

APPLICATION PROCESS

Why apply to Newcastle

The clinical psychology programme at Newcastle is one of the longest established training programmes in the UK, having celebrated 50 years of practice last year. It is part of the School of Psychology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, at Newcastle University and is closely integrated with the NHS, particularly with our NHS colleagues in the local psychology services and those in Health Education North East which is part of Health Education England. It is a three year, full-time programme which integrates research and clinical practice throughout all aspects of the training in order to prepare students for practice as professional Clinical Psychologists, eligible to apply for registration with the Health & Care Professions Council and for Chartered Clinical status with the British Psychological Society (BPS).

The aim of the programme is to develop clinically competent, safe, effective, reflective, scientist practitioners who are able to contribute to and develop the knowledge base through the understanding, production and utilisation of research findings. Teaching and training draws on current research wherever possible, and trainees are required to demonstrate the links between theory and practice throughout their training. Our trainees need to develop and demonstrate competence in the current evidence-based and widely-practiced aspects of clinical psychology. They are required to develop capability in the critical appreciation of relevant empirical literature and clinical theory, in order for them to be able to appropriately draw upon and contribute to the research basis for clinical practice and solve relevant problems systematically.

We have strong and established links with our regional partners who provide considerable input and support to the programme. The programme has been developed and is supported by the close involvement of regional clinicians and Special Interest Groups who contribute greatly to the teaching on the course. Close links with the region's psychologists enable a wide selection of practical experience to be offered in a variety of general and specialist settings, both within urban and rural areas. All clinical placements for the first two years are provided within the geographical area we cover which extends from the Scottish Borders to Cumbria to North Durham. Trainees can undertake a final year elective placement reflecting their own interests and training needs. The academic teaching is delivered by programme, NHS staff and external contributors and is research led and evidence-based, with the academic syllabus mirroring as much as possible the trainees' experience on clinical placement. The principal therapeutic models taught on the programme are cognitive-behaviour therapy and systemic therapy. The systemic learning stream within the second year provides accreditable foundation level AFT training, and we are currently exploring BABCP level 2 pathway accreditation, both of which would be optional to trainees. There is an emphasis on these two models within the first two years of training. In the latter part of training, there are introductions to other emerging treatment approaches such as cognitive analytic therapy, EMDR and other models where there is demonstrable or emerging evidence of their clinical effectiveness.

Within our programme we also run a strong Neuropsychology Pathway, designed to help Trainees who may be interested in specialising in Clinical Neuropsychology post DClin Psy to gain knowledge base and practical experience which will help partial accreditation towards a post-qualification Diploma in Neuropsychology delivered by the University of Bristol, and/or potentially QiCN route. Neuropsychology is taught across all 3 years and links in to the placement and teaching themes.

There is considerable clinical and research expertise within the programme team that helps develop excellence in our trainees and graduates. We offer a very high quality research training to our students, and we encourage involvement in programmatic research and dissemination of the research output within peer-reviewed journal publications and professional conferences.

We seek to recruit a diverse group of trainees. Our aim is train a workforce that reflects the diversity of the client groups who use clinical psychology services. We are therefore committed to providing a programme that equips trainees to think about and work effectively with diversity. Whilst the nature of training to be a clinical psychologist is very demanding, we are committed to making reasonable adjustments to ensure that trainees with disabilities are not disadvantaged.

Enquiries

We hope that the information you need is on these pages, please look in particular at our section on frequently asked questions below. We hold open days each year in October or November, which may also help with answering any questions you may have. Keep an eye on our social media for dates. If you wish to attend these, please get in touch with us at doctorate.director@ncl.ac.uk.

Criteria for entry

Academic criteria

An undergraduate degree of 2:1 in psychology or if a 2:2 is obtained, there must be very clear evidence of subsequent academic achievement equivalent to a good 2.1 (such as a relevant PhD or MSc). This qualification must confer Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the BPS, and individuals should have achieved eligibility for GBC by the time that they apply. If you have any queries regarding whether your qualification confers GBC, please contact the BPS directly at <https://www.bps.org.uk/join-us/membership/graduate-membership>

Academic publications and research experience (such as an MSc, PhD or other relevant research or service evaluation work) are valuable and should be described in the application form.

Please note that applicants who are completing an MSc or PhD must have completed their studies before taking up a place on the clinical psychology programme.

In order to evidence capacity to undertake study at a Doctoral level we require candidates achieve a minimum score of 3 or above on our academic scoring. Any candidates who score above this, and who also meet our minimum clinical and reference criteria, will be eligible to be considered for interview and will be in the second sift of the application process.

There are multiple ways in which 3 points and above can be achieved through academic attainments. These are found in the appendix at the end of this document.

Graduate basis for chartered membership

Graduates with a first degree in a field other than Psychology must have completed a BPS approved Conversion course prior to application or completed the BPS exam conferring GBC, and will be expected to meet the same experience requirements as other applicants.

Relevant experience

In addition, applicants are required to have a minimum of 12 months full-time (or equivalent) recent experience in a field relevant to clinical psychology. This could be direct clinical or clinical research experience (which may be part of masters or doctoral research). Work experience in NHS and similar settings must have provided applicants with a critical awareness of the roles that Clinical Psychologists fulfil, as well as a general awareness of key current professional and organisational issues and must be able to demonstrate some experience of applying psychological theory in a clinical setting. This typically, although not always, requires working alongside clinical psychologists.

Equal opportunities

Selection procedures conform to the Equal Opportunities Policy of Newcastle University (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk>); we welcome applicants from candidates experiencing a disability and the employing NHS Trust utilises the Disability Confident scheme.

The programme operates in line with the Equality Act (2010) and will make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of candidates and trainees with disabilities. A helpful guide for prospective applicants with disabilities is published by the Health and Care Professions Council <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/globalassets/resources/guidance/health-disability-and-becoming-a-health-and-care-professional.pdf> We will interview all who choose to self-declare a disability to the programme and who meet our minimum academic, clinical and reference standards for interview (see application process below).

Overseas applicants

For October 2020 entry, we will consider a small number of self-funding applicants with overseas fees status (i.e. not home/EU). Such applicants must meet the same entry criteria as those applying for NHS funded places and will follow the same programme of study as trainees with NHS funded places. If English is not your first language, you will need to demonstrate a good level of proficiency in both written and spoken English by undertaking an English Language qualification accepted by Newcastle University for Graduate studies. We require a minimum score of International English Language Testing System (IELTS) band 7 for speaking and listening, band 8 for academic reading, and band 7 for academic writing. We anticipate that the fees will be around £29,940 (to be confirmed). Self-funded trainees will also need to factor in living and travel expenses when considering this

option as it is not possible to work during the programme. Overseas candidates will be expected to attend an interview in person in April 2020, although we will offer interested candidates the opportunity to meet by Skype in January 2020 to provide more information about the Newcastle programme and answer any queries you may have.

Application process

There are several stages to the selection procedure. First, candidates' forms are screened and those that do not meet the basic entry criteria (such as absence of GBC, no home/EU fees status for non-overseas candidates and less than 12 months relevant experience) are excluded. Second, forms are rated by programme staff, regional NHS colleagues and supervisors and service user representatives. At this stage short-listers rate the applicants' academic attainments, their clinical experience, their values, their references, and how they describe and evaluate their experience. Selectors are looking for evidence of academic ability, indicators of clinical aptitude and qualities and values suitable for working as a clinical psychologist in the NHS.

Safeguarding is an important element of DClIn Psy training. Our programme takes safeguarding seriously and applies safeguarding process to the selection and recruitment processes of trainee clinical psychologists. If a referee indicates reservations about the candidate's suitability or ability to undertake either the clinical and/or academic components of the training, a reference is missing, or neither referee is suitable (e.g., they would be unable to comment on relevant skills and values for DClIn PSy) we are unlikely to invite that candidate for interview. For further information relating to Safeguarding see <https://www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp/checks.html>

Candidates invited to interview are expected to attend for around half a day during which they have an interview that focusses on clinical issues as well as research/academic topics. There are two panels – one consists of a mixture of members of the programme team, representatives of the employing Trust and NHS clinical psychologists, the second consists of service user representatives. Elements of the process will attempt to evaluate your research and clinical skills more directly. There will be opportunities to meet current trainees and find out more about the course. We usually interview between 50 and 60 applicants for 14 places.

Feedback regarding shortlisting and interview performance is offered to those who have not been successful in gaining a training place at any institution for that year, after the clearing house deadline for all programmes to inform applicants of the outcome of their interview(s).

Offers of places are subject to an enhanced criminal records check through the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS), satisfactory references and medical clearance.

Funding

All training places (14 in 2020) are funded fully by the NHS. This support includes a salary, work related travel expenses (including any overnight accommodation required as part of training), tuition fees and the University registration fee.

All trainees are employed as Trainee Clinical Psychologists on a fixed term contract lasting three years. Posts are graded at the Bottom of Band 6. The starting salary in 2020 can be found at <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/details/default.aspx?id=766>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I haven't completed my MSc yet, can I still apply?

Yes, although any qualifications that you have not yet obtained will not be considered within your application.

I haven't finished my PhD yet, can I still apply?

Yes, but you must be certain that you will finish your PhD, including viva, with at most minor corrections still to complete at the point of starting the DClInPsy programme in September.

Is my research/clinical experience sufficient to apply to the programme?

Partly due to the number of applications we receive each year, and partly because we cannot evaluate applications outside of our rigorous selection process, it is not possible for us to provide an answer to this on an individual basis. It clearly would neither be viable nor equitable. Please make best use of our website and Open Day which may well answer many of your questions. Open Day presentations will also be made available online after the event.

My clinical experience was gained part-time not as a continuous 12 months experience – is this OK?

This is fine – it does not need to be gained continuously - as long as it in total adds up to over 12 months this is sufficient for you to apply.

I have a choice of a number of masters/MSc courses. Which should I choose?

All masters related to clinical psychology will carry the same credit. You should however check the research and placement components. From our point of view, a good piece of clinically relevant research would be best and placement in a context with opportunities to work directly with patients with psychological difficulties, especially alongside a clinical psychologist. Other than that, it is preferable that you follow your own interests. They will be all credited as the same in our academic scoring system.

Academic attainments scores (please note these scores are additive):

A-levels/Highers (N.B. take the 'best' 3 A level, or 5 Highers scores)	Score for ONE of these up to a maximum of 3
UCAS Points of 144+ (from top 3 A levels or top 5 Highers. For ILC or other international qualifications use UCAS calculator)	3
UCAS Points of 120-143 (from top 3 A Levels or top 5 Highers. For ILC or other international qualifications use UCAS calculator)	2
Any other results	0

Degree (NB: If the applicant does not have a psychology degree, but then shows a diploma or masters in psychology, this will most likely be a 'conversion' course to offset not having a psychology degree. In this case, score the degree but do not give additional credit for the masters qualification).	Score for ONE of these up to a maximum of 3
First	2
2.1	1
2.2	0

Postgraduate academic qualification (Only score for those already obtained, but make a note if Masters or PhD are in process. As above, do not count the Masters if it follows a non-psychology degree, unless there are further <u>additional</u> relevant masters/PhD).	Score for ONE of these up to a maximum of 3
Clinically relevant PhD	3
Relevant masters or MSc, e.g. Research Methods, Health or Forensic Psychology	1

Publications and Dissemination (Do not count any 'submitted', 'in preparation', 'under review' as they are not guaranteed publications. Those that are 'in press' <u>can</u> count if they also meet the below criteria)	Score for ONE of these up to a maximum of 3
More than two publications in peer review journals (not necessarily first authorship) or clear evidence of a first authorship role on at least one paper	3
Authorship (not first authorship) on at least 2 publications within a peer reviewed journal, or a conference presentation (not an undergraduate conference) as first author at a national or international conference where peer reviewed abstracts	2
Authorship (not first authorship) on a single publication within a peer reviewed journal, or first authorship on a publication for a non-peer reviewed journal (such as Clinical Psychology Forum), or peer-reviewed poster presentation at national or international conference (not an undergraduate conference) as first author	1