



Swinburne University of Technology - APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher education provider	Swinburne University of Technology
Name of the Psychology AOU	Department of Psychological Sciences
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Initial accreditation (out of cycle)
Programs and level of study assessed	Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced) (Level 2)
Campus	Swinburne/SOL
Date of Assessment	June 2020
Date of APAC Board Determination	19 October 2020
Accreditation start date	1 June 2020
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023



Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accreditation assessment made following an application by Swinburne University of Technology (Swinburne) for the accreditation of the Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced) 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*.

Swinburne currently offer an accredited Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (packaged Level 1 and 2) program, and an accredited (with conditions) Bachelor of Psychological Sciences (Honours) (Level 2) program. The new Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced) program draws on these two programs and offers increased flexibility by being delivered completely online. This is a one-year full time program comprising of seven units with three of these units dedicated to research Thesis A (PSY80117), Thesis B (PSY80118) and Thesis C (PSY80136). Four coursework units cover Advanced Quantitative Methods (PSY80112), Psychological Assessment (PSY80113), Ethical and Professional Issues (PSY80114) and Counselling and Interventions (PSY80115).

The first cohort of students is planned for 2021.



Key findings

The proposed program is to be taught and delivered by two 'interlocking workgroups'. The Department of Psychological Sciences at Swinburne (Hawthorn campus) and Swinburne Online (SOL). Staff at the Hawthorn campus are responsible for the overall program/unit design, accreditation, quality and teaching the thesis units, and the SOL group is responsible for the development of e-learning pedagogy, online quality and teaching of the coursework units. The proposed program is very similar to the accredited (with conditions) Bachelor of Psychological Sciences (Honours) (Level 2) program, however as the online environment and digital coursework is still being built, and the full unit outlines are not available as yet, the evidence for some Standards cannot be fully assessed.

The Standards that are considered not to be met at this time arise as unit outlines and assessment rubrics are not currently available. It is recommended that a monitoring site visit is undertaken in early-mid 2021 to assess the learning resources and online environment, to interview teaching staff, students and supervisors, to review the unit outlines and marking rubrics and to see samples of student work.



APAC Board Determination

That Swinburne University of Technology's **Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced)** (Level 2) (Campus: Swinburne/SOL), program is accredited from **1 June 2020** until **31 December 2023** subject to the following conditions:

By **31 December 2021**:

1. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the Department is to provide evidence to APAC that appropriate benchmarking of the program has occurred.
2. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 3.2 and 3.8 and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the Department is to submit evidence to APAC that the program and unit materials are revised to ensure that the
 - i. program learning outcomes incorporate all graduate competencies
 - ii. content on cultural responsiveness is clearly embedded, and
 - iii. scope of assessment covers all learning outcomes and that there is a clear relationship between program learning outcomes and Graduate Competencies.
3. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.4 is met, the Department is to provide APAC with a sound rationale for the deviation noted in the student to staff ratio and substantiate how this criterion is met with the current student to staff ratio.
4. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 are met, a monitoring site visit is to be undertaken in mid-2021 to interview teaching staff, students and supervisors and to ensure that the resources to support the learning, teaching and assessment of graduate competencies are satisfactory.
5. To ensure Standard 4, The student experience, criterion 4.1 is met, the information in the handbook regarding the structure of the program needs to be made more explicit/or more clearly differentiated from the other Level 2 programs.
6. To ensure Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.3 and 5.4 are met, the Department is to provide APAC with student work samples, including evidence that multiple assessment tools are utilised. APAC also requests a report outlining that moderation procedures are undertaken to determine comparability of the student performance in the online program with the on-campus Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) program.



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

Level 2	
Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured
	Standard is met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective
	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
	Standard is substantially met
Domain 4: The student experience	Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support
	Standard is substantially met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
	Standard is substantially met