

Introduction to the Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) Degree

Thank you for taking the time to consider placement opportunities for students of The Cairnmillar Institute as part of their Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) degree program. The Cairnmillar Institute and staff wish to facilitate an enjoyable and rewarding professional journey for our students and placement partners. Our courses are delivered by experienced practitioners and the Institute's approach to teaching is based firmly on practice with an emphasis on skills development. This letter aims to provide information on this new and innovative degree program to establish a successful placement partnership.

About the course

The Cairnmillar Institute Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) degree is accredited by the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC) as a standalone AQF level 9 two-year (part-time) program leading to professional competencies in clinical psychology. This course is designed for psychologists who hold general registration with the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA) and who wish to gain a qualification in clinical psychology. Entrants into the course are required to demonstrate:

- General registration without conditions,
- Twelve months practice experience post gaining general registration (unless they have an existing MPP qualification),
- They meet APAC level three professional competencies assessed during the application process and referee check.

All students are required to hold current psychology registration, a working with children check (names differ across states) and a police check (renewed annually). Students enrolled in the course will be covered by the Cairnmillar Institute's professional indemnity insurance for approved educational activities (e.g., placements). Upon successful completion of this course, graduates will be eligible for the PsyBA registrar program in clinical psychology.

The coursework subjects of this degree are:

- Clinical Psychology: Theory and Practice
- Advanced Assessment for Clinical Psychologists
- Psychopathology and Intervention for Adults
- Psychopathology and Intervention for Children and Youth

About placements

Placements at Cairnmillar are a key component required for the successful completion of the degree. They are seen as learning opportunities for students to gain experience integrating theory and practice and developing graduate level professional competencies safely and ethically.

During the program, students will undertake two external field placements and gain a minimum of 750 hours of placement experience. Each placement aims to maximise the students' exposure to a diverse

range of clinical psychology experiences. Students will be expected to engage in direct clinical psychological work with a variety of client presentations across the lifespan, in both acute and community settings. For each placement, students will need to have their practice observed directly by a Board-approved supervisor. In addition, for one of the two placements, they will need the opportunity to administer a standardized psychometric assessment, where clinically indicated, and complete a psychological assessment case report. Alternatively, they will complete an intervention-based case report.

Students in this program are encouraged to source their placements independently. All placements are assessed for suitability as clinical psychology placements within this accredited program. To ensure that placements provide the required learning opportunities, Cairnmillar complies with various guidelines developed by APAC and the PsyBA.

Placement requirements

The following outlines the hours, supervision, and assessment requirements for placements.

1. Hours

In total, students are required to complete a **minimum of 750 placement hours across all placement settings which includes at least 300 direct client contact hours.**

Placement A (CLP664) and Placement B (CLP665) are two equal length placements of 50 days (total 375 hours), and students require a minimum of 150 direct client contact hours. All placement clients must be new clients. Students are required to undertake work with adults, children and families, people with complex presentations and assessment work. In order to provide sufficient time in the placement day for client-related placement activity (e.g., case reports, reading, logbook completion etc), we require that the student's daily client-contact generally not exceed 4 hours. Placements must be a minimum of 15 hours (2 days) and a maximum of 22.5 hours (3 days) a week.

2. Supervision

Students will ordinarily receive all of their required supervision hours from Cairnmillar supervisors. In rare instances where a specialised agency's risk policies require in-house supervision, students may receive a combination of agency-provided individual supervision and CMI group supervision. Supervision requirements include a minimum of one hour of supervision per day (7.5 hours) of placement for the first 200 hours of Placement A. Following this, supervision for the remainder of Placement A and for all Placement B is a minimum of one hour of supervision per two days (15 hours) of placement. Supervisors are required to be approved by PsyBA and hold endorsement as a clinical psychologist. A minimum of 50% is required to be individual supervision and up to 50% can be in group supervision format. Students will need to use time within a placement day for supervision.

3. Assessment tasks

In addition to the above requirements, the following tasks are required to be completed in Placement A and Placement B:

- Placement/supervisor agreement

- 1 mental status examination and formulation presentation (to supervisor)
- 1 case report (assessment or intervention – must not be duplicated)
- 2 supervisor observations (including case note sighted)
- Mid and end of placement reviews
- Approved timesheets/logbook (via Sonia)

Thank you for taking the time to consider this placement opportunity. We hope that this information, alongside your discussions with our students, is helpful in supporting successful placement opportunities. Please contact the Placement Coordinators via email if you require any additional information (pc-postreg@cairnmillar.edu.au).



Professor Jon Mason
Course Coordinator
Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration)



Professor Linda Byrne
Dean, Faculty of Psychology, Counselling & Psychotherapy