

Programme Regulations: 2023/24

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology – 8861F

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (International route) – 8824F*

***This programme has been suspended for 2023/24 entry**

Notes:

- (i) *These Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Doctor of Philosophy Degree Progress Regulations and Examination Conventions and the University's Taught Programme Regulations.*
- (ii) *As the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology is a qualification leading to professional registration, the University has an overriding duty of care to ensure that all students graduating from the programme not only meet the academic requirements but are also physically and mentally fit to practise and are of good character. The case of any student whose fitness for professional practice is a matter for concern shall be considered under the University's Fitness to Practise Procedure.*
- (iii) *Students will be required to undergo appropriate DBS and Healthcare checks as stipulated in University and School policies.*
- (iv) *Students will be required to fulfil all requirements for placements (including clinical access) as dictated by the relevant Care Quality Commission Regulated provider.*
- (v) *The DClinPsy programme is an attendance-based programme and is principally delivered face to face at the Newcastle City Campus and associated clinical locations. Although some teaching and structured guided learning may be delivered online, due to the clinical and integrated structure of the programme, sessions planned for face-to-face delivery cannot be substituted by other forms of delivery, including blended, online and remote.*

Programme Structure

- (a) The programme is available for study in full-time mode only.
- (b) The period of study shall be 3 years starting in September. One additional extension year is permitted as PGR submission period for research submissions only. A further additional extension year can then be applied for via the NuReflect system providing reasons and evidence. The maximum candidature is 5 years.
- (c) All elements of the programme are compulsory.
- (d) Students shall follow the course of study prescribed below:

Year 1:

In the first year of the programme trainees will receive a comprehensive induction programme including general therapeutic skills and an introduction to the cognitive-behavioural model (CBT), neuropsychology, neurodevelopmental conditions, and working with children and families. Teaching sessions are also delivered on equity, diversity and inclusion and personal and professional development. Trainees have the opportunity to make theory-practice links and develop their clinical skills during Placements 1 and 2, which typically provide opportunities to work with adults, children and young people, and/or people with neurodevelopmental conditions or neurodisabilities. They are introduced to the research methods teaching and assessment part of the programme and develop a research proposal for their thesis submission.

Year 2:

In the second-year trainees continue to develop their general clinical skills and the model of focus is that of systemic and family therapy. Additional to the topics covered in Year 1, teaching is also provided on working with older adults and in health psychology and forensic psychology

settings. Alongside this, trainees undertake their third and fourth placements, which typically provide opportunities to work with older people and people with health conditions, with people who have acute, severe and enduring mental health difficulties, or child and/or neurodevelopmental/neurodisability services (depending on which placements they completed in first year). They are progressing with their research and should have obtained ethical approval for this and are collecting data as appropriate. They continue to develop skills within neuropsychology and are developing reflective practice and competencies within leadership. Trainees also undertake foundation level systemic training as part of the systemic stream and AFT accreditation for the course has been applied for.

Year 3:

In their final year trainees select a 12-month elective placement in an area of their chosen specialism. In addition to the topics covered in previous years, they receive teaching in specialist applications of clinical psychology, transdiagnostic approaches and therapeutic models with an emerging or developing evidence base. They submit their thesis and defend it at viva. The focus within this year is on training students for working post-qualification and issues of professional practice within the NHS beyond the programme.

Assessment Methods

Academic and Clinical Assessments

- (a) The programme’s marking system is based on three grades for all academic assessments (Distinction; Pass; Fail) and two grades for the clinical assessments of placement and OSCE (Pass; Fail).
- (b) Formative and summative assessments are used throughout the programme to monitor progression. The table of summative assessments is shown below. All summative assessments must be passed for candidates to progress and be considered for the award. Further details of the assessment methods and structure can be found in the Degree Programme Specification and the Programme Handbook.

Assessment schedule (2022 and 2021 intakes)

Taught Assessments

Year	Summative Assessment
ONE	Essay
	Clinical Placement 1
	PPD Reflective Assessment 1
	CBT Assessment of Clinical Competence
	Case Study 1
TWO	Clinical Placement 2
	Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in CBT Competencies
	Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Neuropsychology
	Clinical Placement 3
	Case Study 2
	Service Based Project
	Systemic Competencies Written Assessment
	Clinical Placement 4
	Case Study 3

THREE	PPD Reflective Assessment 2
	Elective Clinical Placement

Year	Formative Assessment
ONE	Two 'patches' for PPD portfolio
TWO	None
THREE	None

Assessment schedule (2023 intake and onwards)

Taught Assessments

Year	Summative Assessment
ONE	Essay
	Clinical Placement 1
	PPD Reflective Assessment 1
	Case Study 1
TWO	Clinical Placement 2
	Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Neuropsychology
	Clinical Placement 3
	Case Study 2
THREE	Service Based Project
	Systemic Competencies Written Assessment
	Clinical Placement 4
	Case Study 3
	PPD Reflective Assessment 2
	Elective Clinical Placement

Year	Formative Assessment
ONE	Two 'patches' for PPD portfolio
	Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Risk Assessment
THREE	None

Research Assessments - all cohorts

- (c) The assessments that make up the research element of the award are detailed in the table below. All assessments must be passed for candidates to be considered for the award. The Programme's marking system for research assessments follows the University's Doctor of Philosophy Degree Progress Regulations and is detailed in the Joint Examiner's Report Form. The Empirical Paper and Viva Voce Examination may be passed with Distinction (see Progression and Award, section e).

Year	Summative Assessment
ONE	Project Proposal
TWO	None
THREE	Research Conference Project Presentation
	Literature Review

	Empirical Paper
	<i>Viva Voce</i> Examination

Year	Formative Assessment
ONE	None
TWO	Pilot Review
THREE	None

Progression and Award

- (a) A student registered for the degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology shall comply with the University's requirements for progression and award.
- (b) Student progress is monitored via regular team Progress meetings.
- (c) Following the annual progress review undertaken by the Board of Examiners, taking into account research and academic, clinical and placement assessments performance, one of the following recommendations with regard to each candidate will be made to Graduate School:
 - (i) That the candidate's performance is satisfactory and that the candidate should proceed to the next stage.
 - (ii) That notwithstanding some concerns, the student's overall performance is satisfactory and that the student can proceed to the next stage.
 - (iii) That the student's performance is unsatisfactory and that a submission for an alternative exit award is recommended instead of a submission for the Doctor of Clinical Psychology examination.
 - (iv) That the student's performance is unsatisfactory and that no submission for a Doctor of Clinical Psychology examination is recommended, and that the candidature is terminated.
- (d) Before being awarded the degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology, a candidate must:
 - (i) Satisfy the entrance requirements for the degree.
 - (ii) Register for and make satisfactory progress in the relevant programme of study.
 - (iii) Satisfy the examiners in all academic, clinical and placement assessments in all areas of competence in accordance with the examination requirements.
 - (iv) Submit literature review and empirical paper and defend them satisfactorily at *viva voce*.
- (e) The degree may be awarded with Distinction in Research if the examiners judge that the candidate has a Distinction in both (i) the Empirical Paper assessment and (ii) and the performance of the *viva voce* examination.

Resit Opportunities

- (f) Candidates who fail an academic or clinical assessment are entitled to one reassessment of each failed assessment provided that no more than 25% of assessments are failed at first attempt across the whole of the programme (this means for cohorts 2021 and 2022 this would be 5 failed first attempt assessments and for 2023 cohorts onwards this would be 4 failed first attempt assessments).
- (g) Failure to pass any assessment at second attempt leads to exit under normal circumstances.
- (h) In addition to failure to pass assessments, serious issues relating to a candidate's progress in the areas of professional and clinical practice which are considered a breach of the HCPC Standards of Conduct and Ethics may be considered by the Programme Director with consultation of Board of Examiners as grounds for failure of the programme.

- (i) Resit opportunities for research assessments are detailed in the Joint Examiners' Report Form.

Exit Awards

- (j) Recognising that there may be various circumstances preventing a candidate from completing the full DClinPsy Programme the Board of Examiners may recommend an award of:
 - (i) "*Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Applications of Psychology*" subject to a candidate passing all assessments within the first year of the programme.
 - (ii) "*MSc Clinical Applications of Psychology*" may be considered subject to a candidate passing all assessments within the first and second year of the programme.

Interruptions and Extensions to Candidature

- (k) The Programme Director may permit the interruption of a candidate's programme of study for a specified period. Any request for interruption will require supporting evidence.
- (l) No candidate may, without the special permission of the Dean of Postgraduate Research, present themselves for examination on more than two occasions, or present themselves for examination or re-examination after two years from the date upon which they would normally have concluded the programme of study and research for the examination concerned.
- (m) For students who are unable to, or decide not to, submit the thesis by the submission deadline, late submission will result in viva at the next normal examination opportunity (which may be at the next routinely scheduled occasion at the following year).
- (n) Candidates must submit within their maximum candidature, however, in exceptional cases, an extension of time for submission may be granted by the Dean of Postgraduate Research. Candidates granted extensions of time in accordance with this provision will be required to register as 'extended submission' candidates and may pay tuition fees as stipulated in the University's fee schedule. It is expected that students who are registered as 'extended submission' will continue to receive regular structured interactions with members of the supervisory team and full access to Library and computing facilities will be available.

Additional Pathways

CBT Therapy Elective Pathway

- (o) A CBT elective pathway, accredited by the British Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP), is offered and will allow a small number of trainees to undertake the pathway as an elective option in their third year to gain additional therapeutic accreditation and training. An application and selection process is in place, which is outlined in the Programme Handbook. In brief, this mirrors the existing process for allocation to any elective placement, whereby trainees submit a written expression of interest for a placement option via a standard form that we provide. Clinical tutors then review the expressions of interest against the trainees' current training portfolio with respect to their clinical experience and demonstrated competencies. Allocations to electives are then made on an individual basis to ensure that trainees have gained the broad knowledge and skills required by the end of their training to qualify and practice as a Clinical Psychologist. With respect to allocation to the BABCP pathway, trainees must only have competencies outstanding that can be met on this specific placement option to be eligible for consideration. Successful trainees will receive additional training and be required to complete additional assessments to successfully complete the training standards required. The Pathways Team will provide confirmation to BABCP as to whether trainees have successfully completed the training standards required by the accrediting body and trainees can apply for individual accreditation with BABCP upon successful completion. The requirements

and outcome of the pathway are outside those of the DClinPsy programme and will have no implication on the overall DClinPsy award.

Exemptions to the University Regulations

- (a) Due to the integrated nature and professional requirements of the award, the following variations to the University Regulations have been approved:

Non-modular structure

The programme does not operate a modular credit-based system for its taught element, and instead uses an integrated approach to teaching, learning and assessment. Programme regulations therefore appear different in style and substance from other programmes of study. Regulatory requirements in relation to module and credit are not applicable.

Taught Programme Regulations

The programme uses an alternative method of marking assessments. Each component of assessment does not carry a percentage mark and assessments are not weighted.

In order to meet professional standards relating to the clinical nature of this award and to ensure attainment of learning outcomes discretion is not used by the Board of Examiners.

As the programme is non-modular progression, award and classification and reassessment requirements are individual to the programme.

University Doctor of Philosophy Examination Regulations

Exemption regarding the appointment of External Examiners and the procedure for External Examiners which permits the appointment of an overarching External Examiner to assess and comment on both taught and research elements of the programme.

University Doctor of Philosophy Examination Conventions

Exemption to University Regulations to allow the award of a Distinction in research.

- (b) In the event of any inconsistency between the programme and University regulations in relation to the above section, the programme regulations take precedence over the University regulations. Further guidance is available in the programme handbook which is available on Campus.