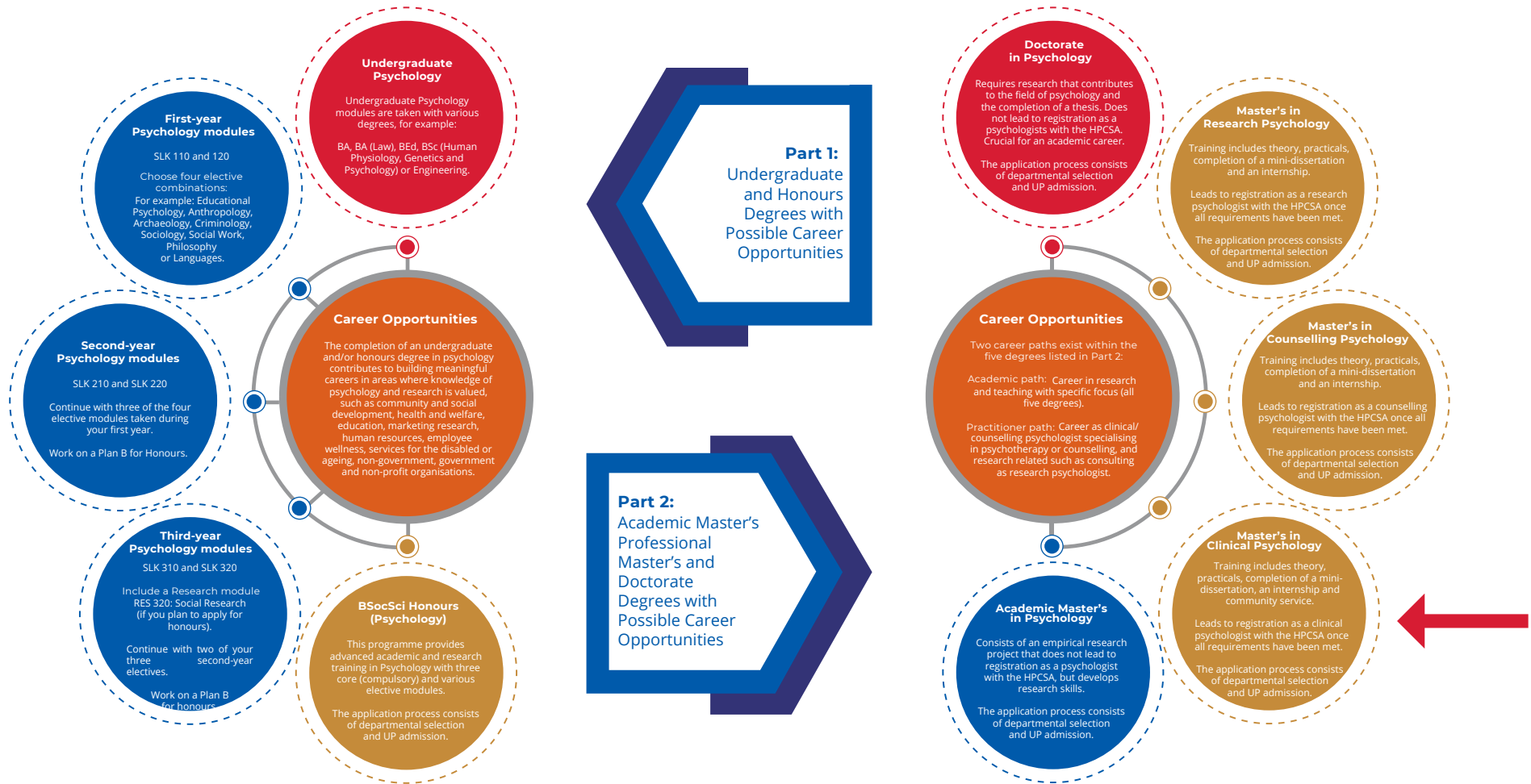


Degree and Career Opportunities in Psychology

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Information about the Professional MA Clinical Psychology Programme

What is a Clinical Psychologist

Clinical Psychology is a specialist category within professional Psychology that provides continuing and comprehensive mental and behavioural healthcare to individuals and groups across the lifespan. This includes the assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of psychological and mental health disorders that range from mild to severe and complex. Psychological assessment, diagnosis and formulation are based on biological, social and psychological factors. Clinical Psychologists deliver a range of high-intensity psychological interventions with demonstrated effectiveness in treating mental health disorders and psychological distress associated with medical conditions.

Programme Description

This programme provides advanced academic and practical education and training to equip selected students to practice as a Clinical Psychologist and leads the student to be able to apply for an internship in Clinical Psychology and, thereafter, undergo a Professional Board Exam in Clinical Psychology. After successful completion of the Professional Board Exam, students can then apply to the Professional Board for Psychology of the HPCSA for registration as a Clinical Psychologist. Such registration will be subject to any professional conditions and requirements stipulated by the Professional Board for Psychology and the HPCSA at the time of registration.

Qualification Journey (+- 3 Years)

To practice as a Clinical Psychologist in South Africa, students must complete a Master's programme (i.e., MA, MSc, or MSocSci) in Clinical Psychology at a Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) accredited tertiary institution in South Africa. At the University of Pretoria (UP), this is a full-time programme that runs for one (1) year. Following this first year of the Master's programme, students will then need to complete a supervised internship in Clinical Psychology at an accredited public hospital in South Africa, which takes one (1) year. Once a student has completed their internship, they will need to write and pass the HPCSA Board Exam in Clinical Psychology and, thereafter, complete a mandatory period of Community Service at a public healthcare facility in South Africa, which lasts one (1) year. Only after completing this roughly 3-year qualification journey can a person register with the HPCSA and practice as a Clinical Psychologist in South Africa.

Application Period:

- 01 April to 31 May (annually)

Application Criteria:

- BSocSci Honours or BA Honours in Psychology **or** a relevant honours programme (not educational or industrial psychology)
- A cumulative weighted average of at least 70% for the honours programme

Admission into the Programme through the Selection Process:

- Admission into the programme is by selection only
- All applications undergo a multi-faceted evaluation by a selection committee that considers (but is not limited to) academic performance, research ability, personal suitability, professional experience, community service, and diversity and are then shortlisted
- Only shortlisted applicants are invited to participate further in the selection process
- Through the selection process, suitable applicants are identified for admission into the programme
- Selection is highly competitive with only a small number of places available each year for the admission of students
- Given the competitive nature of this programme, all applicants are encouraged to apply to as many institutions which offer this programme
- Due to the large number of applications received by UP each year, applicants are not provided with any feedback should their application be unsuccessful

Structure:

- The programme comprises one year of full-time academic study and one year of professional training, 50% of the programme entails advanced theoretical and practical coursework; and 50% entails a research component, which takes the form of a mini-dissertation
- In addition, the programme entails a period of professional internship in Clinical Psychology

Admission into the Programme Requires Registration for the Following Modules:

Year 1:

KLS 803: Clinical Assessment & Patient Management

The aim of this module is to equip students with the advanced knowledge and applied skills to undertake a clinically comprehensive process of psychological assessment

KLS 871: Clinical Interventions & Therapeutics

The aim of this module is to equip students with the advanced theoretical knowledge and practical skills which underpin contemporary, evidence-based, and context-sensitive clinical psychological interventions with patients across the lifespan

KLS 872: Professional Development & Clinical Practice

The aim of this module is to equip students with the professional knowledge and skills required to competently practice clinical psychology

KLS 874: Clinical Psychopathology in Context

The aim of this module is to equip students with advanced theoretical and empirically informed knowledge of psychopathology and psychological distress across the lifespan

Year 2:

KLS 875: Mini-Dissertation: Clinical Psychology

The aim of this module is to equip students to conduct independent and relevant research and to ensure that students are capable of critically evaluating research within the Humanities and Social Sciences, broadly, and Psychology, in particular. You have a maximum of 3 years to complete this module

KLS 896: Internship: Clinical Psychology

The aim of this module is to enable students to participate in a period of professional internship in Clinical Psychology

Career Opportunities:

In South Africa, Clinical Psychologists can go on to work in a variety of areas once registered and qualified, including:

- Public and private hospitals and clinics
- Specialised public and private psychiatric and mental health hospitals and clinics
- Healthcare services within various state departments where Clinical Psychology expertise is required, such as the military, correctional services, and the police
- Educational institutions, such as universities, which are responsible for training students in Clinical Psychology and conducting research which advances the science of Clinical Psychology
- The public healthcare sector advising on mental health promotion and engaged in mental health policy development
- Private practice