of Psychology at daniel.purton@utas.edu.au. Note that applications *will not* proceed without relevant referee reports.

Relevant work experience:

Relevant work experience may be either paid or voluntary and can be in a variety of different roles and settings, including appropriate applied research settings.

Interview:

Shortlisted applicants are required to attend an interview, following which offers are made.

Will most of the Postgraduate Psychology Program places be taken by eligible UTAS students? Will there be any places for eligible students applying from interstate or overseas?

All applications, regardless of origin, are considered equally, which means that undergraduate UTAS students compete for places in exactly the same way as applicants from other universities, whether they are from interstate or overseas. However, with limited places available nationally each year, and strong competition for those available places, all students might wish to consider applying to multiple universities to give themselves the best opportunity of securing a place.

A list of currently accredited courses is available from:

https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/APAC_accredited_psychology_programs_australasia

Can I apply if I completed my Psychology Honour's degree (or equivalent) some time ago?

Yes, but rules apply. Current accreditation standards for higher degrees do not allow individuals to enrol in Masters or Doctorate programs if there has been a gap of more than 10 years between the 4th and 5th years of study.

If your accredited Psychology Honours degree was completed more than 10 years ago, you will need to contact AHPRA to review your specific circumstances and options prior to applying for any Postgraduate Psychology Program that requires you to hold Provisional Registration as a Psychologist throughout the training period.

Although rare, a psychologist who followed the '4+2' route may be considered for the MPsych(Clin) program if they are currently registered and can demonstrate current compliance with Registration Board CPD requirements.

How do I apply for the Postgraduate Clinical Psychology Program, MPsych(Clin) M7L?

Complete applications must be submitted via the UTAS online application system, eApplication which accepts applications from 1 August until 30 September annually.

Domestic Applicants: Information on how to apply can be found at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/admissions/postgraduate-applications>

International Applicants: Information on how to apply can be found at: <http://www.international.utas.edu.au>

Responsibility rests with the applicant to ensure that all required documentation has been submitted prior to the closing date.

It is critical to note that incomplete applications **will not be considered**.

All applications **must** be supported by the following documentation:

1. Full official academic transcript/s to evidence that your Honours degree in psychology (or equivalent) has been completed. In some instances, transcripts will not be available until after the closing date and will need to be submitted as soon as they become available. The Division (and subsequently AHPRA) will need to sight either original documents, certified copies or documents which are submitted on your behalf direct from the issuing University
2. A curriculum vitae which includes details of any relevant work experience (including voluntary work) and details of previous psychological research and/or theses completed
3. A supporting statement specifically outlining your reasons for applying for a Psychology Masters degree at the University of Tasmania (*1 to 2 pages maximum*)
4. Academic and professional references.
NB: Applicants are responsible for ensuring their references are submitted using the relevant method below before the closing date of 30 September. Applicants are advised to inform their referees that applications will not be assessed if references have not been received by the closing date.
(a) References must be submitted to the National Online Referee System www.psychologyreference.org if the applicants previous studies were completed at an Australian university.
OR
(b) References must be sent via email from the referee directly to the Division of Psychology at daniel.purton@utas.edu.au if the applicant completed their psychology studies outside Australia.
5. International students who have completed psychology qualifications overseas, are required to provide an APS Assessment of their overseas psychology qualification (*refer page 2*)
6. International students are required to provide evidence of English language proficiency. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) requires that post-graduate psychology students achieve a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) in the IELTS examination (academic module). Please note that only Academic IELTS scores will be accepted and test results must be less than two years old.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to review the current information regarding registration requirements, as set out in the English Language Skills Registration Standard of the Psychology Board of Australia available on the AHPRA website:

<https://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Registration-Standards.aspx> 7

When will I hear whether my application has been successful?

All complete and eligible applications will be assessed in October. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by email and invited to attend an interview in Hobart in November. Applicants are expected to attend the interview in person.

Please note that final unconditional offers cannot be made until final academic transcripts are received. Applicants will need to provide an original or certified copy of academic transcript/s, plus evidence that the degree has been completed, as soon as they become available.

First round offers will be made as soon as possible following the interview process. A second round of offers may be made a month later if any unfilled places remain. Every effort is made to advise students of the outcome of their application as early as possible.

How many places are offered each year?

The number of places in the Postgraduate Psychology Programs is limited by the availability of resources and staff for supervision. Admission to the programs is highly competitive and applications always exceed available places. It should be noted that academic merit alone does not guarantee entry to either program.

Can I defer my offer of a place on the Program?

No, it is not possible to defer. Offers for admission to the Postgraduate Psychology Programs are made on a year-by-year basis and offers not taken up in the year they are offered will lapse. Students who do not accept an offer for any given year will need to lodge a new application in any subsequent year they wish to apply, and that application will be considered equally with all other applicants in that year. Applicants who are made an offer that they decline cannot be guaranteed an offer following any subsequent application.

Can I reapply in a subsequent year if I did not get offered a place but meet the entry requirements?

Yes, unsuccessful students may reapply for the programs in subsequent years if they meet the eligibility requirements. The competitive entry process will apply and all applicants will be considered on their merits at the time of application with no preference given as a result of any previous applications. Second or subsequent applications are not guaranteed to receive an offer.

What are the tuition fees?

MPsych(Clin) places are HECS-based, rather than fees-based but MProfPsych is a fees based course. Applicants are encouraged to seek additional information regarding fees from: <http://www.utas.edu.au/future-students/course-costs>

Are there scholarships available?

Students studying postgraduate coursework degrees at the University of Tasmania are eligible for a range of scholarships. Applicants are encouraged to seek additional information regarding scholarships from: <https://www.utas.edu.au/scholarships>

When do the programs commence?

The postgraduate Psychology programs commence with a mandatory attendance, structured Orientation Day session during Orientation Week (17 - 21 February 2020). The program for the Orientation Day session is emailed to students at the end of January. Semester 1 commences the following Monday, 24 February 2020.

What is the Program Structure?

The Professional Psychology program comprises two main components: coursework units, plus professional experience placements. The course includes full coverage and mastery of the general knowledge and skills required by psychology practitioners. The course is structured to allow the integration of learning experiences across these components.

The Clinical Psychology program comprises three components: coursework units, supervised clinical practice, and a research thesis. The program includes 1,000 hours of supervised practice.

A number of the coursework units are common to both programs

Detailed information about the study units, including teaching pattern and assessment, is available on the Course and Unit website <http://www.utas.edu.au/courses>

Policies for granting credit or advance standing for previous studies:

Consistent with APAC Accreditation, students will only be given credit for any coursework if it is strictly equivalent to coursework in the current course, and in the case of prior studies at an Australian institution, the coursework for which credit is to be granted must also have been successfully completed in an APAC accredited course within the previous ten-year period. Studies undertaken at non-Australian institutions will be carefully evaluated by the AOU to determine their strict equivalence to the coursework for which credit is to be granted.

Students will only be given credit for placement experience completed as part of their current employment if it is of direct relevance to the course, if the work would ordinarily be undertaken by a qualified psychologist, and if supervision is arranged to fulfil all of the usual requirements of placements which are part of the course. Any such experience must not amount to more than one placement component and it must not constitute more than 30% of the total placement requirements of the course.

Students will not be given credit for previous employment experience (prior to entry into the APAC accredited professional course) as it is not integrated into the overall learning undertaken during the course. Students will not be given any credit for any previous research experience including research higher degrees as the research component is integrated into the course.

Do I need to organise my research topic before commencing the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program?

No. Staff members make brief presentations on their research interests and the available research topics at the Orientation Day in February, which is the primary reason for the mandatory attendance requirement. At that session students are provided with a list of the available research topics that year and are requested to rank their research preferences. Students are allocated to a research topic and supervisor after consideration of their stated preferences.

Supervisors and research topics are assigned by the end of the second week of Semester 1 wherever possible. Resources in some areas, e.g. financial, are limited and therefore thesis topics must of necessity be practicable in terms of time, equipment, and the need for supervision.

Whilst most students will produce a thesis for their research project, it is also possible to submit a critical literature review or meta-analysis instead of a thesis. The Division follows the APAC accredited formats for research project submission within Masters Programs.

Further information can be obtained from the APAC Standards:

https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/public/Standards_20180912_Published_Final_v1.2.pdf

Does the university have a Psychology Clinic for training psychology interns?

Yes, the University Psychology Clinic (UPC) is located on the Sandy Bay campus in Hobart and is an established part of the training program in both Professional and Clinical psychology, making the skills of psychologists in training available to the community in a framework of training, supervision and research. The UPC is staffed by a Clinic Manager and clinical supervisors, who are registered clinical psychologists, in conjunction with teaching staff in the clinical training program. Postgraduate Psychology students (Psychology interns), working towards Masters and Doctoral degrees undertake supervised casework with staff in UPC (adult and child clinics).

If I am a successful Clinical Psychology applicant will all of my placements be in Hobart?

Not necessarily. Most placements are based around Hobart, but there are some limited placements available in the North and North-West of the State. All students should be prepared to travel as and when necessary.

How do I obtain area of practice endorsement after completing the Master of Psychology (Clinical) Program?

Further details about this pathway can be found on the Psychology Board of Australia website:

<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Endorsement.aspx>

Who do I contact for further information or assistance?

All program enquiries should be directed in the first instance to:

Daniel Purton, Program Delivery Officer

email: daniel.purton@utas.edu.au ph: +61 3 6226 5501

Enquiries may be re-directed to other personnel including Dr Kimberley Norris, the Director of Postgraduate Programs, or Faculty Officers, as required.

Contact for general psychology related matters:

Helen Derbyshire, Psychology Administrative Assistant

email: secretary@psychol.utas.edu.au ph: +61 3 6226 6276

Mailing address for all correspondence:

Division of Psychology
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 30
Hobart, Tasmania 7001
Australia

Enquiries regarding the University's admission procedures should be directed to the Admissions Office:

Domestic applicants email: admissions@utas.edu.au

International applicants email: international.admissions@utas.edu.au

All applicants email: course.info@utas.edu.au

Useful Links for Further Information

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

<https://www.ahpra.gov.au>

Psychology Board of Australia

<https://www.psychologyboard.gov.au>

Australian Psychological Society

<https://www.psychology.org.au>

Assessment of Psychology Qualifications

<https://www.psychology.org.au/About-Us/What-we-do/Assessing-overseas-qualifications>

Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

http://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/about_apac