



Cairnmillar
INSTITUTE

School of Psychology
Counselling & Psychotherapy

Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)

Course Information Handbook 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Cairnmillar Institute	3
Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)	4
Entry Requirements	4
Duration of the Course	4
Graduate Learning Outcomes	4
Career Opportunities	5
Professional Recognition	6
Course Structure & Credit Points	6
Placements	9
Research.....	9
Enrolment Conditions	9
Attendance	9
Online Etiquette	9
Submission of Written Work	9
Referencing & Style Guidelines	9
Assessment Grades & Records	9
Extensions	10
Special Consideration.....	10
Word Limit	10
Late Submissions	10
Samples of Work	10
Recognition of Prior Learning.....	10
Marking Scales & Grade Definitions	10
Academic Integrity	10
Course Progress.....	11
Policies & Procedures	11
Copyright	11
Professional Standards	11
Student Support, Counselling, & Wellbeing	11
Tuition Fees and FEE-HELP	11
Termination of Enrolment	11
Graduation.....	11
Library Services.....	12
Office 365.....	12
Computer & Printer Access	12

Welcome to The Cairnmillar Institute

Congratulations on your success in obtaining a place in the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) degree. This course information handbook addresses many aspects and requirements of the course. It should be read in conjunction with the following:

- [Placement Information Handbook](#)
- [Research Information Handbook](#)
- [Unit Outlines](#)
- [Policies and Procedures](#)

These resources provide all the information you need to successfully navigate your way through the different components of the course. If you find anything missing from these handbooks, please let us know.

The Cairnmillar Institute and staff wish you an enjoyable and rewarding professional experience.



Professor Tess Knight
Head of School



Dr Michael Clarke,
Course Coordinator, Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)

The Cairnmillar Institute

The Institute was first based in South Yarra, then in Collins Street, and from 1982 its home was 993 Burke Road, Camberwell. To accommodate its subsequent expansion, it has been in Hawthorn East since 2017. The Institute is an Australian Health Promotion Charity and non-profit body. It developed the first suburban family counselling and education centres in Melbourne at Blackburn, Syndal, Beaumaris and Doveton, pastoral care training programs and training programs of the first Citizens Advice Bureau in Melbourne.

The Institute was an early pioneer in training people in counselling and in psychotherapy. It broke through the strong walls of opposition to bring all the helping professions into specialised training in psychotherapy. It has conducted prevention programs in community organisations and for countless schools and churches across the nation and was the site for the development of Contextual Modular Therapy and analysis; an integrated form of brief and cost-effective psychotherapy.

The Institute's higher education programs are based on its critical and clinical experience and its constant interaction with clinical and research centres around the world. The courses are delivered by experienced practitioners and the Institute's approach to teaching is based firmly on practice with an emphasis on skills development.

Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)

Clinical psychology is a specialisation focusing on psychopathology and the assessment and treatment of clinical disorders across the lifespan. Consistent with the Scientist-Practitioner model that underpins the discipline, the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) involves intensive high-level research training together with advanced coursework and placement experience. The course develops students' knowledge, skills, and experience in research, assessment, and therapeutic interventions for adults and children suffering from clinical disorders. Graduates of the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) will be prepared for assessing and treating clients with a range of mental health issues. Students in the program will participate in supervised placements in various settings such as primary care, psychiatric facilities and community clinics or private practices. Students will also undertake advanced research on a topic related to clinical psychology. Graduates will develop the knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, adaptability, and to work responsibly as a practitioner and scholar in areas that promote psychological health in individuals, families, groups, and organisations.

Entry Requirements

Students can apply for the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) in two ways.

1. Students who apply following their 4th year, must hold a degree from an Australian university and have completed either a four-year APAC accredited sequence of studies in psychology with a minimum H2A average, or equivalent overseas qualifications as recognised by the APS. Demonstrated possession of an appropriate level of knowledge and skill related to research is desirable, and suitable aptitude to work as a clinical psychologist will also be assessed at interview.
2. Students who have completed their second year of an APAC accredited Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology), and not had the degree conferred, may apply for the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology). Likewise, students who have previously graduated from an APAC accredited Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) *and* had the degree conferred may also apply.

Duration of the Course

This course is designed to be completed over four years full-time. It consists of coursework, five placements, and the completion of a major research thesis

Graduate Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Cairnmillar Institute's Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) are highly sought after for their academic acumen and professional suitability. They have an appreciation of the breadth and depth of psychological practice and are creative and flexible in their thinking. Graduates are committed to working within the scientist-practitioner model and to using interventions and assessments that have been empirically validated. They are familiar with working with a range of clients and their practice is ethical and culturally sensitive. Graduates of the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) develop skills in each of the areas listed below to be able to commence the Psychology Board of Australia's Registrar Program after they graduate. This will allow them to go on to full registration as a psychologist with an area of practice endorsement in clinical psychology.

Knowledge of the Discipline

- Implement core clinical psychology principles across a range of settings.

- Assess and diagnose a variety of clinical presentations with reference to the DSM 5.
- Interpret current research on psychopathology and apply this to formulate appropriate intervention and assessment protocols.

Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the Australian Psychological Society's Code of Ethics as well as relevant legislation that informs current professional practice.
- Apply ethical principles to professional practice.

Psychological Assessment and Measurement

- Develop knowledge of a broad range of assessment measures and understand the theoretical frameworks and psychometric properties that support their empirical validation.
- Demonstrate an ability to administer, score, interpret and write up specific assessment batteries.

Intervention Strategies

- Demonstrate an understanding of a select range of empirically validated interventions suitable for use with adults and children.
- Perform interventions in an effective and ethical manner and to be able to evaluate therapeutic outcomes.
- Demonstrate an understanding of interventions used for work with clients who have complex presentations.

Research and Evaluation

- Demonstrate an expert understanding of a particular topic relevant to Clinical Psychology. This understanding is exhibited by: the development of the intellectual skills necessary to interpret previous findings and developments relevant to their research in clinical psychology and the ability to devise and implement an original research project that is based on sound and current research methods.
- Conduct high quality research independently and ethically and be able to disseminate findings to both specialist and non-specialist groups.
- Produce an extended research thesis that makes a unique contribution to existing scholarship in an area of clinical psychology.

Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

- Demonstrate effective and efficient written and oral communication skills.
- Relate appropriately to a range of clients and mental health professionals across academic and clinical settings.

Working within a Cross Cultural Context

- Develop competence in working in a culturally sensitive manner with clients from diverse backgrounds.

Practice across the Lifespan

- Deliver a range of psychological services appropriate to adults, children, adolescents and older adults.

Supervision and Reflective Self-Practice

- Demonstrate an appreciation of the importance of reflective self-practice and the ability to implement constructive feedback in order to improve clinical practice.
- Recognise the dynamics of the supervisory relationship in preparation for potential roles as supervisors and leaders in the field of clinical psychology.

Career Opportunities

Graduates may gain employment in community mental health centres, psychiatric hospital settings, specialist services for particular clinical groups, schools, post-secondary education, clinical rehabilitation services and private practices. Students may also be suitable for teaching and research roles.

More information about Specialist Careers Advice for current students and alumni can be found on myCMI. See: [Career Guidance](#) on my.CMI.

Professional Recognition

The course has been approved by the APS College of Clinical Psychologists. On completion, graduates are eligible for full membership of The Australian Psychological Society (APS), and for associate membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists.

More information about professional registration can be found on my.CMI: [Professional Registration FAQs](#) on my.CMI.

Course Structure & Credit Points

This course has been designed to be completed in four years full time. The full-time course structure is as follows:

Semester	Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Points
Year One			
1	CLN500	Clinical Placement Intensive Workshops	12.5
1	CLN503	Professional Practice and Professional Ethics	12.5
1	CLN551	Research Project A	12.5
1	CLN502	Psychological Assessment, Diagnostic Testing and Interview Competencies	12.5
2	CLN552	Research Project B	12.5
2	CLN501	Cognitive-behavioural processes and interventions	12.5
2	CLN561	Supervised Clinical Placement B	12.5
2	CLN504	Child and Adolescent Psychopathology and Intervention	12.5
Year Two			
1	CLN603	Interpersonal processes and therapeutic practices	12.5
1	CLN662	Supervised Clinical Placement C	12.5
1	CLN602	Adult Psychopathology Intervention	12.5
1	CLN653	Research Project C	12.5
2	CLN654	Research Project D	12.5
2	CLN601	Health Psychology	12.5
2	CLN604	Psychodynamic Therapy	12.5
2	CLN654	Supervised Clinical Placement D	12.5
Year Three			
1	CLN701	Advanced Diagnostics and Interventions for Complex Presentations	12.5
1	CLN761	Supervised Clinical Placement E	12.5

1	CLN751	Research Project E	25
2	CLN752	Research Project F	50
Year Four			
1	CLN861	Supervised Clinical Placement F	12.5
1	CLN851	Research Project G	37.5
2	CLN852	Research Project H	50

Coursework: 112.5 credit points or 28% of the course

Research: 212.5 credit points or 53% of the course

Practical Placement: 75 credit points or 19% of the course

Total Course Credit Points: 400

Coursework Units

Each of the units of study is detailed below. Please note students must pass all units and the thesis and placements before being eligible to graduate.

- **CLN503 (Professional Practice and Professional Ethics)**

This unit has as its focus the knowledge, competencies and skills required to practice as a provisional and clinical psychologist within the designated professional ethical, legal and professional and ethical standards as set down by the profession. The unit requires the student to undertake a critical examination of case studies of professional situations and ethical dilemmas in contemporary psychological practice. Students are taught the personal and professional competencies and attributes required to practice ethically and legally as a clinical psychologist.

- **CLN502 (Psychological Assessment, Diagnostic Testing and Interview Competencies)**

The aim of this unit is for students to develop an understanding of the theoretical and empirical bases underpinning test construction, implementation, and interpretation. This unit focuses on a selection of psychological assessment methods commonly administered by psychologists in professional settings. The unit applies a biopsychosocial model as a basis for psychological conceptualisation and formulation. The unit provides practical experience in the selection of assessments; and in the administration, scoring, interpretation, and reporting of formal psychometric instruments. The formal tests studied and administered include measures of intelligence, cognition, perceptual-motor skills, attention, concentration and memory, literacy and verbal skills, nonverbal reasoning, vocational abilities, and specific measures of neurological functioning. The psychometrics of testing, including reliability and validity, will be considered, as will the skills required to report on the results of assessments in written and oral form. The pros and cons of intellectual and other assessments will be considered. The ethics involved in the use and interpretation of psychological tests and test scores will also be a considered. The knowledge to write professional assessment reports will be a central focus of the course as will be the ability to correctly administer, score, and interpret the Wechsler Scales.

- **CLN501 (Cognitive Behavioural Processes and Interventions)**

The aim of this unit is to assist students in developing an understanding of the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of cognitive behavioural therapy. The unit focuses on providing a grounding in the transdiagnostic application of cognitive behavioural principles and practices to understand human psychological functioning. This includes an emphasis on the understanding of the cognitive framework and its application to issues with depression,

anxiety and anger. It also aims to help with the development of knowledge and skills to apply cognitive-behavioural interventions to address functional difficulties.

- **CLN504 (Child and Adolescent Psychopathology and Intervention)**

The aim of this unit is to assist students to develop an understanding of child and adolescent psychopathology. Students will acquire the clinical knowledge and skills necessary to assess, diagnose and treat a range of childhood/youth mental disorders. As part of this unit the assessment, diagnosis and evidenced based treatment interventions for a range of child/youth mental disorders will be addressed. There will also be a series of lectures on working systemically with children and families.

- **CLN603 (Interpersonal Processes & Therapeutic Practices)**

The aim of this unit is to develop and advance the students' professional competence and abilities in the practice of clinical psychology. The unit focuses on understanding the therapist's impact on the therapeutic relationship and therapeutic outcomes and the importance of good counselling and communication skills in the therapeutic process. There is attention to determining the appropriate selection and application of therapeutic models, dependent on the client's characteristics and context. Understanding of therapeutic practices across the life-span, group therapy contexts, process-experiential therapeutic approaches and broad awareness of the therapeutic literature are also addressed.

- **CLN601 (Health Psychology)**

This unit focuses on the field of health psychology. It begins with an overview of the theory underpinning psychological factors in health and illness. It will include a focus on biopsychosocial factors and their impact on commonly presenting issues in health psychology contexts. In addition, this unit prepares students to understand and manage the impact of physical health issues and the importance of health promotion and education in community-based counselling organisations and in public and private psychological practice.

- **CLN602 (Adult Psychopathology and Intervention)**

The aim of this unit is to assist students to develop an advanced understanding of adult psychopathology. Students will acquire the clinical knowledge and skills necessary to assess, diagnose and treat severe manifestations of a range of specific mental disorders. Each week the assessment, diagnosis and treatment intervention for a different mental disorder, or group of disorders, will be addressed. There will also be a focus on how the mental health system operates and the systemic issues which act as barriers to accessing services for people with lifestyle and mental health issues, along with carer and consumer perspectives.

- **CLN604 (Psychodynamic Therapy)**

The unit has two aims: to improve students' understanding of and ability to practice the fundamental aspects of psychodynamic therapy, and to use these skills to manage the therapeutic relationship and the therapeutic process when delivering treatment in other orientations (for example, cognitive behavioural therapy). Topics covered include how personality impacts the therapeutic process, boundaries, anxieties and defences, cyclical maladaptive relationship patterns, implementing change in psychodynamic therapy, managing transference and counter-transference, psychodynamic case formulation, and adapting psychodynamic therapy with people diagnosed with borderline personality disorder or narcissistic personality disorder. There is a focus in the unit on learning practical skills that can be applied with clients.

- **CLN701 (Advanced Diagnostics and Interventions for Complex Presentations)**

This unit will further develop student's diagnostic, systematic case formulation and therapy skills for complex presentations. Advanced cognitive behavioural therapy and short-term psychodynamic therapy skills will be taught through lectures, case presentation and simulations. Complex presentations will include personality disorders and comorbid presentations.

Students will be able to confidently diagnose, write a case formulation and conduct advanced therapy for complex presentations. Challenges associated with interventions such as conflict, trauma and termination of treatment will also be discussed. This unit includes 36 hours of combined theory, simulations and case study discussion.

Students should also refer to the relevant **Unit Outlines** located on [Canvas](#)

Placements

For information regarding placements, please refer to the [Placement Information Handbook](#).

Research

For information regarding research, please refer to the [Research Information Handbook](#).

Enrolment Conditions

See also: [Enrolment Conditions](#) on my.CMI for a copy of the current enrolment conditions. You must agree to the conditions of enrolment every time you enrol in a unit of study.

Attendance

It is an expectation that students will attend all classes*. If you anticipate being absent, please advise your Unit Coordinator via email. Planned absences of several weeks should also be discussed with your Unit Coordinator. Students who miss more than three classes, should make an appointment to discuss their attendance with the Unit Coordinator. It is important that you raise any concerns about meeting study commitments with the [Course Coordinator](#).

Note: In accordance with national and state recommendations for social distancing due to COVID-19, we consider classes* to include any mode of online engagement.

Online Etiquette

Students are expected to comply with the Cairnmillar Institute's policies and regulations concerning etiquette during online classes, webinars, and in their electronic communications. All Policies and Procedures are published on the [Cairnmillar website](#).

Submission of Written Work

All written assessment tasks must be prepared in [Microsoft Word](#) and submitted via [Canvas](#). Please refer to the Unit Outlines on [Canvas](#) for more information on written assignment requirements.

Referencing & Style Guidelines

The referencing and format for all assignments must be in APA 7 style. Please see [APA Style Referencing](#). Case reports/studies require client anonymity and confidentiality.

See also [Assessment Style Guides and Formatting](#) on my.CMI.

Assessment Grades & Records

Final results for each unit will be calculated, then published on the [Paradigm Enrolment Portal](#) by the relevant results [publication date](#).

See [my.CMI](#) for information on [results publication](#).

Extensions

An extension may be granted for assignments where there is evidence of unexpected disruptions in the student's available work time. Applications must be made via the [Assignment Extension Form](#) on my.CMI before the assignment due date, and is valid only after it has been approved by the Unit Coordinator.

See [my.CMI](#) for more information on how to apply for an [assignment extension](#).

Special Consideration

Special consideration may be granted in situations where an extension is not possible, such as an exam or in-class work that has been missed. See [my.CMI](#) for more information on how to apply for [special consideration](#).

Word Limit

Students must adhere to the word limits provided in Unit Outlines and Assessment Guides. Please refer to your Unit Outlines on [Canvas](#) for information regarding word limits for each assessment task.

Late Submissions

The penalty for late submissions is 5% per day (including weekends and non-business days), for a maximum of seven (7) days (i.e., maximum late penalty deduction possible is 35%). Work handed in more than one week late will not normally be marked and a fail result will be recorded. No assignment will be accepted once the results for that assignment have been published.

Tasks that are required to be completed and/or submitted in-class, such as class presentations must be submitted on the date of the class presentation unless a student has been awarded an extension. The penalty for late submission or non-submission of in-class tasks is usually 100% of the mark.

See also: [Late Assessment Submissions](#) on my.CMI.

Samples of Work

Samples of student work may be taken for purposes of course accreditation. In all cases anonymity will be preserved. If you object to your work being copied for this purpose you must advise the Unit Coordinator when submitting assignments.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process where a student may be granted credit or partial credit towards a qualification in recognition of previous experience. Credit or partial credit towards a qualification cannot be granted in recognition of skills and knowledge gained through work experience unless students can demonstrate that they have been assessed on the competencies.

See [my.CMI](#) for more information on how to apply for [RPL](#).

Marking Scales & Grade Definitions

You can view Cairnmillar's [grade-mark schema](#) on my.CMI.

Academic Integrity

Breaches of academic integrity are serious academic offences. It is the responsibility of all students to access, read, and familiarise themselves with the Institute's [Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Policy and Procedures](#). See [my.CMI](#) for more information about [Academic Integrity](#) at Cairnmillar.

All students must complete an Academic Integrity Module and Quiz on Canvas prior to beginning classes at Cairnmillar. Please see [here on my.CMI](#) for more details.

Course Progress

Please see '[Academic Integrity and Progress Review Hearings](#)' on my.CMI for detailed information on Cairnmillar's academic integrity and progress procedure.

Policies & Procedures

It is the responsibility of all students to access, read, and familiarise themselves with the Institute's Policies and Procedures. These are published on our [school website](#).

Copyright

There are copyright laws that we need to be aware of and adhere to. Please see the [Australian Copyright Council's](#) website for full information on this topic.

Professional Standards

You must have a thorough knowledge of the Australian Psychological Society's Code of Ethics document. It is reviewed and updated regularly, and it is essential to remain abreast of any changes that are recommended.

A full copy of the current edition of the [Code of Ethics](#) can be obtained on the [APS website](#).

Student Support, Counselling, & Wellbeing

Counselling & Support for Students

Please see '[Counselling for Students](#)' on my.CMI

Academic & Writing Support for Students

Please see '[English and Academic Writing Support](#)' and '[APA Support and Study Skills](#)' on my.CMI

Other Support Services

A searchable list of other support services can be found on myCMI. See: [Support for Students](#)

Tuition Fees and FEE-HELP

Information regarding the payment of fees can be obtained from my.CMI and our public website. Tuition fees and conditions are published on our website, see [Tuition Fees](#). Please see [Fees and FEE-HELP FAQs](#) on my.CMI for more information.

Termination of Enrolment

Cairnmillar reserves the right to terminate a person's enrolment in a course if the student:

- fails to meet the complete assessment task requirements or breaches the Institute's privacy and ethical conditions
- exceeds the maximum or negotiated time for completion of the course, or
- other conditions as specified in the enrolment application.

See [my.CMI](#) for details on Cairnmillar's [Academic Progress](#) procedure.

Graduation

To be eligible to have the relevant qualification awarded, a student must:

- comply with all the Institute Policies and Procedures;
- pay all relevant fees and charges;
- complete all requirements prescribed for the course at least at a PASS level;
- have all placement documentation up to date, signed off and uploaded to my.Placement.

The appropriate awards are given on satisfactory completion of the course. These are presented at a special annual ceremony or given (posted) directly to students for a fee.

Library Services

The Library at the Cairnmillar Institute is a specialist library resource, aimed at supporting the work of the Institute, focusing on the curriculum, teaching, research, and clinical requirements of the students, academic staff, clinical staff, and researchers.

Appointments about APA referencing, study planning and Library and research skills can be made through the [Library](#).

Please visit the [Library](#) page on my.CMI for more information.

Office 365

All students have access to [Office 365](#) while studying at Cairnmillar. Your Office365 account includes free access to Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook (student email), and much more.

Students also have access to 1TB of OneDrive storage. Find more information on [Office 365](#) on my.CMI.

Computer & Printer Access

Computer and printer access is available on the Hawthorn campus during business hours. Each student has their own personal [OneDrive](#) account which can be accessed across any computer.

Please see '[Computer Access @ Cairnmillar](#)' for more information.

Please see '[Printing/Copying @ Cairnmillar](#)' on my.CMI for more information.