

RMIT University - APAC Accreditation assessment summary report

Higher education provider	RMIT University
Name of the Psychology AOU	Discipline of Psychology, School of Health and Biomedical 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 in Psychology (Level 1)
Campus	Online
Date of assessment	February 2021
Date of APAC Board Determination	11 October 2021
Accreditation start date	1 January 2021
Accreditation end date	31 December 2022

Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) initial (out-of-cycle) accreditation assessment following a submission by RMIT University (RMIT) for the accreditation of the Level 1 Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Campus: Online) bridging program. This assessment is in the form of an on-paper assessment based solely on the *Submission for accreditation*.

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

The Level 1 Graduate Diploma bridging program has been designed to be offered in partnership with RMIT Online. It provides students with previous qualifications in a different discipline an opportunity to acquire the *Foundational Competencies* to progress towards registration as a psychologist in Australia.

Key findings

The proposed program is to be taught and delivered 100% online in partnership with RMIT Online. The Discipline of Psychology has developed and will govern, oversee and manage the curriculum and content of the program, combined with RMIT Online's expertise in delivering online learning via its specific and well-designed learning platforms.

The Level 1 Bridging programs comprises 10 units of study, for which eight units are considered as part of the required sequence, providing graduates with the foundational and rudimentary understanding and knowledge of the psychology discipline, and allowing achievement of the required graduate competencies enabling graduates to apply for entry into a Level 2 Honours or Graduate Diploma program.

The curriculum appears to cover most of the Level 1 *Foundational Competencies* adequately, and the Discipline is commended for its integration of content regarding cultural responsiveness, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Based on the program's proposed plans, policies, procedures and responses to the Standards, the program is expected to meet the *Accreditation Standards*. However, as some evidence is not yet available for review, further information and evidence are required before these criteria can be considered as met.

APAC Board determination

That RMIT University's **Graduate Diploma in Psychology** (Level 1) (Campus: Online) program is accredited from **1 January 2021** until **31 December 2022** subject to the following conditions:

By **31 January 2022**:

1. To ensure that Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2 and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the Discipline is to provide evidence demonstrating that *Foundational Competency 1.5* is clearly embedded, taught, and appropriately assessed as a required learning outcome throughout the program.
2. To ensure that Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.3 is met, the Discipline is to provide a variety of de-identified student work samples, including evidence that multiple assessment tools are utilised, for the units offered in its first semester.

As monitoring requirements, by **31 January 2022** the Discipline is to provide evidence of:

- i. how synchronous activities are delivered
- ii. how breaches of professional and ethical conduct and policies and/or guidelines are managed.

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

Level 1	
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 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 met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
	Standard is substantially met

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 at RMIT University is commended for:

1. the content and assessments designed to develop competencies in culturally responsive practice. Commendable achievement is demonstrated in mapping the course content to the *Australian Indigenous Psychology Education Project (AIPEP)* curriculum framework.