

DLCPS95/001



Department of Psychology

INFORMATION BROCHURE: MA CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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	Page
1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.....	3
2. SELECTION.....	3
3. COURSE ORGANISER.....	3
4. THE COURSE.....	3
4.1 Theory.....	3
4.2 Practical.....	4
4.3 Research.. ..	4
5. PRESENTATION.....	5
5.1 Theoretical and Practical Training.....	5
5.2 The Dissertation.....	5
6. EXAMINATION.....	5
7. INTERNSHIP.....	5

INFORMATION BROCHURE: MA (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)

1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A student must hold an Honours degree in Psychology or its equivalent, but subject choice in the Honours course is not of critical concern except that research methodology is compulsory. A student should live within easy reach of the main campus of the University for the duration of the course as students are required to be available for training purposes five days a week from 08h30-13h00 sometimes until 17h00.

2. SELECTION

Due to the intensive nature of the course a limited number of students are selected annually. Applicants must be able to appear before a selection committee in Pretoria. Applications must be submitted on the prescribed form which may be obtained from the Department of Psychology or from the UNISA website (www.unisa.ac.za), and these applications must reach the University before the 30th of June of the year prior to the first year of the course. Applications must be sent to:

3. COURSE ORGANISER

Dr LJ Baloyi (Tel: 012-429-8267)
Course Organiser: MA (Clinical Psychology)
Department of Psychology
University of South Africa
PO Box 392
Unisa
0003

or contact the Course Administrative Officer, Mrs Matlhodi Lekgoathi, at 012-429-8239.

4. THE COURSE

The curriculum covers theoretical, practical and research training, and extends over two academic years **excluding** the internship. The three areas carry equal weight. A student who is already in possession of a masters or a doctors degree in Psychology may, with the approval of Senate, do an oral examination or submit a comprehensive report in the place of the dissertation of limited scope.

4.1 Theory

The following theoretical aspects are covered in weekly seminars and workshops:

- Psychotherapy (psychotherapy according to systemic and other theoretical models, including group psychotherapy).
- Assessment and diagnostics (intelligence measurement, personality assessment, behavioural observation, vocational guidance and report writing, DSM-IV and ICD 10).

- Health Psychology (neuropsychology including neuropsychological evaluation, forensic psychology).
- Marital and Family Therapy (therapeutic communication according to various theoretical models in marital and family contexts).
- Community Psychology (assessment of and interventions in community and transcultural contexts).
- Hypnotherapy (the application of hypnosis in various ways in psychotherapy).
- Research (clinical and process research designs and methods).
- Ethics (rules and procedures).

4.2 Practical

The following practical aspects apply:

- Application by students of psychological assessment techniques and models under supervision.
- Ongoing conduct of psychotherapy/counselling under live and *post hoc* supervision in clinic and hospital contexts.
- Clinics and case administration.
- Liaison with referral agents and other related professionals.
- About 160 hours of supervision in total.
- Training in report writing.
- Community engagement

4.3 Research

- Weekly research seminars addressing students` research designs and research progress.
- A dissertation of limited scope as well as a publishable article are planned and executed in collaboration with a supervisor.
- Completion of the course depends on acceptance of the dissertation and the accompanying article (by the end of the second year of training).

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Theoretical and practical training

It is assumed that students are well acquainted with basic theoretical knowledge as a result of their undergraduate and honours studies. In view of this assumption no formal theoretical lectures are offered in the process of training. However, weekly theoretical seminars take place during both years of the course. Relevant literature will be supplied for the seminars and for every aspect of the course.

The practical work consists of weekly workshops and regular supervised practice in assessment and therapeutic skills. During workshops practical demonstration and application of various techniques take place.

Students are required to do weekly supervised practical work at independent organisations or Unisa clinics. For supervisory and self-evaluating purposes audio-visual recordings of practical work are required.

5.2 The dissertation of limited scope

For the degree to be completed within the prescribed period, the dissertation has to be submitted for examination before the 30th of November of the second year of training. It has to be accompanied by a publishable scholarly article. In order to conform to these requirements it is essential that a dissertation title as well as the research proposal be approved and officially registered by September of the first year of study.

5.3 Assessment

As part of the evaluation process, students will be expected to submit individual and group assignments, portfolios and other related projects. These assignments will contribute 25% towards students' year mark.

6. EXAMINATION

In the middle and at the end of both academic years oral and written examinations are conducted. A student may not enter the second year of study unless the examination at the end of the first year had been passed satisfactorily. After successful completion of the theoretical and practical examinations at the end of the second year, as well as after the successful completion of a dissertation and article, the relevant MA degree is conferred.

7. INTERNSHIP

In order to conform to the requirements for professional registration laid down by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) a candidate must, in addition to the MA degree in Clinical Psychology, successfully complete an internship of 12 months' duration at an accredited training institution and to serve another 12 months community service at an approved and supervised site. The internship is **not** part of the MA (Clinical Psychology) course, but is a requirement for registration of the HPCSA. Unless the chair of the department rules otherwise, the course and the internship may **not** be done concurrently.