


PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION	
1 Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2 Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3 Final Award	MSc
4 Programme Title	MSc Foundations in Clinical Psychology MSc Foundations in Clinical Psychology with Internship
5 Programme Code	5202F AND 5288F
6 Programme Accreditation	N/A
7 QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	
8 FHEQ Level	Level 7
9 Last updated	Jan 2023
<p>10 Programme Aims</p> <p>The general aim of the programme is to furnish students with the knowledge, understanding and skills which will best equip them to be competitive in the marketplace for jobs in the clinical psychology sector. Ultimately, it is expected that graduates will find employment in this sector and will be equipped with the necessary skills to be able to succeed in their chosen profession. The programme will enhance the prospects of those students who wish to go on to apply for graduate roles such as that of assistant psychologist or further study, for example a vocational Doctoral training in Clinical Psychology or IAPT training.</p>	
<p>11 Learning Outcomes</p> <p>The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the area of Clinical Psychology as follows.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge and Understanding</p>	
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>A1 demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the theories, research methods, history, culture and professional issues of the broad area of Clinical Psychology. A2 understand how to access and synthesise information and formulate subsequent argument. A3 understand the professional context in which clinical psychologists and practitioners in related applied psychology roles work (The NHS, other contexts, ethical issues and the legislation under and in which clinical psychologists and related professions practice). A4 demonstrate a knowledge of where and how to access the evidence base for the conditions, aetiology, maintaining factors, interventions and therapies associated with Clinical Psychology. A5 demonstrate knowledge of clinical assessment, formulation and intervention in an NHS context. (Internship award only).</p>	
<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p>	

Students' learning will primarily be facilitated by lectures, workshops and small group work (A1, A4), problem based learning (PBL) exercises (A1, A3), coursework and discussion (A2). Students will be encouraged to supplement taught material with independent and guided reading. Knowledge and understanding are further supported by individual supervision of the dissertation in the third semester.

For students enrolled on 5288F, clinical assessment, formulation and intervention in an NHS context will be acquired during the internship through clinical supervision in an NHS context (A5).

<p>Assessment Strategy</p> <p>There will be a range of different assessments reflecting the range of expertise, knowledge and skills required of students, including essays, case studies, literature review, design of scientific posters, research report, presentations, , clinical portfolio and a research dissertation. Feedback on form and content will be used to encourage reflection and improvement in students' communication skills.</p> <p>For students enrolled on 5288F, during the internship, clinical supervisors will assess the competencies, which will be clearly defined by a set of criteria.</p>
<p>Intellectual Skills</p> <p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>B1 gather information from a variety of sources and synthesise it in an appropriate way. B2 evaluate and interpret theoretical and clinical concepts relevant to the practice of clinical psychology B3 critically evaluate the evidence for these ideas. B4 show respect to other students and professionals, understand different points of view.</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> <p>Students will be introduced to the wide range of evidence and opinion by the programme instructors (B2). Cognitive and critical skills (B1-B3) will be nurtured through seminars, PBL exercises, essays, and the dissertation. Some coursework and teaching sessions will actively facilitate the development of critical thinking and reflective thinking through small group working and problem-based learning activities (B4). For students enrolled on 5288F, B1 and B4 will be further developed during the Internship.</p>
<p>Assessment Strategy</p> <p>Intellectual skills (B1-B4) will be assessed by essays, case study, literature review, design of scientific posters, presentations, clinical portfolio and a research dissertation. Additionally, B1 will be assessed by a portfolio of evidence. B1 and B4 will also be assessed during the Internship by the NHS Internship Clinical Supervisor.</p>
<p>Practical Skills</p> <p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>C1 identify, locate and retrieve evidence and clinical resources relevant to clinical and health psychology. C2 plan and carry out a substantial piece of research and use appropriate research and analytic methods C3 effectively summarise research in the form of a scientific poster and written report C4 apply knowledge gained to formulate and develop plans to treat common mental health problems. C5 apply psychological skills in assessment, formulation and intervention within an NHS setting. (5288F Internship award only)</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> <p>Students are supported in the development of these skills through: modelling and teaching provided by teaching and teaching support staff (C1, C3), module coursework (C1-C4), individual research supervision (C2-C3) and through discussion and team working with peers (C4). C5 will be acquired during the Internship through clinical supervision in an NHS setting.</p>
<p>Assessment Strategy</p> <p>Summative assessment across modules is conducted via essays, case study, literature review, scientific posters, presentations, research report, clinical portfolio and a research dissertation (C1, C2, C3, C4 & C5). Professional skills will be assessed during the internship by the NHS Internship Clinical Supervisor (C5).</p>

Transferable/Key Skills
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>D1 use information technology (e.g. word processing, statistical packages, Internet search engines).</p> <p>D2 act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.</p> <p>D3 formulate research questions and hypotheses and apply research skills in order to create new knowledge.</p> <p>D4 communicate effectively orally and in written formats.</p> <p>D5 work both as a member of a team and autonomously</p> <p>D6 work both as a member of a team and autonomously in relation to clinical assessment, formulation and intervention in an NHS context (Internship award only).</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods
<p>The use of information technology (D1) will be developed in coursework, PBL and dissertation work. Communication skills (D4) will be developed in workshops/seminars, small group work and presentations. Time management and teamwork (D2, D3 and D5) will be developed by engagement in the completion of the dissertation and research apprenticeship. These skills will be further developed during the Internship in an NHS context (D6).</p>
Assessment Strategy
<p>Skills D1-D5 will be assessed by essays and written coursework, oral presentation and dissertation work. D6 will be assessed during the internship, by clinical supervisors.</p>
12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features
Basic structure of the programme
<p>The MSc Foundations in Clinical Psychology is a one-year full time programme. It consists of a body of taught modules, including an e-learning module, and a supervised dissertation. To be awarded an MSc, students must successfully complete 180 credits: taught modules account for 120 credits, while the dissertation accounts for 60 credits. The taught modules are situated in semesters one and two, and the dissertation in semester three. The taught material in semesters one and two build on existing knowledge and feed forward into the dissertation in semester three.</p> <p>A limited number of students on the above programme may be able to apply for selection to continue onto the MSc Foundations in Clinical Psychology with Internship. This includes a second year with a single module (180 credits) involving an NHS internship with clinical supervision from a Clinical Psychologist in an NHS context. This award is not available to international students.</p>
Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

This programme provides a non-vocational Masters level qualification to allow university graduates who have had little exposure to Clinical Psychology in their first degree to build their knowledge base in these areas preparatory to applying for vocational training and/or work experience. The programme is located in the School of Psychology which has a strong background in clinically related applied psychology training and houses a Clinical Psychology Doctoral training Course.

The academic content of the programme is coherent with the central themes relating to wellbeing and psychopathology and is provided by members of staff with teaching and research interests in these areas. The research component of the degree will also be rooted in psychological methodology. The MSc Foundations in Clinical Psychology is distinctive because students who complete successfully may have the opportunity to continue on to the MSc Foundations in Clinical Psychology with Internship (limited Internship places are available). Successful completion of the Internship programme will result in the students being offered an interview on the Clinical Doctorate Training Programme, which is also hosted by the School.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[R5202F, 5288F 2324 vFinal.pdf](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

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14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning.

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15 Regulation of assessment

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In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.