

**MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (Coursework)  
(Selection Degree) (98511)**

**INFORMATION BROCHURE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for taking an interest in our MA in Clinical Psychology Programme at the University of South Africa. Our programme is comprehensive and runs over a two-year full time (face-to-face) period. Our MA Clinical Psychology Degree is a professional degree that leads to registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as a Clinical Psychologist (under the auspices of the HPCSA, provided that you adhere to all the requirements of both the academic institution (Unisa) and the HPCSA, including that you pass and successfully complete the MA degree, successfully complete a 12-month internship at an accredited institution, pass the HPCSA board exam and complete a 12-month community service year).

**2. 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 and psychopathology is compulsory. The candidate must have obtained a minimum of **60%** average for their honours in psychology degree to be eligible to apply. According to the HPCSA, candidates with a criminal record, or criminal charges against them, are not eligible to apply, and therefore cannot be admitted to the programme. You will be required to submit a police clearance certificate with your application (no third party certificates will be accepted). A candidate should live within easy reach of the main campus of the University of South Africa in Muckleneuk, Pretoria, for the duration of the course as students are required to be available for training purposes five days a week, from Monday to Friday from 08h00-until the close of the working day.

**3. APPLICATIONS**

Applications for the MA Clinical Psychology Masters Programme open on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2020, and closes promptly on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2020, 16h00. Please apply online, and ensure that you submit all the necessary documentation (you will be informed what documents to submit in the online application). No hard copy applications will be accepted. An incomplete application will not be considered. You can access the online application at [https://unisapsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a4X2d88Gj7gIng1](https://unisapsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a4X2d88Gj7gIng1) and the referee forms at [https://unisapsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1YLHcA29DnWLACF](https://unisapsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1YLHcA29DnWLACF).



#### 4. SELECTION

Due to the intensive nature of the course, only a limited number of students are selected annually (approximately 10 annually). This section attempts to outline the selection procedures in a transparent manner. Understandably, the selection process can be stressful and challenging, however, in order to ensure a fair process, the selection procedures are rigorous.

Students who are interested in applying for the course must complete the online application form first and ensure that all the relevant documentation is submitted. You will be guided through the online application process and will be asked to submit supporting documents. Remember, incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

The first round of selections entails a thorough review of application forms by several members of the selection and training team. This is our first introduction to you as potential applicants, and so keep this in mind when you complete the application form. Applicants who are short-listed from their applications will be invited for the second round of selection interviews to be held at the main campus in Muckleneuk, Pretoria. Being short-listed at this stage does not imply, nor guarantee a successful application. The initial group invited to round two will be split into two smaller groups, each group will then be interviewed either on the Monday or the Tuesday. Applicants will be informed as to the relevant day that they should be present for the second round of the selection process should they have been short-listed. If successful, applicants from both groups (Monday and Tuesday groups) will then be invited back to attend round three of selections, which will be held on Wednesday. Only those applicants who are short-listed on the Wednesday will be invited back for the fourth round of selections to be held on Thursday (and possibly Friday). We will continue the selection process until a final decision has been made as to the successful applicants. A full week, Monday to Friday, is reserved for the selection process in Pretoria, and so applicants therefore need to make themselves available for the entire week should they be invited for the follow up rounds. Selection week will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020. The interviews conducted on campus range from group interviews, group activities, written tasks and possibly individual interviews. These are at the discretion of the selection and training team. Remember, being short-listed on any given day does not imply, nor guarantee a successful application.

Due to the significantly large number of students who apply, you are not guaranteed a place in the course even if you meet the minimum requirements. Our selection process involves scrutiny of the application forms, your academic record, the referee letters, and potential candidate's performance in the selection interviews. In addition, we ensure that we adhere to policies of transformation and diversity in selecting the final successful group of applicants.

Application forms and referee forms can be accessed online via the Unisa, Masters and Doctoral Degrees (Selection Degrees) page, ([https://unisapsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a4X2d88Gi7qInq1](https://unisapsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a4X2d88Gi7qInq1)). All applications must be done online, and no hard-copy applications will be

accepted. Referee forms can be accessed online at

[https://unisapsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1YLHcA29DnWLACF](https://unisapsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1YLHcA29DnWLACF)

Applications must reach the University **by no later** than 16:00 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. Late applications will not be considered. Also note, it is your responsibility to ensure that the referee forms have been submitted. An incomplete application will not be considered.

## THE COURSE

The curriculum covers theoretical, practical and research training, and extends over two full-time academic years, **excluding internship**. The three areas carry equal weight and therefore all three need to be successfully completed and passed. A student who is already in possession of a masters or doctoral degree in Psychology may, with the approval of Senate, submit a comprehensive research report in the place of the dissertation of limited scope. All modules (theoretical, practical and research) must be passed with a minimum of 50%. Students may be excluded from the program at any time on the grounds of unsatisfactory academic progress, unethical behaviour, and/or behaviour considered to be inappropriate for professional psychology practice.

Due to the demands of the course, successful applicants are not permitted to do any other full-time or part-time work during the 2 years of the programme. In addition, you are responsible for funding your studies. This means that you need sufficient funds for items such as rent, household expenses and groceries, daily travel to Unisa and the weekly clinics, study registration, books, computer equipment, internet access and printing. Unisa bursaries are only available in the second year of study, but only if you have passed **both** the first year of the course, as well as the proposal module (MPCHS91) successfully. Access to a bursary is not guaranteed and you should plan accordingly.

### **The Programme Coordinator is Dr Nikki Themistocleous (Ph.D.)**

Department of Psychology

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### **The Programme Administrator is Mrs Endriette Meyer**

Department of Psychology

[meyerew@unisa.ac.za](mailto:meyerew@unisa.ac.za)

### **The Postgraduate Assistance is Ms Thandiwe Ndaba**

Department of Psychology

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## 4.1 THEORY

The theoretical aspects are covered in weekly lectures, seminars and workshops:

- Psychotherapy (child, individual, group and family psychotherapy according to the systemic and other theoretical models)
- Psychological Assessment (test administration, scoring, interpretation and report writing with regards to various psychological instruments for example: intelligence measurements and personality assessment)

- Psychopathology and Psychodiagnostics (diagnosis according to the DSM-5 classification system and the ICD-10 classification system, as well as explanations of psychopathology according to various perspectives).
- Neuropsychology (introduction to neuropsychology and neuropsychological assessment and report writing)
- African Epistemology (integration of African perspectives to psychology and health/pathology, research, and community, etc)
- Forensic psychology (introduction to psycho-legal work)
- Community Psychology (assessment of and interventions in community and transcultural contexts)
- Research (various research designs and methods)
- Ethics (rules and procedures according to Health Professions Council of South Africa)

## **4.2 PRACTICAL**

This includes the application of all the theoretical aspects covered in 4.1 in various contexts, such as:

- Unisa Psychotherapy Clinic
- Community based practical sites in and around Pretoria
- Psychiatric and Psycho-legal practical sites
- Clinic and case management
- Liaison with referral agents and other related professionals
- Training in report writing
- Group dynamics through experiential group processes

All practical work is done under strict supervision by the course trainers.

## **4.3 RESEARCH**

- Weekly research seminars focusing on the theoretical and practical aspects of research are conducted during your training
- In addition, first year clinical students will be required to present their research proposal defenses; and second year clinical students will be required to present their research to a panel of trainers
- A dissertation of limited scope is planned and executed in collaboration with a supervisor. All students are encouraged to complete a publishable article based on the dissertation of limited scope
- Completion of the degree depends on the acceptance of the dissertation, in conjunction with passing the theoretical and practical modules with a minimum of 50% each.

## **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. The practical work consists of weekly workshops and regular supervised practice in assessment and therapeutic skills. During workshops, practical demonstration and application of various theories and techniques take place. Students are required to do weekly supervised practical work at the above mentioned sites (these sites are subject to change). 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 October of the second year of training. 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 no later than 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, written tests, other related projects, as well as attend oral examinations. These assignments will contribute 40% towards students' year mark. In addition, candidate's progression and performance is monitored throughout the year. Trainers meet regularly to discuss, evaluate and monitor each candidate's performance.

## **6. EXAMINATION**

Throughout the year candidates are expected to submit formative assessments (for e.g. assignments, class tests and projects) that contribute towards the year mark. 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 of the first year is 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, 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. Please refer to [www.hpcsa.co.za](http://www.hpcsa.co.za) for details of accredited internship and community placement sites. The internship is not part of the MA (Clinical Psychology) course, but is a requirement for registration of the HPCSA. The course and the internship may not be done concurrently. Please note that according to the HPCSA rules and regulations, interns must have completed **both** their degree (which implies successful completion of the training and research dissertation) as well as the board exam before commencing with the community service year.

For more information please contact the course administrator, Mrs Endriette Meyer at [meyerew@unisa.ac.za](mailto:meyerew@unisa.ac.za) or (012) 429-8307.