



Are Swinburne's MPsych and DPsych programs accredited pathways to registration as a psychologist and endorsement as a clinical psychologist with the PBA?

Yes.

What defines Swinburne's postgraduate clinical psychology programs?

A defining feature of our clinical psychology programs is a strongly humanistic orientation: We believe the person is more important than the disorder they might be experiencing, and believe that client strengths are as important as vulnerabilities. The teaching model at Swinburne is founded in an adult learning approach, and we pride ourselves on collegiality between staff and postgraduate students. Students are encouraged to adopt an appropriately sceptical attitude to their psychological work by experienced clinicians who are also active clinical researchers.

On what criteria are people selected for the Clinical Psychology postgraduate programs?

At Swinburne, we weigh both academic aptitude and clinical experience in our consideration of applicants.

Academic aptitude is assessed largely on 4th year grades, especially the honours thesis mark, but grades throughout the early undergraduate years are also taken into account (especially in relation to scholarships for the DPsych program). Referees reports from one academic and one professional referee will also be considered. Successful applicants for the MPsych program would usually have upper second class honours or above. Successful applicants for the DPsych program would usually have first class honours. We commence clinical training at a somewhat advanced level relative to most other universities. For this reason, we require that applicants have had, as an absolute minimum, formal training in counselling microskills and experience in a professional helping role in a psychological setting. Many of our younger applicants have achieved this sort of clinical experience through telephone counselling work, employment as a research assistant on psychological projects with psychiatric populations, and in some cases through their university training.

What is the difference between the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) and the Professional Doctorate of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)?

There are a number of important differences between these two professional training programs:

- The Masters is offered part-time only (4 years), and the DPsych is offered full-time only (4 years)
- The DPsych is a full research degree at Swinburne, containing a thesis component of 40-60,000 words. Research subjects are continuous throughout the degree, and applicants must submit a research proposal (including supervisor support) with their application. The thesis component of the Masters is comparable in size and scope to an honours thesis, and research subjects do not commence until the third year of the program.
- Because the DPsych has such a strong emphasis on research, we weigh academic aptitude more heavily than clinical experience in selecting people for the DPsych program. The opposite is the case for the MPsych program.

Can I apply for both the MPsych and DPsych programs?

Yes, but as you can see from the above, the things we're looking for are quite different in the two types of applicant so not many people are viable candidates for both courses.

I completed my Psychology Honours many years ago, can I still apply?

Your Honours degree must have been completed in the last 10 years. Under exceptional circumstances, this may be waived for people who have been registered psychologists for the bulk of this time, and can demonstrate appropriate continuous professional development activities.

How do the postgraduate programs in Clinical Psychology relate to the postgraduate programs in Counselling Psychology?

Swinburne offers two streams of professional training program - Clinical and Counselling. The two programs are strongly interconnected in terms of teaching staff, underlying philosophy, and educational goals. There is also some overlap in the syllabus (including some shared units), and students from both streams commence their placement experience at the Swinburne Psychology Clinic. It is theoretically possible to apply for entry into both Clinical and Counselling streams, but generally applicants know which stream they are most interested in.

Once you are accepted into one of the two streams, there is no mechanism to transfer between streams.



What is the Grad Dip Sci (Clinical Psychology)?

This degree has a very uninformative name. It is the eight coursework subjects of the MPsych degree. Applicants for this program are typically interested in using it as part of an individual bridging plan to re-specialising in clinical psychology. The program is not an accredited pathway to membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists, and applicants should seek advice from the APS Medicare Team about whether the program meets their re-specialisation needs.

Applicants for this program are assessed against the same standards and with the same selection procedures that are used for entry into the MPsych.

Can previous work experience be used as grounds for exemptions (subject credits)?

APAC requirements do not permit previous work experience to be used as grounds for exemptions.

Can previous postgraduate study in psychology be used as grounds for exemptions (subject credits)?

Subjects completed in an APAC-accredited postgraduate psychology degree in the past 5 years can be used as grounds for exemption of *equivalent* subjects in the Grad Dip Sci, MPsych and DPsych degrees.

Can previous research experience be used as grounds for exemptions (subject credits)?

APAC requirements do not permit previous research experience (e.g., a thesis completed as part of a previous postgraduate course) to be used as grounds for exemptions.

Where do I find a list of potential supervisors for my planned research within the postgraduate program?

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/lss/staff/pss.php>

What is the course structure and how many contact hours are there? Can I work while doing the postgraduate training?

The DPsych is a full-time program and students are very limited in their capacity to undertake paid employment. The MPsych program is part-time, and students can work an average of 2-3 days per week across the four years of the program.

Both the DPsych and MPsych have three main components - coursework subjects, placements and research. Coursework subject are timetabled in the evenings (5.30 – 8.30) for two 12-week semesters per year. Depending on the semester, there will be either one or two classes per week. Placements of course occur largely within working hours, although the Swinburne Psychology Clinic (location of the first placement) is open evenings and Saturday mornings. The research component of both programs occurs largely during working hours (data collection, meetings with supervisors etc.).

What proportion of applications are successful?

Clinical Psychology training is in very high demand in Australia. At Swinburne, we receive about 200 applications for 12 places in the MPsych program. We receive 60-80 applications for 5 places in the DPsych program. About half the applicants are short-listed for interview. We encourage unsuccessful applicants (especially those who were short-listed) to apply again the following year.

Are there scholarships?

Domestic students in the DPsych program receive fee-waiver s, and many students are successful in applying for stipend scholarships.

Is single subject enrolment available?

No, there is no option to enrol in single subjects from the postgraduate clinical psychology programs. Psychologists who are interested in our subjects as part of respecialising in clinical psychology (e.g. as directed by an APS personal bridging plan) might choose to apply for a place in the Graduate Diploma of Science (Clinical Psychology)

How do I apply for the postgraduate programs?

All the information for the three programs is on the web:

[http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/Courses/Master-of-Psychology-\(Clinical-Psychology\)-N0912/postgrad](http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/Courses/Master-of-Psychology-(Clinical-Psychology)-N0912/postgrad)

[http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/Courses/Doctor-of-Psychology-\(Clinical-Psychology\)-N012/postgrad](http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/Courses/Doctor-of-Psychology-(Clinical-Psychology)-N012/postgrad)

[http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/Courses/Graduate-Diploma-of-Science-\(Clinical-Psychology\)---N0816/postgrad](http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/Courses/Graduate-Diploma-of-Science-(Clinical-Psychology)---N0816/postgrad)