Cairnmillar
INSTITUTE

School of Psychology
Counselling & Psychotherapy

Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)

Course Information Handbook 2023

Course Code: PY091

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to The Cairnmillar Institute

Congratulations on your success in obtaining a place in the Master 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 Louise Roufeil
Head of School

A/Prof. Richard Moulding
Course Coordinator, Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)

The Cairnmillar Institute

The vision of the Cairnmillar Institute is to be globally recognised as a centre for psychological treatment, higher education, community education and research in the fields of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy. The Institute is an Australian Health Promotion Charity and non-profit body.

Our aim is to offer relevant programs and services tailored to our professional and client community needs. The service growth and regional reach of Cairnmillar is underpinned by our values of respect, integrity and professionalism and a focus on quality and standards. Connection with business partners and community, and a focus on quality is critical to our business development and will directly enhance our client and student experience. We also aim to strengthen our contribution to the body of research that informs community in practice, and education.

Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)

The course is accredited by the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC) as a fifth and sixth year Masters Course of Professional Education. There are three components to the program- research, coursework and practicum.

The APS website of the Clinical College has full information about mandates, areas of practice, membership, and information about ongoing professional matters. For any psychologist to be endorsed by the APS Clinical College s/he must possess:

   a. a minimum of an accredited Masters degree in the speciality, plus the equivalent of two years full time supervised practice in the speciality with a (PsyBA) approved supervisor; or

   b. an accredited Doctoral degree in the speciality, plus the equivalent of one-year full time supervised practice in the speciality with a PsyBA approved supervisor, or

   c. another qualification which the PsyBA has assessed to be substantially equivalent to either (a) or (b).

The Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) is aimed at laying the foundations for future practice as a clinical psychologist across a broad client range. It is approved by the APS College of Clinical Psychologists and enables graduates to apply for full registration with the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA). Upon completion of the course graduates will be required to complete a supervision plan for the Psychology Board of Australia to be approved as registrars for the purpose of gaining registration with endorsement in the area of clinical psychology.

Entry Requirements

Applicants accepted into the program must have successfully completed a four year, or three year plus a fourth year, APAC accredited sequence in psychology with an upper second class honours (75%) overall mark. Students must be eligible for registration with the Psychology Board of Australia as a provisional psychologist.

An order-of-merit for entry will be prepared, taking into account (a) academic record (b) previous work experience and training, and (c) academic and professional referees' reports.

Duration of the Course

This course is designed to be completed in 24 months full-time. It consists of 4 semesters of coursework, 3 placements, and the completion of a research thesis. The course is not offered part-time.

Graduate Learning Outcomes

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will have achieved advanced knowledge and skills in the following areas of study:

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.

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.

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

Career Opportunities

Graduates may gain employment in a broad range of sectors including: community mental health centres, psychiatric hospital settings, specialist services for certain clinical groups, schools, post-secondary education, clinical rehabilitation services and private practice.

More information about career pathways can be found on myCMI.

Professional Recognition

Graduates will be eligible to apply for recognition by the Psychology Board of Australia as a Clinical Psychology Registrar. On completion of two years of supervised experience subsequent to graduation from the program, graduates will be eligible to be registered as holding an endorsement in clinical psychology, and to be specialist clinical psychology practitioners with Medicare Australia.

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. On completion of two years of supervised clinical practice, graduates are eligible to apply for full membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists.

More information about professional registration can be found on myCMI: Professional Registration FAQs on myCMI.

Course Structure & Credit Points

This course has been designed to be completed full-time over 2 years. The full-time course structure is as follows:

Semester	Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Points
Year One			
1	CLN500	Clinical Placement and 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
1	CLN501	Cognitive-behavioural processes and interventions	12.5
2	CLN552	Research Project B	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	CLN653	Research Project C	12.5
1	CLN662	Supervised Clinical Placement C	12.5
1	CLN602	Adult Psychopathology Intervention	12.5
2	CLN604	Psychodynamic Therapy	12.5
2	CLN663	Supervised Clinical Placement D	12.5
2	CLN654	Research Project D	12.5
2	CLN601	Health Psychology	12.5

Course Details: 200 total credit points
Coursework: 100 credit points or 50% of the course
Research: 50 credit points or 25% of the course
Practical Placement: 50 credit points or 25% of the course

Coursework Units

Each of the units of study are detailed below. Please note students must pass all units 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 evidence-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 (family therapy series) with children and families within this unit.

- **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.

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

The aim of this unit is to develop and advance student's clinical skills and professional competence when working in clinical practice. The unit focuses on characteristics of the therapist and client, and the influence of these on the therapeutic relationship, the form of therapy selected and the outcomes of therapy. There is an emphasis on therapeutic work

across context, including working with individuals, groups, couples, those from diverse backgrounds, and across the lifespan. The Unit also introduces a range of therapeutic approaches, including Interpersonal Therapy, Emotion Focused Therapy, Schema Therapy, Acceptance Commitment Therapy and Eye-Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing therapy, with these considered in relation to therapist and client characteristics and, where appropriate, contextual factors.

- **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.

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 myCMI 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.
Note: In accordance with national and state recommendations for social distancing due to COVID-19, we consider classes* to include to include synchronous online activities such as tutorials and lectures held in online platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

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 including the TLP008 Student Social Media policy and FSP002 Discrimination Bullying Harassment Policy. All Policies and Procedures can be found here.

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 and the Assessment Style Guides and Formatting guide on myCMI 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 myCMI.

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 myCMI 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. Extensions must be applied for and approved in accordance with the Assessment Policy and Procedures and any other published procedures found on the School website.
Applications must be made via the appropriate form before the due date and submitted to the Unit Coordinator. An extension is valid only after it has been approved by the Unit Coordinator.

See myCMI 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. You should first discuss your situation with your Course Coordinator before applying. Please see the Assessment Policy and Procedures found on the School website for more information. Please see myCMI for 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 granted special consideration. The penalty for late submission or non-submission of in-class tasks is usually 100% of the mark.

See also: Late Assessment Submissions on myCMI.

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 study, skills or experience.

See myCMI for more information on how to apply for RPL or credit transfer.

Marking Scales & Grade Definitions

You can view Cairnmillar's grade-mark schema on myCMI.

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 myCMI 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 myCMI for more details.

Course Progress

Please see 'Academic Integrity and Progress Review Hearings' on myCMI 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. Detailed supporting information, guides and forms can be found on the student website, myCMI.

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 myCMI

Academic & Writing Support for Students

Please see 'English and Academic Writing Support' and 'APA Support and Study Skills' on myCMI

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 myCMI and our public website. Tuition fees and conditions are published on our website, see Tuition Fees. Please see Fees and FEE-HELP FAQs on myCMI 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 Conditions.

See myCMI 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 of study at least at a PASS level;
- have all placement documentation up to date, signed off, and uploaded to myPlacement;
- submit the relevant intention to graduate form by the due date.

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.

For more information see: Completion and Conferral on myCMI

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 Library and research skills can be made through the Library.

Please visit the Library page on myCMI 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 myCMI.

Student Email and Canvas Announcements

Students are provided with a Cairnmillar student email and are required to check this account regularly while enrolled. See: Accessing your Cairnmillar Student Email on myCMI for full details.

Students should also regularly check or sign up for email reminders on Canvas Announcements and review the regular Student Newsletter.

Computer & Printer Access

Each student has their own personal OneDrive account which can be accessed across any computer.

Please see 'Computer Access at Cairnmillar' for more information.

Please see 'Printing/Copying at Cairnmillar' on myCMI for more information.