

Course Description Document

Course Title	Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (2023-24)
Course Code	4886
Award Title	Doctor of Clinical Psychology (D.Clin.Psych)
Awarding Body	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Regulated by	Office for Students
Accreditation	British Psychological Society (BPS) Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Regulations	The Regulations of the University can be found on the University's Governance Webpages: https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/governance/regulations-policies
Location of study	Southampton
Length of the course	3 Years
Tuition Fees	Fees for students can be located by the student fees page. https://www.southampton.ac.uk/student-services/money-matters/student-fees/index.page

Course Overview

The overall aim of the programme is to train you to a professional standard so that you can deliver high quality NHS clinical psychology services. The clinical psychology programme is rooted in the scientist-practitioner model and is committed to the use of evidence-based practice in all areas of clinical work. The primary theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioural therapy, with systemic therapy as the second approach and there is also a strong emphasis on neuropsychology and leadership. In addition to specific modalities, the course adopts an ethos of anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice and values critical community psychology, recovery and wellbeing approaches. The course recognises the inequalities that have been perpetuated by systemic discrimination, and actively acts to address this through an ethos of integrating equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the programme. You will learn to evaluate evidence, work within a formulation driven framework, as a basis for interventions and learn to produce high-quality, publishable clinical research to a doctorate level. As clinicians, who often work at the boundaries of existing evidence-base, you will also learn an evidence-generating approach to clinical practice that is based on the combination of key formulation skills, together with an extensive knowledge of psychological processes and how to modify them within a client-centred approach. These approaches equip you with skills to work with a

wide range of clinical presentations across the life span, and to offer consultancy and leadership to a range of professional disciplines. As a clinical psychology trainee, you will have a dual role as a student at the University of Southampton and an NHS employee. You will be contracted, and should typically expect to work, between the hours of 9am to 5pm (Mondays to Fridays) and as adult learners manage your independent study accordingly which may include beyond your contracted hours.

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) have set out the Standards of Proficiency for practitioner psychologists (SOPs). On successful completion of the programme, you will be eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC and to use the title Clinical Psychologist. In addition, successful completion of the programme enables eligibility for chartered clinical psychologist status with the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Aims of the Course

The aims of the programme are to:

- Draw on a range of psychological theories, research and models to enable you to assess, formulate, intervene and evaluate your clinical work in a range of clinical psychology settings across the life-span
- Enable you to respond to the dynamic NHS environment with the appropriate level of professionalism, integrity and respect inherent in the NHS values and constitution
- Develop your skills to become a strong communicator, including within a multi-disciplinary setting, working at the appropriate level of autonomy
- Focus on self-reflection and self-awareness, including your own cultural beliefs / biases and how they influence your clinical practice, with an emphasis on promoting advocacy a strong sense of inclusivity across the profession and discipline as a whole
- Focus on self-awareness and self-understanding with the aim of developing skills to maintain personal well-being, to manage the physical, psychological and emotional impact of your practice and maintain a high standard of professional effectiveness and a safe working environment
- Develop your competencies as an applied /practitioner psychologist with the analytical abilities of a scientist-practitioner, whilst recognising the limits of the evidence-base and leading on developing systems of practice-based evidence within services
- Provide a comprehensive doctoral research training experience including advanced qualitative and quantitative analyses, critical analysis of research and using Public Patient Involvement to underpin the design, conduct and dissemination of research that is directly relevant to the field of clinical psychology
- Encourage you to consider the ways in which clinical psychologists may be involved in public health, inequality and illness prevention beyond their immediate clinical work
- Produce clinical psychologists who are ready to work in the NHS to make a valuable difference and become leaders of the future

Course Structure

The tables below provide a list of the modules that make up your course.

Each module is worth a specified number of credits. Your programme requires a certain number of credits. Your learning will be led by the latest research, and modules can change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline. You can always find the most up-to-date information about your modules and who is teaching them via the information on our webpages and, post enrolment, via the Faculty hub.

Typical programme content

The programme comprises a taught component, clinical placements and the development of research skills. The academic curriculum is delivered both in structured teaching blocks and interspersed with clinical placements. The teaching is carefully planned so that it can be directly applied to placements. During the first two years of training, there are two clinical practice placements (per year) in a variety of settings across the Region where you are supervised by an appropriately qualified practitioner. The first year placements will usually involve working age and older age adults and the second year with systems that can include children, adolescents, families and neuro-diverse populations. Outside of teaching block, you typically spend one day at the University in teaching, three days on placement and one study day for independent study, research and completing assignments. You will develop foundation knowledge and clinical skills across the two principal theoretical orientations, namely Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Systemic Therapy, and there is also a focus on neuropsychology and health.

There is excellent research training throughout the three years to allow for the development for a range of research competencies including training in statistics, designing and undertaking both a small-scale research project and a larger thesis project.

As part of the third year, there is a focus on advanced practice knowledge and leadership skills both through the academic curriculum and a specialist third year clinical practice placement. This, together with the production of publishable research through your doctoral level research, will enable you to develop a level of autonomy, innovation and clinical skills in preparation for post-qualification practice. Furthermore, there is the opportunity in some cases to work towards a dual accreditation in either CBT, Systemic Therapy or Neuropsychology. The clinical and leadership skills components will involve a short teaching block and then teaching days which run along-side one longer clinical practice placement with periods of dedicated time to focus on your doctoral research.

Programme details

The Programme is studied full-time over three years and the integration of theory, evidence and practice within an adult-learner model are at the core of everything you do. The academic, research and clinical components are divided into a series of core modules. The structure of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Enrolment on all modules is automatic.

To qualify for the award of the doctoral degree, you must complete all aspects of the programme. This includes attending all teaching and other academic activities, passing all clinical practice placements, submitting a doctoral level thesis and passing all assessments. The Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme requires the accumulation of 540 CATS, of which 360 must be at Doctoral level (level 8; benchmarked against QAA doctoral level criteria). Across the three years 300 of the total 540 CAT points are allocated to research. Given the strong emphasis on the development of scientist-practitioners, who are able to consume and critique the evidence base and apply this to clinical practice. The latter is achieved through allocating 1/3 of the CAT points (120) from all other modules across the three years and combining this with doctoral research training modules (40) and programme specific research modules (140).

Variation to Regulations: In order to progress formally from one year to the next, all taught modules must be passed at a 50% pass mark and all clinical practice placements must be passed.

Continuation on the programme is subject to specific health requirements (consistent with the provisions of the Equality Act [2010]). Trainees are required to inform the Faculty of any health problems, throughout their period of enrolment, relevant to their future employment as a professional.

Progression to the next year of the programme is contingent upon completing and passing all components within the respective year) (i.e., academic, research and placement modules).

A candidate will be deemed to have failed the programme, without the right of re-entry, on one or more of the following grounds:

- Failure of a clinical practice placement will lead to programme failure unless there has been successful corrective action of the failure as agreed by the Board of Examiners
- Failure to complete all elements of summative assessments to a satisfactory standard within 5 years of first registration or by such a date as will have been agreed by the Board of Examiners
- Failure of a resubmission where no right to repeat has been granted (e.g. via special considerations)
- In exceptional circumstances, such as gross misconduct or a serious breach of the Code of Conduct of the British Psychological Society, or if the placement is terminated or suspended after disciplinary action, the Board of Examiners reserves the right to fail a candidate without permitting re-entry.

Resubmissions

Candidates must pass at least 50% of the credits in each Part at first attempt. The module profile provides details about resubmission for failed piece of work. Only one resubmission is allowed for any piece of work (unless a right to repeat has been granted via Special Considerations). The timescale for resubmission is laid down by the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners has agreed that all students are required to resubmit failed assignments for Psychology modules on the DCLinPsych programme within 6 weeks of the feedback date, with any extension requests being handled through special considerations. Additionally, all DCLinPsych students on RESM6012 will be required to resubmit failed assignments for this module within 6 weeks of the feedback date, with any extension requests being handled through special considerations. Failed assignments for any other modules will be handled via the University's normal referral process, with the referral method as outlines in the module profile for the relevant module. A candidate with a pattern of repeated resubmissions within the same academic year, even where there may have been extenuating circumstances, must attend a review with their personal clinical tutor and the Programme Director to consider whether the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology continues to be the right programme of study.

Recognition of Prior Learning

All students who enter the Doctorate of Clinical Psychology programme, having taken a MSc in Psychology from the University of Southampton (MSc Research Methods, MSc Foundations in Clinical Psychology, MSc Health Psychology) within the previous 2 years, and who have taken the four RESM modules (RESM6012, RESM6009, RESM6010 and RESM6011) which are also core within the DCLin, will have the opportunity to have their prior learning recognised.

The process by which this will take place will be through a discussion with the Programme Lead to discuss individual circumstances and options. These may include auditing the courses again to refresh their

knowledge, or if sufficiently proficient, to assist the RESM Module Leads as supernumerative teaching assistants with no marking responsibilities (e.g., leading/facilitating break out room discussions re the course material). Given the NHS employee status of DCLin Trainees, time must be accounted for and so a clear plan of action with respect to the time involved in these modules will be required.

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
RESM6011	Applied Research Methods (ARM): Correlational Methods 2023-24	5	Core
RESM6012	Applied Research Methods (ARM): Planning & Designing Research 2023-24	5	Core
RESM6009	Applied Research Methods: Qualitative Methods 2023-24	5	Core
RESM6010	Applied Research Methods: Statistical Analysis of Comparisons & Group Differences 2023-24	5	Core
PSYC6171	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Skills 2023-24	10	Core
PSYC6167	Neuropsychology & Health 2023-24	10	Core
PSYC6170	Systemic Theory and Practice 1 2023-24	5	Core
PSYC6172	Research 1 2023-24	5	Core
PSYC8013	Practitioner Training - Placement 1 2023-24	20	Core
PSYC8014	Practitioner Training - Placement 2 2023-24	20	Core

Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PSYC8033	Child and Adolescence 2024-25	10	Core
PSYC8032	Clinical Practice in relation to people with Intellectual Disabilities 2024-25	10	Core
PSYC8036	Systemic Theory and Practice 2 2024-25	5	Core
PSYC8049	Research 2 2024-25	25	Core
PSYC8015	Practitioner Training - Placement 3 2024-25	20	Core
PSYC8016	Practitioner Training - Placement 4 2024-25	20	Core

Part III Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PSYC8050	Advanced Practice 2025-26	15	Core
PSYC8048	Research 3 2025-26	40	Core
PSYC8035	Practitioner Training: Placement 5 2025-26	35	Core

Learning and Teaching

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours, independent learning, and assessment activity, with each ECTS credit taken equivalent to 20 hours of student effort. While your actual contact hours may depend on the option modules you select, the information available on our webpages give an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities.

When not attending lectures, seminars and other timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Typically, this will involve reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and for other types of assessments and examinations. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module information.

How we'll assess you

Your course provides you with opportunities to test your understanding of the subject informally before you complete the formal assessments that count towards your module mark. Each module normally contains at least one piece of practice or formative assessment for which you receive feedback.

Formative assessments are developmental, and any results do not count towards your module mark, but they are an important part of your learning.

Summative assessments usually take place at the end of each module, although some may have interim assessments throughout. Assessment methods might include written examinations and a range of coursework assessments such as essays, reports, portfolios, performance, presentations and projects for example. The marks from summative assessments count towards your module mark.

The information available on our website gives an indication of the assessment methods used on your course.

Staff involved in delivering the different elements of the course

You will be taught by an experienced teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on your course. The team includes senior academics, professional practitioners with industry experience, demonstrators and technical officers.

Postgraduate research students who have undertaken appropriate training may also contribute to the teaching of seminars if their research specialism is directly related to the topic of the module and may also be involved in practical classes, project work and field trips. All contributions will be carried out under the supervision of the module leader.

Fees

What your fees pay for

Your tuition fees pay for the full cost of tuition and all examinations.

Extra costs you may experience

Accommodation and living costs, such as travel and food, are not included in your tuition fees.

Depending on the nature of your course, you may be able to choose modules which may have additional costs, such as field studies, travel overseas or industrial placements which will change the overall cost of your course. Details of these costs can be found in module information.

Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the [Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations](#).

The following course-related costs are not included in your fees:

Type	Details
Calculators	Where a calculator is required, all Casio Calculators are allowed but they must be Non-Programmable, Scientific models. More information is available in the Examination Regulations https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/assessment/assessment-overview/exam-regulations.page
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Any specialist stationery items that you may need will be specified in the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies essential texts, the Library will identify the optimal option(s) to support the module via the course Reading List. This may include e-books (ideally with unlimited concurrent usage) or a digitised chapter extract, supported by a limited number of print books (where available). You may request that the Library purchases additional print copies via ' suggest a book ', borrow an additional copy via our inter-library-loans service or you may prefer to buy your own copies for high demand titles.
Printing	In most cases, written coursework such as essays and projects are submitted online. However it may be necessary to submit a hard copy of some projects, business projects and dissertations. The costs of printing a hard copy for submission of such work will be your responsibility. You will also have to cover the cost of photocopying. https://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing .
Accommodation and Travel	Trainees undertake placements in all three years of the programme. Please see the Placement Handbook for full details.
Anything else not covered elsewhere	You may be required to purchase a digital recorder or similar in order to record therapy sessions. In some cases these may be available for loan within the placement.
Computer discs or USB drives	Some assignments may include live recordings (audio or video) and students may have to purchase suitable means of submitting (e.g. Cds or data sticks). In the case of patient material, the student will be required to purchase encrypted data sticks.
Conference expenses	Should students wish to attend conferences it is expected that they would pay for this themselves
Hardware	Public workstations are available, but iPads, laptops etc, can be purchased as the student wishes
Occupational Health, DBS checks or vaccinations	The employing NHS Trust organises and pays for DBS checks.
Software Licenses	Specialist software is available on public workstations or via the VPN when off site see http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/services/vpn_service/
Travel Costs for placements	Trainees undertake placements in all three years of the programme. Please see the Placement Handbook for full details.

Bursaries, scholarships and other funding

We award scholarships and grants for travel, academic excellence, or to students from underrepresented backgrounds.

You may be able to get a University of Southampton bursary to help with your living costs.

If you are a care leaver or estranged from your parents, you may be able to get a specific bursary.

You may be able to get a scholarship or grant that's linked to your chosen subject area.

Financial Support

The Student Services Centre offers support and advice regarding student finances. You may be able to access our Student Support fund and other sources of financial support during your course. You can find more information about financial support via our webpages:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentservices/money-matters/student-support-fund/index.page>

Academic support

The Student Support Hub is your first point of contact when it comes to seeking support. The team will answer your questions or concerns about your wellbeing, fees and funding, accommodation and visas. The team will help make sure you receive the support you need, guiding you to further support services where required. You can find more information about student support via our webpages:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentservices/index.page>

One of the most important people you will meet while you are a student at Southampton is your Personal Academic Tutor, who will be allocated to you for your arrival at the University and who is normally a member of academic staff in your own or a closely related subject area. Your Personal Academic Tutor will offer one-to-one support and advice throughout your time at Southampton and will support you in your studies or with other issues you may have. You can find out more via our webpages:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/academic-support-guidance/personal-tutor.page>

Disclaimer

As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our courses to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this course may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's course.