



Edith Cowan University - APAC Accreditation Assessment Report

Higher education provider	Edith Cowan University
Name of the Psychology AOU	Discipline of Psychology, School of Arts and Humanities
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Re-accreditation (5 yearly cycle)
Programs and level of study assessed	<p>Bachelor of Psychology (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Psychology and Counselling (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Psychology, Criminology and Justice (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Psychology (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychology (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Honours) (Level 2)</p> <p>Bachelor of Science (Psychology) (Honours) (Level 2)</p> <p>Master of Psychology (packaged Level 3 and 4)</p> <p>Programs in teach out:</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Addiction Studies) (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Counselling) (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts (Psychology, Criminology and Justice) (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Level 1)</p> <p>Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Psychological Science (Level 1)</p>



	Bachelor of Psychological Science (Level 1)
	Bachelor of Science (Psychology) (Level 1)
	Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical) (packaged Level 3 and 4) *
	Doctor of Psychology (Forensic) (packaged Level 3 and 4) *
	Doctor of Psychology (Clinical/Forensic Psychology) (packaged Level 3 and 4) *
	<i>* refer to the note on page 7 for further details.</i>
Campus	Joondalup, Online
Date of virtual site visit	26 - 28 May 2020
Date of APAC Board Determination	14 September 2020
Accreditation end date	31 December 2025



Background and overview

The Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) last reviewed Edith Cowan University's (ECU) suite of undergraduate Level 1, fourth year Level 2 and postgraduate packaged Level 3 and 4 psychology programs for the purpose of re-accreditation in 2015.

At the time of the 2015 review, the Level 1 and Level 2 programs offered at the Joondalup campus and online were accredited without conditions for a period of five years. The packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical Masters program was accredited for a shortened period of time, as a small number of shortfalls were identified against the Accreditation Standards. Subsequent to the review, the Masters program satisfied all outstanding conditions imposed on the program and has since been accredited without conditions.

Since the last review, ECU has undertaken a major academic redesign and from January 2015 a revised structure comprising eight schools replaced the former faculty structure. The new structure has been reported to deliver better discipline alignment, a streamlined academic organisational model that enhances academic performance, and more responsive and effective decision-making.

The previously accredited set of single and double major undergraduate programs containing accredited sequence of psychology units has since been placed in teach out and is being replaced by a new set of Level 1 programs from 2020. ECU currently offers six programs at Level 1, two programs at Level 2 and one packaged Level 3 and 4 program in Clinical psychology. Additionally, the Discipline is teaching out the superseded Level 1 sequence in nine single- and double-degree programs and the superseded packaged Level 3 and 4 sequence in Clinical psychology, Forensic psychology and combined Clinical/Forensic psychology programs.

The Assessment Team considered the Discipline of Psychology, School of Arts and Humanities' 181 page self-review and attached appendices against the Accreditation Standards. The Assessment Team teleconference was held on 21 April 2020. The information subsequently requested was received from the Discipline prior to the virtual site visit.

The Assessment Team viewed a pre-recorded guided tour of the clinic and training centre at the Psychological Services Centre located at the ECU Health Centre on Dundobar Road, Wanneroo. The Assessment team was also provided with pre-recorded video tour and explanation of the resources and test kits available at the Psychology Test Library located at the ECU campus in Joondalup.

Prior to the virtual site visit the Assessment Team was provided with additional information including:

- Assessment samples for Level 1, Level 2, and packaged Level 3 and 4 programs
- COVID-19 placement changes detailing an alternative model of external and internal placement arrangements, checklist for students' external supervision and guidelines for telehealth from students' home
- Honours thesis samples
- Masters logbooks
- Masters thesis samples



- Student written reflections

The APAC Assessment Team conducted a virtual site visit on 26 - 28 May 2020. During the virtual site visit the Assessment Team interviewed a range of individuals via Zoom teleconference, including:

- Associate Dean, Psychology and Criminology
- Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning
- Executive Dean
- Masters Acting Course Coordinator
- Masters Unit Coordinators and teaching staff
- Practicum Coordinator/Clinic Director
- Internal and external placement supervisors
- Current students and recent graduates from packaged Level 3 and 4 programs
- Fourth Year Honours Coordinator
- Psychology Honours Coordinator
- Honours Unit Coordinators and teaching staff
- Current students and recent graduates from Level 2 programs
- School Team Leader and School Officer
- School Officer for ECU Psychological Services Centre
- Undergraduate Course Coordinator
- Undergraduate Unit Coordinators and teaching staff
- Current students and recent graduates from Level 1 programs

During the virtual site visit, the Assessment Team was provided with supplementary information including copies of incoming staff curriculum vitae, unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Undergraduate and Honours Consultative Committee from 17 April 2020, responses to an anonymous survey circulated to interviewees who were unable to attend scheduled interview sessions, as well as documentation used at the clinic, such as a sample of a client file organisational sheet and a copy of the random file audit from 2017 spreadsheet.



Key findings

ECU has a strong focus on learning and teaching. Each of the psychology programs is built on the scientist practitioner model, whereby students are constantly exposed to the scientific basis and methodologies of the discipline, learn to be critical and reflective consumers of evidence, and learn to apply psychological theory and evidence to their own lives and real-world issues.

The evidence gathered by the Assessment Team indicates that ECU's packaged Level 3 and 4 program produces graduates who are competent to practice across a range of settings. The assessment processes are robust and mechanisms are in place to identify students that require support and extra opportunities to demonstrate competencies.

Students have ready access to support services and are provided with regular feedback on assessments. Evidence gathered by the Assessment Team indicates that the mechanisms in place to incorporate student feedback into the design and delivery of the program are working well. It is evident that there is an openness to gathering and acting on feedback from students, with examples of how the Level 2 program has been improved as a result of this feedback. The Discipline recognises that its programs would benefit from a more systematic method of incorporating external input into the design and management of its programs, and have commenced undertaking external benchmarking activities in addition to the planned five yearly course review. Recent changes made to its units within the Honours program and the processes put in place to strengthen the area of incorporating external input into the programs demonstrates ECU's commitment to continuous improvement.

The Assessment Team identified a number of commendable aspects. The facilities for clinical education at the ECU Health Centre are purpose built, very well resourced and fit for purpose. Throughout the virtual site visit, the Assessment Team was impressed with the supportive and collegial relationships of the teaching and professional staff including senior management. The Discipline is commended for their openness, availability and the level of support provided to students. The Assessment Team was impressed by the way in which the Masters program prepared students for practice ensuring students gain a good grounding in experiential learning, skill development and reflective practice. The Assessment Team also commends the Associate Dean Psychology and Criminology for the outstanding quality of leadership displayed; it is evident that consistent support, guidance and leadership is being offered within the Discipline.

The Assessment team identified a small number of opportunities for further quality improvement. The Masters program might build on current practice by exploring the opportunity for students to have further inter-professional experiences and collaboration with other health professionals. The Assessment Team identified that feedback students received on assessments were inconsistent between units and recommends a mechanism to be put in place to ensure consistency in feedback across all units within programs. It is suggested that the Discipline investigate the use of a digital online placement application such as Inplace or Sonia to track placement information. The Discipline should consider ways in which to expand and strengthen the training provided in cultural competency and responsiveness, and suggests the inclusion and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples on the Consultative Committees. It is also recommended that the Discipline should formalise a process to identify and develop the academic staffing profile as a means of succession planning.



APAC Board determination

That the following programs at Edith Cowan University are re-accredited with conditions until **31 December 2025**:

- **Bachelor of Psychology** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Psychology and Counselling** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Psychology, Criminology and Justice** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Psychology** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychology** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: Online)
- **Bachelor of Science (Psychology) (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: Online)
- **Master of Psychology** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Joondalup)

That the following programs in teach out at Edith Cowan University are re-accredited until **31 December 2025**:

- **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Addiction Studies)** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Counselling)** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology, Criminology and Justice)** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Bachelor of Science (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Joondalup, Online)
- **Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Joondalup) *
- **Doctor of Psychology (Forensic)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Joondalup) *
- **Doctor of Psychology (Clinical/Forensic Psychology)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Joondalup) *



* the coursework for these programs in teach out was not assessed as part of the re-accreditation assessment as the Discipline has advised APAC that students remaining in these programs have successfully completed all coursework requirements.

Subject to the following conditions:

For the Level 1 programs

By **31 December 2021**:

1. To ensure that the Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2 and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1 are met, the Discipline is to demonstrate how *Foundational Competency 1.5* is taught and assessed.

For the Level 1 and Level 2 programs

By **31 December 2021**:

1. To ensure that the Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.6 is met, the Discipline is to provide evidence of contemporary and effective methods of learning and teaching across all units.

For the packaged Level 3 and 4 programs

By **31 December 2021**:

1. To ensure that the Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.1 is met, the Discipline is required to provide outcomes of the review of the Program and plans to ensure that a coherent education pedagogy informs the documented program design and delivery.
2. To ensure that the Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.9 is met, the Discipline is required to provide details of the teaching, assessment information and marking rubric for PSY5213 that demonstrates coverage of interprofessional practice.

For Level 1 and packaged Level 3 and 4 programs

By **31 December 2021**:

1. To ensure that Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the Discipline is to provide evidence of outcomes of their external benchmarking and further evidence of responses to these outcomes.
2. To ensure that Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.4 is met, the Discipline is to provide evidence of processes and practices to ensure that students are provided with consistent and appropriate feedback in all units.



For the Level 1, Level 2 and packaged Level 3 and 4 programs

By **31 December 2021**:

1. To ensure Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.3 is met, the Discipline is to provide evidence of how all program learning outcomes will be assessed, using multiple assessment tools, modes and techniques.

As a monitoring requirement, APAC requests an update on the progress and outcomes of the external benchmarking exercise to be provided as part of the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 annual report



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

Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured		
	Level 1 Standard is met	Level 2 Standard is met	Level 3 and 4 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	Level 2 Standard is met	Level 3 and 4 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	Level 2 Standard is substantially met	Level 3 and 4 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 met	Level 2 Standard is met	Level 3 and 4 Standard is met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid		
	Level 1 Standard is substantially met	Level 2 Standard is substantially met	Level 3 and 4 Standard is substantially met



Quality improvement suggestions

A quality improvement suggestion refers to an action or a course of actions that should be considered by the education provider to improve the delivery and/or outcomes of the program.

The quality improvement suggestions are as follows. It is recommended that the Discipline of Psychology, School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University:

1. formalise a process to identify and develop the academic staffing profile as a means of succession planning
2. investigate the use of an online system such as a digital online placement application such as Inplace or Sonia to track placement information
3. put in place a mechanism to ensure consistency in feedback across all units within all programs

Commendations

A commendation refers to a particularly significant achievement by the education provider with regard to the program.

The Assessment Team have made the subsequent commendations following the evaluation of the program.

The Discipline of Psychology, School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University is commended for the:

1. outstanding leadership, consistent support and guidance provided by the Associate Dean, Psychology and Criminology
2. collegiality displayed by all teaching and professional staff including senior management and the support they have for each other
3. well-resourced and fit for purpose facilities available for clinical education at the ECU Health Centre
4. openness and availability of staff and supervisors and the level of support provided to students
5. way in which the Masters program prepares students for practice ensuring students gain a solid grounding in experiential learning and reflective practice