



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	University of Sydney
Date of Determination	26 November 2018
Standards Version	June 2010, version 10; Rules March 2014, amendments May 30 2016
Programs of Study Assessed	<p>Bachelor of Advanced Computing (Dalyell)/Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Advanced Computing/Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies Bachelor of Commerce Bachelor of Engineering Honours (Dalyell)/Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Engineering Honours/Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Science (Dalyell) Bachelor of Science (Dalyell)/Doctor of Dental Medicine Bachelor of Science (Dalyell)/Doctor of Medicine Bachelor of Science (Health) Bachelor of Science (Medical Science) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Advanced) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Dalyell) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Dalyell) (Advanced) Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Dental Medicine Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws Bachelor of Science (Dalyell)/Bachelor of Laws Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Medicine Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing Graduate Diploma in Psychology Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Advanced) (Honours) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Advanced) (Honours) (Dalyell) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Dalyell) (Honours) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Health) (Honours) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Honours) Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Medical Science) (Honours) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Bachelor of Commerce (Liberal Studies) (Honours)</p>

	Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science (Honours) Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) Bachelor of Science (Advanced) (Honours) Bachelor of Science (Honours) Master of Clinical Psychology Master of Clinical Psychology/Doctor of Philosophy
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This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychology at The University of Sydney and its programs of study. This summary highlights selected key features of the assessment. Comprehensive analysis of the assessment is contained in the full APAC Accreditation Assessment report.

The School of Psychology AOU at the University of Sydney is an identifiable core of psychologists and psychology staff and one of eight schools in the Faculty of Science. The Head of School has budgetary control of both educational and external research funding, including staffing, resources and facilities required by the School, to deliver a high standard of education and training.

All of the School's facilities and staff are located on the Camperdown campus and spread across 6 buildings. A significant change since the last site visit (2013) has been the relocation of the Psychology Clinic, test library and clinical staff to a more modern and purpose-built facility within the Brain and Mind Centre in Camperdown.

The staffing profile and student:staff ratio meet all the requirements set out in the Standards.

The School of Psychology has dedicated administrative, technical, research administrative and education support officers and also has access to Faculty administrative, finance, computing, human resources and placement officer support.

The School of Psychology has access to University lecture theatres, all equipped with appropriate audio-visual facilities, including seven dedicated computer laboratories used for undergraduate teaching. The nine clinic rooms at the BMC are all fitted out with video recording equipment, computers and duress alarms. The general, specialised and learning laboratory research facilities are extensive and there are multiple areas both in the School and in the University where the students can access computers and the software they require.

The test library has a wide range of tests available for clinical and research purposes.

The teaching materials provided for inspection were all satisfactory and the unit outlines and online management systems (Blackboard and Canvas) were accessed easily by both staff and students.

Formative assessments across courses took the form, generally, of online quizzes and in the main, most assignments were returned to students in a timely manner.

The three-year undergraduate Psychology Program is offered within eight undergraduate degrees, and in all dual award degrees that are combined with one of these. The Psychology Program is also offered in the Graduate Diploma in Psychology as a bridging program for graduates of other disciplines. The psychology sequence for which accreditation is sought is identical in all degrees in which it is offered.

The Psychology Program is structured to ensure that all core areas within the discipline are covered by all students, while offering electives to study some areas in greater depth.

Inspection of lecture, tutorial and laboratory content demonstrated that the Program is supported by relevant and up-to-date evidence-based scientific reference materials.

Assessment practices are appropriate for demonstrating the breadth and depth of knowledge attained by students and assessment tasks are clearly and meaningfully aligned with unit and course learning outcomes. Feedback on assessment is provided in a timely manner. However, no evidence was provided of regular external moderation, and no benchmarking results were provided for the undergraduate Psychology Program.

Appropriate procedures are in place for the awarding of credit for advanced standing.

Fourth year is available in seven Honours Degrees and in all degrees which are combined with one or other of these seven degrees. A four-year sequence is also offered.

The Honours program contains a strong critical approach to research and scholarship to develop advanced knowledge and skills in psychological theory, research methods, and the design and conduct of empirical research.

The entry requirements and program length are consistent with the Standards.

All psychology Honours programs require 100% psychology content. However, two core content areas appear to be lacking systematic coverage and assessment in the core of the curriculum: *“knowledge of the theoretical and empirical bases underpinning evidence-based approaches to psychological intervention”*, and *“understanding and explaining how the science and practice of psychology is influenced by social, historical, professional, and cultural contexts”*.

The fourth year contains a substantial, individually supervised research project that comprises 50% of the course. Inspection of student theses evidenced the high quality of the research projects.

The supervision, format and length of the research thesis adhere to all required standards.

The assessment components of the course were appropriate, including essays, oral presentations and examinations.

Appropriate procedures are in place to deal with student appeals.

Appropriate procedures are in place for the awarding of credit for advanced standing.

The Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) is the only program offering an integrated 4-year program. Students are required to meet a hurdle of 75% average for years two and three Psychology units to progress to the 4th year. Students who do not meet the hurdle at the end of Year 3 graduate with an appropriate 3-year degree.

The School of Psychology offers two postgraduate programs in Clinical Psychology. The team is led by the Director of Clinical Training, the Clinic Director, the Unit Head and the Director of Clinical Research. The Unit is located in the Brain and Mind Institute.

Clinical Psychology Unit staff members are all registered psychologists, with most also holding an area of practice endorsement.

During the site visit, updated staffing details were provided which showed a student:staff ratio for both programs of 6.55:1.

Placements (both within the university clinic and external placements) are overseen by the clinic director, a clinical psychologist. Placement supervision is in line with the Standards.

The School of Psychology has an Advisory Committee which meets annually and has appropriate membership.

The School has excellent facilities, including the Psychology Clinic, located within the Brain and Mind Centre. The clinic is staffed by a full time administrative officer/receptionist. There is a well-stocked test and resource library in the Unit, appropriate library holdings and appropriate access to computers for students.

Core capabilities and attributes are taught across the programs, and are comprehensively assessed.

Appropriate procedures are in place to ensure standards are maintained. Students must pass all course components before degrees are awarded.

Student logbooks are appropriately completed and signed by supervisors.

The entry requirements, course length and course structure for the Masters programs all meet the Standards.

Coursework covers the National Practice Standards for the Mental Health Workforce, practice management and related topics and managing people, across a range of coursework and placement units. In general, students were considered by placement supervisors to be well prepared for external placements, and students themselves, generally also felt well prepared.

The research project for the MCP and the MCP/PhD meet the standards of science required for publication in a mainstream refereed psychology journal, involve a clinical population, population at risk, analogous population or involve research of relevance to clinical work or clinically relevant intervention, and are theoretically driven and interpreted.

Students receive adequate education and training prior to beginning their first placement, and have ongoing class content throughout their degree. Students must complete 1200 hours of placement experience, across child and adult focussed settings, with an external placement in an adult psychiatric focussed setting and one in an adolescent or child and family setting. Field supervisors are appropriately qualified, students receive sufficient supervision, and placements are coordinated overall by the Clinic Director, who is a clinical psychologist and approved supervisor. Clinical Psychology Unit staff attend external placement sites for mid-placement review meetings. Placement documentation was reviewed and contracts, logbooks, supervisor reports and case reports were appropriate.

The accreditation outcomes are summarised in the attached Accreditation Summary Checklist.