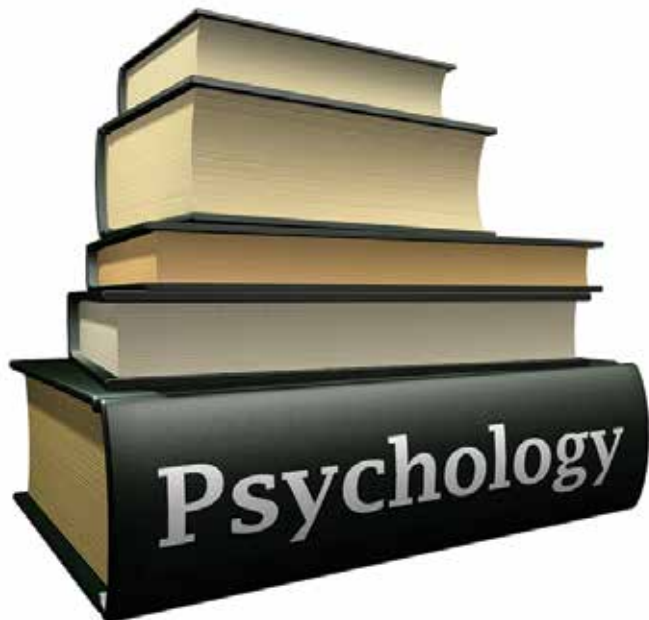


Faculty of Humanities
Department of Psychology
Career opportunities with psychology as a discipline



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Faculty of Humanities

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About the Department of Psychology

Introduction

The courses offered by the Department of Psychology aim to provide extensive academic training during which we focus on developing critical conceptual skills and in-depth understanding of the discipline. The purpose of receiving training in psychology is ultimately not only to gain insight into the fascinating field of human behaviour, but also to learn how this knowledge can be applied in different personal and professional contexts. In this brochure, we include information regarding the undergraduate modules in psychology, as well as the honours and different master's study programmes.

Background

The Department currently presents first-, second- and third-year Psychology modules at the undergraduate level which can be combined with various study programmes within the Faculty. In order to gain entrance into our BSocSci(Hons) in Psychology study programme, students should structure their study programmes in such a way that they can take Psychology as one of their majors up to third-year level. When applying for a specific degree, students should ensure that they choose elective modules, including Psychology, up to third-year level. A study programme that usually works well with Psychology is a BA (General) with Psychology as a major, or a BSc (Human Physiology, Genetics and Psychology) degree. In addition to the honours programme, we also present four master's programmes (Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology and Research Psychology (all coursework), MA (Psychology) (research by dissertation only), and two doctoral programmes (DPhil (Psychology) and PhD).

Psychology as a science

The discipline of psychology not only focuses on helping people in their different life situations but is also widely accepted as a science. As a science, psychology seeks to understand human behaviour in different contexts. However, this in itself would not be enough; it is also essential to apply this knowledge to the practical problems of daily life. Therefore, in its professional application, psychology aims to improve people's quality of life in the wide variety of contexts in which they might find themselves.

Undergraduate modules in Psychology:

Prerequisites

There are no specific school subjects that are required to study psychology, but students need to adhere to the minimum requirements of the study programme for which they apply. Students should adhere to the admission requirements as stipulated by the University of Pretoria to qualify for admission while ensuring that their chosen degree allows them to take Psychology as a major up to their third year of study.

Students who want to major in Psychology at postgraduate level must take all the Psychology (SLK modules) and certain research modules (RES modules) up to third-year level.

When and where to apply

Applications open annually in March and close either on 30 June or 30 September (depending on the degree applied for). Applications may be completed online at www.up.ac.za (follow the "Apply for Admission" link on the right of the page), or application forms may be collected from the Client Service Centre on the Hatfield Campus.

Students may register for modules at any point during their studies, except where other requirements prevent them from doing so. Students may take one or all of the modules presented in each year level, or choose only those modules prescribed by their training programme (if applicable).

The following modules are on offer in the different year levels:

First-year Psychology modules: 12 credits each

SLK 110 – Psychological Perspectives and Personology

This module is a general orientation of psychology. Various theoretical approaches in psychology are introduced, and the development of psychology as a science is discussed. Selected themes from everyday life are explored and integrated with psychological principles. The module also focuses on major personality theories. An introduction is given to the various paradigmatic approaches in psychology.

SLK 120 – Biological and Cognitive Processes

This module introduces the student to a basic knowledge and understanding of the biological and cognitive basis of human behaviour. The module addresses the key concepts and terminology related to the biological and cognitive subsystems, the rules and principles guiding biological psychology, and identification of the interrelatedness of different biological systems and subsystems. Various cognitive processes are studied, including perception, memory, thinking, intelligence and creativity. Illustrations are given of various thought processes, such as critical, analytic and integrative thinking.

Second-year Psychology modules: 20 credits each

SLK 210 – Developmental Psychology

In this module human development, from conception through to adolescence and adulthood, is discussed with reference to various psychological theories. Incorporated are the developmental changes related to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social functioning of the individual and the context of work. Traditional and contemporary theories regarding human development are studied in order to address the key issues relating to development across a human lifespan.

SLK 220 – Social Psychology

This module gives a social-psychological perspective on interpersonal and group processes. Themes that are covered include communication, pro-social behaviour, social influence and persuasion, political transformation, violence and group behaviour.

Third-year Psychology modules: 30 credits each

SLK 310 – Psychopathology

This module deals with the identification of abnormal behaviour in children based on knowledge of normal childhood development. It offers an introduction to the study of various models pertaining to abnormal behaviour, how it is understood, and the application of basic concepts in child psychopathology. This module also provides an introduction to the psychopathology and symptomatology of adult abnormal behaviour. Terminology, definitions of abnormal behaviour, problems with regard to diagnosis, labelling and myths regarding abnormal behaviour are discussed. Neurosis as a specific mental disorder is studied critically from a multidimensional perspective, including intrapsychic, interpersonal and social-cultural explanations.

SLK 320 – Community and Critical Psychology

This module deals with a community psychological perspective on human behaviour and psychological interventions. It focuses on themes such as definitions of key concepts, principles and aims of community psychology. The application of these principles within South African society, including social change and psychological problems, are investigated from a cross-cultural perspective. It also critically explores the contribution of various perspectives in psychology. The impact of earlier theoretical frameworks on contemporary perspectives is discussed, as are the implications of these ideas for practical initiatives while focusing on mental health in communities.

Assessment structure

Full-time modules at the first-, second- and third-year levels are presented in both English and Afrikaans. No telematic training is offered, although computer-based testing is done. Each module is presented over a period of 14 weeks, with two classes per week, two tests and/or an assignment and a written examination in June/November.

Possible module combinations with Psychology

Numerous disciplines combine well with Psychology, from first to third year. Disciplines that can be effectively combined with Psychology are criminology, sociology, social work, languages, drama, philosophy and history. Students who intend to apply for the Higher Diploma in Education (with a view to teaching) should consider taking a school language and/or history as one of their electives.

What can I do with psychology?

Most first degrees are known as formative degrees. This means that they are not designed for a specific career, but rather to provide learners with skills that can be used across many different fields. These skills include (but are not limited to) expressing oneself through writing, fundamental research and critical thinking. Once students complete their degree they can choose to either study in a specific but different direction, or continue with psychology. Students can use their third year of studying psychology to enrich or complement a degree, other training or employment in areas such as journalism, social research, education, political science and many others. Students may also apply to complete an honours degree in psychology, provided they comply with the selection criteria.

The honours programme: BSocSci(Hons) in Psychology

BSocSci(Hons) in Psychology provides advanced academic and research training in psychology, equipping students to proceed with their master's programmes in any of the structured (professional) or academic programmes, while transferring their skills to a variety of work contexts and making a contribution to society.

Prerequisites and duration

In order to apply for the BSocSci(Hons) in Psychology, students should have a first degree with Psychology as a major or core component, and above-average marks (70% and higher). The honours programme in psychology, which is available only in English, is a full-time one-year programme and lectures are presented only during working hours (daytime).

When and where to apply

Applications open annually in August and close on 30 September. Applications can be completed online at www.up.ac.za (follow the "Apply for Admission" link on the right of the page), or the relevant forms may be collected from the Client Service Centre on the Main Campus. Honours students also need to complete the Departmental Application Form located at www.up.ac.za/psych/honours.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students need to have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria for any of the postgraduate study programmes. Please visit www.saqa.org.za for more information.

Programme content

Students can apply for selection for professional or academic training at master's level with the following honours modules (three core and five elective modules):

SLK 751: Theories and Paradigms in Psychology (core)

In this module five dominant paradigms in psychology are discussed, including (neo) behaviouristic, (neuro) cognitivist, psycho-analytic, humanist and ecosystemic, as well as typical theories emanating from these paradigms. The philosophical underpinnings of these paradigms and theories are explored, specifically with reference to modernism and postmodernism. Emphasis is placed on the praxis of quantitative and qualitative theory-building against the background of the five dominant paradigms.

SLK 761: Research Essay (core)

The research essay constitutes an integrated assessment of all knowledge offered in this learning programme. Students will be required to write a research essay on an approved topic within a specific context, selected as an elective component.

SLK 764: Research Methodology (core)

The focus is on gaining the knowledge and skills that are required to understand the empirical research process as applied in psychology. The following aspects are included: theoretical and epistemological assumptions in psychological research, problem and hypothesis formulation, basics of measurement, control in research, threats to validity and research designs. The module also incorporates statistical methods applicable in research, as well as the skills that are necessary to analyse qualitative data – all of which is aimed at providing students with greater skills within the realm of research.

SLK 752: Social Psychology (elective)

Selected themes are explored, amongst others social cognition, attitudes, persuasive communication and social influence, as well as the role of culture in human behaviour. These themes are applied to problems in the contemporary South African scene.

SLK 753: Community Psychology (elective)

The module focuses on the nature of community psychology, theoretical approaches, community settings, consultation, interventions and the design and management of effective programmes. It includes the planning, coordination and facilitation of workshops, and a practical component based in the community.

SLK 755: Psychological Assessment (elective)

This is a theoretical module that deals with the assessment of human behaviour within various contexts. It does not include the professional training that will qualify students as psychometrists, but includes topics such as the multidimensional nature, purpose, and characteristics of assessment; critical issues in psychological assessment within the South African context; the reasons for statutory control of psychological assessment and the ethics of assessment; the appropriate use of different kinds of psychometric and assessment methods and instruments; and the process of integration of assessment results and report writing.

SLK 756: Psychopathology (elective)

The module deals with abnormal behaviour and symptomatology related to various mental disorders, including intrapsychic, interpersonal and sociocultural dysfunctions and pathology. The DSM IV classification system and multidimensional perspectives are critically discussed with regard to specific disorders.

SLK 760: Neuropsychology (elective)

The module examines brain-behaviour relationships to develop an understanding of the components of complex psychological processes. Various neuropsychological assessment techniques are also introduced.

SLK 762: Cognitive Psychology (elective)

This module addresses intermediate, well-formed and systematic knowledge and understanding of cognitive processes in order to provide evidence-based solutions for topical issues related to cognitive psychology. The module includes an evaluation of current scholarly debates and discourses in cognitive psychology, an analysis of contemporary contexts, and a critical evaluation of topical issues relating to cognitive functioning.

What can I do with my honours in psychology?

Students may register for a practicum in psychometry or counselling, but will need to consult with the HPCSA regarding additional modules that may be needed to meet the requirements for a chosen area of training. Students may also apply for the MA (Clinical Psychology), MA (Counselling Psychology), MA (Research Psychology) or MA (Psychology) degrees.

Master's coursework programmes: Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers three directed master's courses. Admittance to any one of these courses depends on a selection process and is currently presented over a period of two years (full-time). The Department consists of a number of dedicated professionals – all experts in their fields and with extensive experience in training – who offer comprehensive theoretical and practical programmes aimed at equipping students to function effectively as psychologists in the South African context.

Prerequisites: master's programmes in psychology

- MA (Clinical) and MA (Counselling Psychology): a minimum average student grade of 65% for their honours in psychology and practical experience in the field of psychology
- MA Research Psychology: a minimum average student grade of 65% for their honours in psychology

When and where to apply

Applications open in March/April and close on 30 June annually. Initially students may only apply by completing the Departmental Application Forms that are available on www.up.ac.za/psych/MACourse. Further information will be released as the process progresses.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students must have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria for any programme on the postgraduate level. Please visit www.saqa.org.za for more information.

MA (Clinical Psychology)

The programme in clinical psychology aims to reflect the vital link between a changing society and the broad therapeutic needs of our communities, while reconciling the South African context with international development. The content, method of teaching and practical opportunities offered in this course reflect the Department's intention to respond to these demands.

On completion of the course, and after passing the national board examination at the required level, graduates may register as clinical psychologists with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

The course: (presented over two years – full-time)

- The first two years involve full-time theoretical lectures, the completion of a mini-dissertation and practical training.
- Upon completion of the two years' training within the University, students are expected by the HPCSA to complete an accredited 12-month internship before writing the Professional Board examination.
- Clinical psychology graduates are also expected to complete one year of community service as a requirement of the National Department of Health before they are allowed to register as independent practitioners.

MA first year: theoretical and practical training

The first year aims to give students adequate theoretical and practical training for the work done by a clinical psychologist. The course focuses on individual, group and community processes within specific contexts, covering both intrapsychic and systemic processes from various theoretical perspectives. The Department encourages a complex multicontextual and multicultural approach to the understanding of human problems. Intensive psychodiagnostic and psychometric training is also an important aspect of the course.

The following courses are presented in the first year:

- Psychopathology is approached from various perspectives, including traditional intrapsychic and postmodern systemic perspectives. Cultural issues in the field are also addressed.
 - Psychological assessment includes training in and the application of various psychological tests, including neuropsychological testing.
 - Psychotherapy orientations include psychodynamic, postmodern and
 - ecosystemic/family therapy models for working with children, individuals, groups and families.
 - In addition, the Department offers introductory courses in research methodology and neuropsychology. Students are given the opportunity to get involved in community projects.
- *Please note: Courses may change from year to year

Expectations of the study programme

The programme expects students to be active participants in the learning process. Continuous assessment takes place, including practical presentations.

Practical work

During the year, students do practical work at specific institutions in the Gauteng area. These placements may include psychiatric hospitals, the Itsoeng Clinic and other community sites. All work is conducted under the supervision of the clinical personnel. Weekly supervision is undertaken with all students as an integral part of the practical training.

MA second year: mini-dissertation and practical work

Apart from practical training and workshops, the student must complete a dissertation, after which graduation can take place.

Internship

Students themselves are responsible for obtaining and completing an accredited 12-month internship (institution must be registered/approved by the HPCSA) once they have completed the academic programme and the mini-dissertation.

Community service

Graduates are required to complete 12 months of community service prior to registering as independent practitioners. Candidates can apply at the Department of Health for positions available throughout the country. Community service may begin once the requirements are met (by successfully completing the 12-month internship).

Research

An approved mini-dissertation based on research is required as part of the training programme. The dissertation represents 50% of the final mark for the degree. Students complete the dissertation (starting in their first year) under the guidance of a supervisor. The mini-dissertation must be completed before students commence their internship.

Work opportunities

Registered psychologists can move into private practice or choose to work as psychologists in hospitals, mental health clinics, industries and university departments.

MA Counselling Psychology

Counselling psychologists play a crucial role in the development and improvement of the psychological well-being of people. The counselling psychology training process focuses on researcher and practitioner training with a focus on psychological research, psychological assessment, psychological counselling, psychological education and professional development.

The course

This programme is offered full-time over a two-year period:

- The first year involves basic academic education and practical training, while the second year involves advanced academic education and practical training
- During the two years, students also write a research proposal, conduct a research project and write a research report (mini-dissertation)
- Once the two years have been successfully completed, students complete a 12-month internship, after which they write the Professional Board of Psychology examination to register as counselling psychologists with the HPCSA

The training focuses on:

- conducting psychological assessment in various contexts
- facilitating psychological counselling at various organisations
- developing and implementing psychological educational programmes in various contexts
- self-awareness and a willingness to be introspective

The first and second year:

The MA (Counselling Psychology) programme entails theoretical work, practical training and professional development:

Theoretical work

- A. Fundamentals of Psychology (core module)
- B. Psychological Assessment (core module)
- C. Counselling Psychology (core module)
- D. Community Psychology (elective module)
- E. Sport Psychology (elective module)

Practical training

During this programme students do practical work, for example at Student Services (UP and TUT), Stabillis and TuksSport (Pty) Ltd.

Professional development

Students also participate in three week-long professional development processes as part of their professional development.

Research project

Students undertake a research project under the guidance of a chosen promoter. The dissertation contributes 50% of the final mark for the degree. The research project must be completed within the two-year period of the MA programme.

Internship

Once students have completed their theoretical work, practical training, professional development and research project, they will be allowed to start an internship. The full-time internship of one year is served at an institution approved by the HPCSA. The Department of Psychology facilitates the placement of students at internship organisations.

Work opportunities

Counselling psychologists work in settings such as state and semi-state organisations, hospitals, clinics, private sector, academic institutions, the consultancy industry or private practice.

MA (Research Psychology)

South African society presents many challenges which require the expertise, social responsibility and creativity of researchers. The knowledge and skills needed to make a difference to our society through the implementation of workable solutions are taught in this course and graduates will be able to make valuable contributions within a multidisciplinary context. Topical themes such as media research, conflict, intergroup relations, community development, neuropsychology, the research process and research methods are investigated. On completion of the course, which includes a mini-dissertation, and the internship, candidates are eligible to register as research psychologists with the HPCSA.

Course format and content

The course is available as a web- and a contact-based course and covers two years of full-time study. Internet access and advanced computer skills are a prerequisite. During the first year students will be exposed to online lectures, contact sessions, workshops and practical training. A dissertation will be completed in the second year.

The first year: contact sessions

The course is divided into two broad areas, which are examined in June and November of the first year.

A. Research methodology and theory

- Qualitative and quantitative methods
- Research procedures
- Computer applications
- Systems theory

B. Fields of application

- Community psychology
- Social psychology
- Cross-cultural psychology
- Cognitive psychology
- Media/marketing research
- Interpersonal/group
- Neuropsychology processes

C. Practical

Practical experience of effective project management is obtained by participation in several individual and group projects, which include the following:

- project proposals
- budget planning
- data-gathering techniques
- data-gathering procedures
- data capturing
- data analysis/interpretation
- report writing, presentation skills and public speaking

The second year: dissertation and article

In addition to the tests, assignments and examinations, a dissertation and draft article must be completed, after which graduation can take place.

Internship

The completion of the degree must be followed by an internship of 12 months, after which the student may register as a research psychologist. This internship in research psychology is offered at various institutions, such as the Military Psychological Institute (MPI), private-sector market-research organisations (eg AskAfrica) and other institutions such as Khulisa Management Services.

Work opportunities

Research psychologists are employed in a variety of sectors and industries, such as: government and semi-government institutions, the private sector, marketing research organisations, research institutions, academic institutions, or privately conducted research undertakings and consultancies.

Master's and doctoral programmes: MA, PhD and DPhil in Psychology

Admission requirements

For the MA (Psychology) degree, students are required to have obtained an honours degree with a minimum average mark of 60%, or honours status (awarded based on merit) in psychology before registration for this degree can proceed. The master's degree is awarded upon the successful completion of a full-length dissertation. The maximum period for completion of a master's degree is four years. For the doctoral degree, DPhil or PhD (Psychology), students are required to have a recognised master's degree in psychology with a minimum mark of 65% for the research component of the degree. The doctoral degree is awarded upon the successful completion of a full-length thesis and its oral defence. The maximum period for completion of a doctoral degree is five years.

Departmental admission requirements

Prospective students are required to apply to the Department for selection prior to officially applying to the University. The Department meets twice a year to evaluate such applications and to assign supervisors to students that have been accepted. Students may then register for a preparatory year during which they will work on a formal research proposal together with the assigned supervisor. Once the formal proposal has been officially approved by the Departmental Research Committee and the Faculty Postgraduate and Ethics Committees, the student may register for the degree. Master's and doctoral students are required to work on specific topics that fall within the Research Focus Areas of the Department (topics can only be approved if a supervisor with the necessary expertise is available). Furthermore, the Department will evaluate research potential according to such criteria as the ability of candidates to prepare a concept research proposal.

When and where to apply

Application deadlines are currently at the end of September and mid-January annually, but should be confirmed on www.up.ac.za/psych/MA&PhD.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students must have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria for either the academic MA or doctoral programmes.

Please visit www.saqa.org.za for more information.

Dissertation/thesis procedure

Once master's and doctoral students have been accepted by the Department, have been allocated a supervisor to work with and have registered, a formal proposal must be prepared. Certain procedures need to be followed for the proposal and the title of the study to be approved by the University. This applies to all dissertations and theses (including MA (Psychology), MA (Clinical Psychology), MA (Counselling Psychology) and MA (Research Psychology), DPhil and PhD). The flowchart document for Supervisors and Students for Approval of Research for a Dissertation/Thesis explains the steps that students should follow to get their research proposals approved. The flowchart is available at www.up.ac.za/psych/flowchart.

Additional information

Students enter into a formal relationship with the University and their supervisors. This relationship is formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). All students need to complete the MoU for Academic Supervision when they register, or no later than two months after registration.

The MoU can be obtained from www.up.ac.za/psych/MA&PhD.

Faculty clearance of research proposals and ethics

Once the Department has approved a research proposal it has to be approved by the Faculty Postgraduate Committee. An application for ethical clearance also has to be made to the Faculty Research Ethics Committee. The required formats/forms are available in the flowchart. More information is available on the Faculty Research webpage.

Appendix A: sample career opportunities (in short)

Career Opportunities with Psychology as a Major

Undergraduate: 3 years

What degree:

BA (General) with Psychology as a Major

Prerequisites:

- AP-Score of 30
- NO specific school subjects
- Comply with UP requirements

Modules:

Complete these modules if you want to apply for honours:

- SLK 110 and SLK 120
- SLK 210, SLK 220 and RES 210
- SLK 310, SLK 320 and RES 320

What next?

The BA is what is known as a formative degree. This means that it is not designed for a specific career purpose but aims to provide learners with skills which can be used across many different fields.

These skills include but are not limited to expressing yourself in writing, fundamental research and critical thinking. At this point you can choose to either, interrupt your studies, study in a specific but different direction or continue in psychology.

You can use your third year psychology to enrich or complement a degree or other training or employment in journalism; research; education; political science and many other fields. If you wish, you may also apply for the Honours in Psychology (follow the next route), but you need to comply with the selection criteria.

Honours: 1 year

What degree:

BSocSci Honours in Psychology

Prerequisites:

- Psychology modules up to 3rd year level
- Psychology modules minimum average of 70%
- Research modules passed up to 3rd year level

Some of these modules are presented during

Honours:

- Neuropsychology
- Community Psychology
- Psychological Assessment
- Psychology of Gender
- Social Psychology
- Psychopathology
- Research Essay
- Research Methodology
- Theories and Paradigms
- Cognitive Psychology

What next?

Register for a practicum in Psychometry, HIV/AIDS Counselling, Trauma Counselling or any of the other focus areas of the Registered Counsellor qualification.

If you decide to go this route you must enquire from the Professional Board for Psychology (HPCSA) what additional modules you might need, to meet their requirements for your chosen area of training.

If you wish, you may also apply for the Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology as offered by the University of Pretoria

Masters: 3 to 4 years

- Prerequisites:**
- Minimum of 4 years training in psychology (honours) with minimum average of 65%
 - Practical experience in the field of psychology recommended for selection in MA Clinical and Counselling Psychology

MA Clinical Psychology

Year ONE: Theoretical and practical training

Year TWO: Further practical training
Completion of dissertation

Year THREE: Internship (register as psychologists thereafter)

Year FOUR: Community service (this does not form part of qualification, but is a requirement by the Department of Health of South Africa)

MA Counselling Psychology

Year ONE: Theoretical and practical training

Year TWO: Further practical training
Completion of dissertation

Year THREE: Internship (register as psychologist thereafter)

MA Research Psychology

Year ONE: Theoretical and practical training

Year TWO: Further practical training
Completion of dissertation

Year THREE: Internship (register as psychologist thereafter)

Appendix B: the Psyche Society

For students by students
Psyche
We've got soul

What is Psyche?

Psyche is a student society within the Department of Psychology at UP that aims to enhance the academic, social and professional experiences of its members through the provision of valuable intra-departmental networks, participation in insightful seminars and discussion groups and engagement in practically oriented social empowerment initiatives.

Our Vision and Mission

Our vision is to enhance the academic, professional and social experiences of both students and academic staff within the Department of Psychology at UP by providing a medium for meaningful networking opportunities and practical experience while addressing pressing social concerns within the broader South African context. Our mission is to create a diverse nexus within the Department of Psychology at UP both with and between students, academic staff and outside professionals and organisations, by involving these parties in a united effort to alleviate the suffering of our needy fellow citizens so as to create benevolent and socially responsible health professionals in the future.

Join now and bring your passion to life!

How can I join?

Psyche is open to all students currently registered for any SLK module. In order to become a member simply email us at psychesociety.up@gmail.com or visit us at HB 12-8

What's in it for me?

At this point, you may be curious about the benefits of joining Psyche. Although Psyche provides students with a wide range of unforgettable experiences and invaluable skills, here is a list of some of its major benefits:

- It allows you to develop valuable professional networks in the department and with your peers
- It allows you to form friendships with students at every level of study in the Department
- You gain skills training outside of your studies
- You're afforded the opportunity to learn advanced skills in an interactive and informal setting
- You are linked to a network of prestigious psychological organizations
- You gain valuable practical experience through engagement in community work
- You are provided with a chance to impact the lives of those in need

Appendix C: Frequently asked questions

Where can I find more information (application forms, closing dates, etc) on the undergraduate, honours and masters' programmes in psychology?

Students should contact the Administrative Programme Coordinator, Mrs Juanita Haug via email at juanita.haug@up.ac.za or telephone on 012 420 4481 for more details. General information is also available on the web at www.up.ac.za/psych.

I would like to become a psychologist. What should I do next?

The student should have completed a master's degree in any one of the directed programmes in Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology. The student will have to register with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), write the HPCSA board exam, complete an internship and write a mini-dissertation. In addition, a student who has completed an MA (Clinical Psychology) will be required to complete a year of community service (refer to Appendix A).

Can I become a psychologist with my bachelor's, honours or academic master's degree?

No (refer to the paragraph above).

Do I need to take certain subjects in matric (Grade 12) if I want to study psychology?

No, but potential students need to comply with the AP Score and the University's admission requirements.

I want to become an industrial psychologist/educational psychologist. What do I do?

Contact the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (Industrial Psychology) and the Faculty of Education (Educational Psychology) for more information.

What could I do if I do not get selected for a professional training programme (such as the MA (Clinical Psychology))?

Students should not allow this to discourage them from exploring the numerous other options that are available after the completion of a bachelor's and/or honours degree as they have already learned many skills that are relevant to different work environments.

I studied at another university and have already passed certain modules.

Do I get credit?

Students from another university will need to present their academic record, the content of the curriculum they studied (in a yearbook or study guide), and consult with the undergraduate coordinator in the Department to receive credits (where applicable).

I want to become a neurologist/neuropsychiatrist/neuropsychologist/criminal profiler/crime-scene investigator (CSI)/child therapist/child psychologist. What should I do?

The directed MA degree programmes offered by this Department do not qualify students to register as any of the above. A student may complete the MA degree in Clinical Psychology and specialise as a child psychologist. However, this registration category does not exist at the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), so a student will not be able to register as a child psychologist – only as clinical psychologist.

When can I start practising in the field?

Registration with the HPCSA is required before practising in the field. The minimum qualification to qualify for an internship in any field of psychology is an honours degree in psychology. After that, students need to liaise with the HPCSA to ensure that they complete internships that will enable them to register as psychometrists. The honours programme does not automatically lead to registration. Only the directed master's degrees offered at the University of Pretoria qualify graduates to apply for registration with the HPCSA.

I am an international student and would like to study Psychology at the University of Pretoria.

Please contact the international student office: international.office@up.ac.za.

Is it easy to become a psychologist?

University entrance is governed by various rules and regulations. A student who has been admitted to bachelor's programme will be subjected to a selection procedure should he/she wish to gain entry into an honours programme. Subsequent MA courses (Clinical, Counselling and Research) proceed on the basis of selections. There is no automatic entry into these programmes and only a limited number of places are available in the postgraduate programmes.

How many years in total does it take to become a psychologist?

This depends on whether a student is selected every time he/she applies for admission to a programme:

- Three years are required for a bachelor's degree.
- One year is required to complete an honours degree.
- Two years are required for the MA (Clinical Psychology) degree (a one-year internship and another year of community work).
- Two years are required for the MA degrees in Counselling and Research (plus a one-year internship).

I completed some components of my degree a few years ago and would like to continue with the degree now. What should I do?

The last time the student studied in the field of psychology (undergraduate level) should not be more than five years ago. If more than five years have passed, the student will have to register for the Humanities Special (for non-degree purposes) and complete the two third-year Psychology modules, as well as certain research modules, in order to apply for admission to an honours programme in psychology.

I have a calling: I feel the need to help people. Should I become a psychologist?

A prospective student should carefully consider his/her options before deciding to become a psychologist and excluding other possibilities, since entry into the postgraduate courses is based on selection procedures. There are other avenues and other careers that offer opportunities for helping people.

For example, a student may use his/her counselling and communication skills to facilitate youth groups in discussing issues that confront them in their communities. Volunteering offers people excellent opportunities for developing practical skills and for networking with other organisations and people who might recognise their skills and offer them opportunities to work in areas that they had not previously considered.

The reason why we select only a limited number of students for the professional programmes in psychology:

These programmes require intensive training that can only be provided by suitably qualified academic staff. Since the Department does not have unlimited resources in terms of staff, only a few students are selected each year so that they can receive quality training and supervision.

Students who want to become child psychologists and/or work in the area of play therapy may find the following guidelines useful. The context in which individuals would like to work with children is an important consideration.

- Educational psychologists deal mostly with the problems encountered by children in the education context. Their tasks range from testing learners' intelligence, aptitude, interests and personality to assisting learners with learning problems and providing career guidance. They may also help teachers to develop greater awareness of the social factors that influence learners and provide guidance to parents.
- Clinical psychologists work directly with individuals at all developmental levels (including children), using a wide range of assessment and intervention methods to promote mental health and alleviate discomfort and maladjustment. Interventions in clinical psychology are directed at preventing, treating and correcting emotional conflicts, personality disturbances, psychopathology and the skills deficits underlying human distress or dysfunction. Graduates cannot register as child psychologists, but may specialise in the above two fields to work with children.
- The Department of Social Work offers a master's degree in social work, specialising in play therapy. For more information about this programme, minimum requirements and selection criteria, please contact Dr Liana le Roux: liana.leroux@up.ac.za.

Would I be able to practise as a counsellor/psychologist in another country?

Educational systems differ and each country – and even regions and provinces within a country – has different requirements for individuals wanting to practise as counsellors and psychologists. Whereas in some countries a person will need a doctorate to practise as a psychologist, a master's degree is sufficient in others. The professional board of a country will be able to provide details on such requirements.

Where can I complete my internship year (clinical, counselling and research)?

Students apply for their internship through the Department of Psychology or by applying posts that are advertised in the media. The Department of Psychology has contact with various approved centres, but students are free to complete their internships at institutions of their own choice. Applications will be dealt with on merit. Any organisation offering an internship related to a student's particular field of study must be approved.

Will I be allowed to attend selected master's-level modules in Psychology if I am not registered for a master's degree in the Department?

Unfortunately not. Only selected candidates in the master's programmes are allowed to attend the modules.

Departmental contact details

Undergraduate, honours and MA Clinical, Counselling and Research Psychology information

For information regarding the above programmes, please do not hesitate to contact Juanita Haug:

Tel: 012 420 4481

Email: juanita.haug@up.ac.za

MA, PhD and DPhil programmes in Psychology

For more information on the process or to submit applications, please contact the Secretary of the Research Committee, Ms Angela Thomas:

Tel: 012 420 2923

Email: angela.thomas@up.ac.za

To obtain the University regulations and academic registration forms, please contact Miss Petru Woest at Student Administration, Faculty of Humanities:

Tel: 012 420 2736

Email: petru.woest@up.ac.za