University of Adelaide - APAC Accreditation Summary Report

Higher education provider	University of Adelaide
Name of the Psychology AOU	School of Psychology
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Initial accreditation (out of cycle)
Programs and level of study assessed	Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Level 1)
Campus	Online
Date of assessment	April 2020
Date of APAC Board Determination	3 August 2020
Accreditation start date	1 January 2020
Accreditation end date	31 December 2022

Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accreditation assessment made following an application by the University of Adelaide (Adelaide) for the accreditation of the Level 1 Graduate Diploma in Psychology program in an out-of-cycle assessment. This assessment is in the form of an on-paper assessment based solely on the *Application Form for Accreditation*.

Adelaide's psychology programs were last reviewed by APAC in 2017, at which time the programs offered at the North Terrace campus were accredited with conditions as a small number of shortfalls were identified against the Accreditation Standards. Subsequent to the review, all outstanding conditions were satisfied and Adelaide's range of programs have since been accredited without conditions.

The Graduate Diploma in Psychology is a new, fully online accelerated program which has been designed to provide a bridging program for graduates of other degrees, to meet the accreditation standards for a level 1 program in psychology. The program consists of 10 units each of which is completed in a 6-week period, with an expected student workload of around 24 hours per week. The program (10 units) can be completed in a minimum of 1.7 years and is being delivered by Adelaide in partnership with Pearson. While the program commenced in October 2019, it is still under development in that two of the unit outlines are not published (6502OL Developmental Psychology, and 6506OL Culture and Context) meaning some of the teaching and learning activities and assessment rubrics are not yet available to review.

Key findings

Based on the application, the proposed curriculum in the online Graduate Diploma in Psychology program appears to adequately cover most of the Level 1 Foundational Competencies. However, one of the areas of knowledge appears not to be taught in sufficient depth, or assessed (*Foundational Competency 1.1.iv psychological disorders and interventions*), and one graduate competency also does not appear to be taught or assessed sufficiently (*Foundational Competency 1.5 interpersonal skills and teamwork*).

Despite the comments above, based on the plans for the proposed program, the policies and procedures and the responses to the criteria, the program is expected to meet most of the Accreditation Standards (2019 v1.2) and therefore the recommendation is for the program to be accredited with a small number of conditions.

APAC Board Determination

That the University of Adelaide's **Graduate Diploma in Psychology** (Level 1) (Campus: Online) program is accredited from **1 January 2020** until **31 December 2022** subject to the following conditions:

By **15 December 2020**:

1. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criteria 2.1 and 2.2 are met, the School is to submit evidence to APAC of internal course reviews, SELTs, external reviews and/or benchmarking.

2. To ensure Standard 3 Program of Study, criteria 3.2, 3.5, and 3.8 are met the School is to submit evidence to APAC

   i. of revisions to content to ensure that all Level 1 Foundational Competencies are met

   ii. that the Learning Management System is being utilised so that students are able to demonstrate meeting the relevant Level 1 Foundational Competencies, in particular interpersonal skills and teamwork, and

   iii. of the unit outline and assessment rubrics to demonstrate that cultural responsiveness is integrated within the program.

3. To ensure Standard 4 The student experience, criterion 4.1 is met, the School is to submit evidence to APAC that information about learning and assessment processes and requirements is accurate, clear, and accessible.

4. To ensure Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 are met the School is to submit evidence to APAC of assessment samples, marking rubrics/criteria and detailed information about moderation practices used.

As a monitoring requirement, the School is asked to set up feedback sessions between students and the APAC assessment team once the first cohort have reached the end of their first year of study to ensure the program is meeting its objectives and continues to comply with the Accreditation Standards.

Table 1: Summary of findings regarding each criterion for each Standard

Domain	
Domain 1: Public safety	**Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured**
	Level 1 Standard is met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	**Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective**
	Level 1 Standard is substantially met
Domain 3: Program of study	**Standard Statement 3: Program of study, design, delivery and resourcing enable students to achieve the required graduate competencies**
	Level 1 Standard is substantially met
Domain 4: The student experience	**Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support**
	Level 1 Standard is substantially met
Domain 5: Assessment	**Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid**
	Level 1 Standard is substantially met