NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

INFORMATION BROCHURE FOR THE MASTER'S IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMME

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APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION AS A MASTER'S STUDENT IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY FOR 2027

There is a great deal of competition for the places we have available each year. Prospective students apply ONLINE and submit a comprehensive set of application documents as set out below. It is therefore important to complete these documents thoroughly and submit before the closing date.

- Candidates must complete an Application for Postgraduate Academic Admission to the University (form NMU 516), as well as an application for admission to post-graduate studies in psychology (form U.24 (SP5). Applications for Postgraduate Academic Admission may be made online at https://www.mandela.ac.za/Study-at-Mandela/Application. Documents required for the Department of Psychology application must be mailed to maclinpsychapp@mandela.ac.za.

- Applications for admission to the Master's in Clinical Psychology programme are considered by the Selection Committee of the Department of Psychology. Following the departmental and/or School (dependent on the faculty) selection process, the HOD/designated staff member (or Director of School) forwards such selection decisions for final approval by the Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee (FPGSC).

- In order to facilitate the selection process, candidates are required to furnish the Selection Committee with names of three referees, two of whom should preferably be university lecturers, who would be able to report on the candidate's suitability for professional training. Referee reports received from family, friends and fellow students will not be accepted. Candidates are also required to send an autobiography, maximum 4 pages in length.

- The closing date for applications is **31st May 2026** and applicants who qualify for the short list will be invited to take part in the selection programme which will take place at a later date during **2026**.

- The candidate is subsequently notified in writing of the outcome of his/her application. **No personal feedback concerning the outcome will be given to applicants.**

- **Successful** candidates are required to register as a psychology student with the Health Professions Council of South Africa before commencement of the course and to provide the Head of the Department of Psychology with proof thereof. Registration must be renewed every year until studies have been completed and the degree conferred.

- The Acting Head of the Department of Psychology, **Dr Tania Lambert**, can be contacted by telephone (041) 504-2354 or e-mail **Ebonga.Maraule@mandela.ac.za** during office hours if additional information required.

- Completed application forms should follow a two-step submission process. These are separate processes. You must:

1. **APPLY ONLINE (http://www.mandela.ac.za/Apply/Admission/How-do-I-apply)**

AND THEN

2. **SEND THE DEPARTMENTAL U24 (SP5) FORM, REFEREE REPORTS AND THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY USING THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: maclinpsychapp@mandela.ac.za.**

INFORMATION ON THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Nelson Mandela University is to be an engaged and people-centred university that serves the needs of its diverse communities by contributing to sustainable development through excellent academic programmes, research, and service delivery. The Department of Psychology is positioned in the School of Behavioural and Lifestyle Sciences which is located within the Faculty of Health Sciences. This location has provided the department with an unprecedented opportunity to become an integral player in a holistic multi-professional approach to the training of health professionals.

The following mission statement was formulated for the Department of Psychology:
The Department of Psychology aims at optimizing the discovery, dissemination, and application of community-directed mental health, academic and applied knowledge and skills through reciprocal consultative contextualized teaching, research, and community engagement.

The fundamental aims of the Department of Psychology are to:

- Impart knowledge aimed at objective and critical understanding of human behaviour and the enhancement of respect for the individual.
- Generate knowledge with an emphasis on empirical investigations of issues relevant to South Africa.
- Train psychological practitioners with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to adequately meet the needs of the clinical population as well as the requirements for registration with the HPCSA Professional Board for Psychology.
- Act as a mental health resource for psychological help, information dissemination and research.
- Provide an atmosphere conducive to fostering creativity in students and staff and to the realization of their potential.
- To facilitate and promote the development of learners, staff, and the broader community.
- To engage in ongoing curriculum and research development which is innovative, sustainable and needs-driven.

- To train and empower learners with the necessary professional knowledge and skills to engage and consult with diverse communities and individuals.
- To be an accessible and responsive community resource for broad-based psychological service delivery.

OUR STUDENTS

Our students come from diverse social, religious, and cultural backgrounds. It is our conviction that the experience of diversity is an important component of professional training in Psychology and that an understanding and appreciation of diversity precedes the achievement of excellence as a professional psychologist.

OUR STAFF MEMBERS

Diversity is also a feature of the Department's staff component. Staff members in our Department are trained and have professional experience in a variety of orientations to psychological practice. They are registered clinical, counselling and research psychologists. Furthermore, staff members have varied research interests.

Each Masters student is expected to undertake an individual research project. This project forms the basis of a treatise which must be submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology Degree. In order to assist students to complete their research projects successfully in the minimum period of time, expert guidance concerning methodology, quantitative or qualitative analysis and research report writing is offered by staff members including those registered as research psychologists.

The following are currently the main areas of research focus in the Department, namely:

- Clinical Health Psychology
- Human Eco-Systems Research
- Psychobiography
- Lifespan Career Development
- HIV/Aids
- Standardization and Development of Psychological Tests
- Measurement of Clinical Phenomena
- Adult Personality Assessment
- Griffiths Scales of Child Development
- Neuro Psychology
- Cultural and Cross-Cultural Psychology
- Developmental Psychology & Development Psychopathology
- Attachment
- Personal and Professional Development of Psychotherapists
- Personal and Professional Development of Registered Counsellors
- Therapeutic Psychology
- Cyber Psychology

Considerable expertise is presently available amongst departmental staff members in the above-mentioned areas of research. We therefore encourage our students to focus their own research within one of these research projects.

Our Department, thus, does not claim to adhere to a single school or orientation since we believe that we can best equip our students by exposing them to a broad theoretical basis and a variety of clinical and research methods.

OFFICE HOURS

The Departmental administrative offices of the University are open between 08:30 and 16:00 Monday to Friday.

Contact information
Ms Ebonga Marule
Secretary
Tel: 041 504 2354
Ebonga.Maraule@mandela.ac.za

THE MASTER'S IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

This programme is one of four professional training programmes run by the Psychology department. **Dr Angelique McConney** is the primary responsible person is terms of the management and coordination of the programme. She is supported by the other permanent Clinical Psychologists and reports to the Acting HOD, **Dr Tania Lambert**.

PURPOSE OF THE MASTER'S IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMME

The purpose of this programme is to educate, train and prepare students to fulfil the requirements of the Professional Board for Psychology for purposes of registration as Clinical Psychologists. Clinical psychologists are trained to function in community mental health and intervention settings, working with individuals and populations to optimize psychological well-being in relation to life challenges, developmental problems and processes, and severe psychological distress. Clinical psychologists plan and implement formulation driven individual, group and community mental health based psychological interventions and programmes, catering to a broad range of patient populations. Students are prepared to enable them to function as professional psychologists in a variety of multicultural, professional contexts including primary, secondary, and tertiary mental healthcare. Clinical psychology training aims to educate and train learners to become effective and ethical professional psychologists based on a scholar-practitioner model. Training within the programme is sequential, developmental, and graded in complexity.

The programme is designed to develop the human potential of our students in the full spectrum of their cognitive, economic, social, cultural, aesthetic, and personal dimensions. This purpose is in line with the Nelson Mandela University and the Faculty of Health Sciences' vision and mission in which the values and principles of respect for diversity, excellence, Ubuntu, integrity, respect for the natural environment, and taking responsibility, are embedded.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates shall be admitted for the degree of Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology only if they have obtained an Honours degree in Psychology, or equivalent 4-year professional BPsych degree, at a level considered satisfactory by the Department of Psychology; and if they are registered with the Professional Board for Psychology as students (board registration takes place after the successful selection of a candidate).

The following courses must have been studied prior to selection into the Master's Clinical Programme: Psychological assessment, Psychopathology, Developmental Psychology, Personality, Psychotherapeutic Methods and Research Methodology.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

All candidates shall be subjected to selection by a panel of senior staff members and internship placement supervisors according to the following criteria: academic performance, referee reports, autobiography, experience in the field and black African language competency. Students speaking an indigenous African language are given a higher score on language ability, which increases their overall standing in the shortlisting process. Further diversity that is embraced is gender, culture, disability, marital status, religion, and sexual orientation. Demographic targets are vigorously pursued, and are most often reached, leading to a more accurate representation of South African society within the selected class. Approximately 40 applicants [from an initial pool of +/- 300] are invited for an individual interview. Students are selected according to the available internship placements; and class size is limited to a maximum of 7/8 students. This allows for intensive interaction between staff and students. The selection process is aligned to the University's transformation vision and strategic priorities.

THE PRACTICUM SITE

While we recognise the importance of scientific studies and research, a practical, service orientation is emphasized in our teaching. Staff members are responsible for certain activities in the University Clinic, or UCLIN as it is called on campus, which allows them to keep a hand in practical work. We believe that psychologists have obligations to society to use their knowledge and skills in improving individual, interpersonal and group functioning.

UCLIN provides the facility for the training of our students and as such combines a service and training function. It functions very much like a private practice in that it offers a service to the public and handles all types of psychological, scholastic and relationship problems in children and adults. Most referrals to UCLIN come from medical doctors, educational institutions, and social workers. In addition to having a wide variety of clinical material, UCLIN also has the necessary research equipment and a closed-circuit television system. From early in their first year, Master's students have the opportunity of seeing patients under the supervision of experienced practitioners. A similar service is offered on the Missionvale Campus site, where an established centre provides psychological services to members of the staff and student community as well as people from the surrounding community. The Centre is staffed by members of the Department and professionally trained postgraduate students. Services include:

- Psychometric assessment
- Academic and career guidance
- Individual, group and family psychotherapy
- Psycho-educational programmes
- Workshops on mental health issues

This is done to ensure that by the end of their first year, students have acquired the practical skills necessary to begin their internship.

In addition to the practical experience gained at UCLIN, the course includes a theoretical and practical component which focuses on the psychosocial needs of the underprivileged community. Annual community projects are carried out by postgraduate students providing them with the opportunity of (i) acquiring psychological skills that are relevant to the community at large and (ii) rendering services to the underprivileged members of our society.

Practical work amounting to 5 hours per week in the first year of study is prescribed by the Professional Board for Psychology. Each student is to carry a case load of 3-4 clients concurrently and is to receive individual supervision of one hour per week and group supervision of two hours per week. Candidates will be expected to sign indemnity forms whereby neither the Department of Psychology, nor the University, nor any of the institutions providing such experiences can be held liable for any injury or loss in the course of such practical work

LANGUAGE MEDIUM

Students will find that most class discussions and case conferences take place in English. However, staff in the department are multi-lingual which provides students with opportunities to communicate in languages they are comfortable with.

REPORTING LINES

When minor academic issues arise, these are pursued with relevant lecturers of modules, as a first port of call. Any minor professional issues are taken to clinical supervision (all Clinica Master's students are assigned a clinical supervisor). The various supervisory processes create a vehicle through which students are managed; they build individual relationships with staff, and access assistance as is needed. Given that first year masters students are based at UCLIN South Campus, they also liaise with the Director of UCLIN, **Dr Ashwin Navsaria** when addressing minor day-to-day related issues e.g. lecture clashes, computer difficulties.

Any issues of a more complex nature are taken to the co-ordinator, for her attention. She manages

the programme and liaises with students and staff regarding any irregularities that may emerge. In conjunction with clinic management, She has input into timetabling issues, absenteeism, professional development, monitoring of clinical exposure and supervision, and liaising with internship sites. Emerging issues are taken to the weekly staff meeting, as required. Broader systemic issues that might impact the programme are managed through the HOD, DOS and Faculty Postgrad Studies Committee.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The HPCSA professional Board for Psychology regulates the education and training of psychologists in terms of Section 16 of the Health Professions Act of 1974. This is done by setting standards for education and training and ensuring that the standards are adhered to. Some of these standards are discussed below.

TIMING OF THE INTERNSHIP

The internship is an accredited one year (12 months) structured programme that consists of practical, competence-based activities that need to be completed by individuals that wish to register as psychologists. The internship is completed during the second year of the Masters' programme. Training is only permitted at institutions that are accredited or approved by the board. An internship may only commence after the candidate has completed the prerequisite formal academic (coursework) requirements of the master's degree. An internship must commence within two (2) years of completing the first year of a master's degree. In exceptional circumstances the professional board may permit a longer lapse of time, provided that the department supports the application in writing, and that the Board finds a fully motivated application acceptable.

The internships for students are individually tailored to allow the student the opportunity of getting the most out of the internship experience. During the internship in clinical psychology, the students do their internship at Elizabeth Donkin Psychiatric Hospital, UCLIN, and at the Missionvale Psychology Centre. The primary purpose of an internship is to integrate, apply and refine student psychologists' attitudes, competencies and skills that are necessary for independent functioning as a psychologist in a variety of settings.

For more information on the above, please contact the *Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), Professional Board for Psychology, at (012) 338-9300* or visit their website at *www.hpcsa.co.za*

ETHICAL STANDARDS AND DISCIPLINE

- Students are required to familiarise themselves with the standards of the ethical and professional conduct expected of registered psychologists (HPCSA Form 223) and to function within these parameters.

- Students are expected to abide by the rules laid down by the various training institutions at which they may be placed.

- Students are requested to present themselves appropriately when dealing with members of the public at any of the training institutions at which they are placed.

- Students are expected to attain and maintain a satisfactory standard of academic work, practical work, and interpersonal conduct throughout their two years of training.

If progress in any of these areas is not satisfactory, the student will be given due warning (usually at the quarterly evaluation session). Additional monitoring through supervision will then be provided as far as possible. If this does not result in an acceptable improvement in performance, the student may be required to serve additional time or may even be required to discontinue the course.

OBTAINING THE DEGREE

The degree shall be obtained on completion of the theoretical modules, the required practical work, the treatise and the internship to the satisfaction of Senate.

NATIONAL EXAMINATION:

As from 1 January 2003 all prospective psychologists are required to pass the National Examination of the Professional Board for Psychology prior to their registration as psychologists (hereafter referred to as the Board Examination). The examination for psychologists is a three (3) hour *written* examination. The examination is conducted in February, June and October of each year in all the major centres, i.e. Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Durban, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Polokwane. Candidates who wish to apply to write the Board Examination have to apply in writing at least two (2) months prior to the date of the examination for their names to be included on the examination list. An examination fee is payable.

The closing dates for application to write the examination are:
15 December for the February examination,
30 April for the June examination, and
31 August for the October examination

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service for clinical psychologists has been regulated and implemented by the Minister of Health as from 1 January 2003. As from 1 December 2011, intern clinical psychologists are required to pass the Board Examination prior to commencement with community service.

THE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Module Code	When Presented	Credit Value	NQF Level
Year 1				
Compulsory Modules				
Professional Practice and Psychological Ethics	SPV510	01	20	9
Psychological Assessment and Psychometrics	SPV530	00	20	9
Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychopathology	SPV511	00	20	9
Multi-Contextual Psychological Intervention	SPV512	00	20	9
Neuropsychology	SPV540	00	20	9
Research Methodology	SPV520	00	20	9
Treatise	SPKV502	00	60	9
Electives				
None				
Total credits			**180**	
Year 2				
Compulsory Module				
Internship (Clinical Psychology)	SPKV501	00	90	9
Total Credits			**270**	

FIRST YEAR OF STUDY

SPV510 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ETHICS

This module introduces the students to the ethical, professional practice of psychology in a variety of contexts. The content is based on the Code of Ethics for psychology and other prescribed legal and professional documentation as prescribed by the HPCSA. Issues of ethical conflicts & their resolution, and forensic practice will be addressed. Relevant experts in their fields will contribute to the content.

SPV511 CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND ADULT PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

This module will enable learners to formulate accurate diagnosis of mental disorders, which in turn will inform effective, evidence-based treatment procedures. Specifically, the study of this module will enable clinical psychologist trainees to assess, diagnose, and intervene in clients dealing with and psychopathology across the complete spectrum of mental disorders. The focus of this module is on assisting severely disabled patients that find themselves in inpatient treatment settings or similar to return to normal daily functioning. While not limited to these issues, the above implies intervention in the dynamics and aetiology of the primary diagnosis of a patient rather than peripheral but important issues that impact functioning.

SPV512 MULTICONTEXTUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

This module creates opportunities for learners to acquire the requisite range and depth of knowledge, skills, and attitudes of professional psychologists as stipulated by the Professional Board for Psychology.

SPV530 PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND PSYCHOMETRICS

This module is aimed at providing students with the competencies to conduct professional psychological assessment in a variety of contexts that take into account multicultural populations. The content is based on the broad areas of practice as stipulated by the scope of practice documents of the Board of Psychology. The relationship between different kinds of assessment strategies and their integration into a holistic understanding of an individual is fully explored with the focus being on the psycho-diagnostic assessment of children and adults by means of diagnostic interviews and psychological tests or measures.

SPV540 NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

This module aims to increase the knowledge of learners in the field of the human brain structure and function as well as neurological disorders across the lifespan that are of special relevance to psychologists thereby enabling them to recognize syndromes and engage in differential diagnosis. Advanced knowledge regarding child/adolescent and adult neuropsychology is provided to the learners and opportunities are generated to relate this knowledge to professional practice by means of case studies and assessment experiential activities

SPVKV502 TREATISE (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)

(a) A treatise on an approved topic is required. Work on the treatise should commence during the first year and may be continued in the second year.
(b) A journal article, based on research for the treatise, has to be submitted for publication.

EXAMINATION

Written and oral examinations will be conducted at appropriate points in the first year of study. In addition, written assignments, reports, files, case presentations and performance in assessment, counselling and intervention situations will be evaluation of candidates. Candidates must pass both the theoretical and the practical components of a course in order to be admitted to the second semester of the course or to pass the course as a whole.

SECOND YEAR OF STUDY

THE INTERNSHIP

Internship training extends over a period of no less than 12 months. The internship has to be undertaken at an institution approved for this purpose by the Professional Board of Psychology of the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Candidates are admitted to the internship on selection and on proof of registration as an intern psychologist with the Professional Board of Psychology.

SPVKV501: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Specialised assessment and intervention procedures as prescribed by the Professional Board for Psychology for clinical interns. UCLIN in collaboration with EDH is accredited for the training of clinical psychology interns.

EXAMINATION

In the second year of study the intern shall be evaluated by an examination committee on two occasions. The examinations consist of an evaluation of theoretical knowledge and professional skills. These examinations are in addition to the continuous monitoring during the year of the intern's progress on both a theoretical and a practical level.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The degree of Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology shall be awarded in accordance with the *General Rules for Masters' and Doctors' Degrees* as set out in the General Prospectus.

ACCOMMODATION

The Nelson Mandela University offers a new private and secure home environment for postgraduate students. Blending into its surroundings in the Nelson Mandela University Nature reserve, the *Postgraduate Student Village* is designed to enable postgraduate students to live and work in peace and comfort and is situated on the NMU South campus.

For more information on the above and other university accommodation, please contact the Residence Manager on 504-3941 or fax at 504-2574 or e-mail at resadmissions@mandela.ac.za.

BURSARIES AND LOANS

Bursaries and loans are awarded annually by the University and a number of outside organisations. A complete list of the available bursaries and loans is obtainable from the Registrar on request or can be downloaded from our website https://rd.mandela.ac.za/Postgraduate-Student-Funding .

Applications for bursaries and loans should be lodged with the Registrar. Assistance in this regard can be obtained from the Research Management Office at the University at telephone number (041) 504-2538.

- Booksellers

  Van Schaik Bookstore has a university bookstore close to the campus which sells textbooks, stationery, etc. Credit facilities are available on submission of application.

- Banks and Building Societies

  Standard Bank has a branch on campus. In addition, Nedbank and First National Bank have automatic teller machines on campus.

- Cafeteria

  - KwaYem -Yem Madibaz (formely known as Madibaz cafe)

We look forward to your application!
Remember: CLOSING DATE: 31 May 2026