

Version April 2018

Master of Psychology (Clinical) Programme, National University of Singapore

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are clinical psychologists?

A: Clinical psychologists are specialists in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of psychological problems and mental illness. They are located in private practice, hospitals, universities, general medical practices, community health centres and mental health services.

Clinical psychologists work with children, adolescents, adults and older adults. They are also involved in designing and implementing a wide range of prevention and mental health promotion programmes. Thus the contribution of a professionally trained clinical psychologist can have a large impact on the health and quality of life of a large number of patients across the life span.

Q: How do I know if clinical psychology is for me?

A: Clinical psychology can be both a demanding and rewarding field. Clinical psychologists need to have excellent communication skills and it helps to have an empathic understanding of others.

There may be times when you would be required to work with depressed, distressed and possibly aggressive people. Maturity and the ability to take constructive criticism are necessary attributes for potential clinical students.

Q: How is the NUS Clinical Psychology Programme structured?

A: As with other countries, the NUS Clinical Psychology Programme follow a scientist-practitioner model. This means that students will be required to complete coursework, a thesis, and supervised clinical training practicum.

Q: What are the entry requirements for the Master of Psychology (Clinical) Programme and how many people will be accepted for each intake?

A: The Clinical Psychology Programme will accept a relatively small number of applicants each year and entry will be extremely competitive.

The minimum entry criteria are a good Honours degree and/or advanced graduate degree in psychology or a closely related discipline.

Q: What can I do to improve my chances of acceptance?

A: Apart from meeting the minimum academic requirements, applicants can greatly enhance their applications through psychology, volunteer or other clinical work experience.

Attendance of clinical workshops, observation programmes, and publication in peer reviewed journals and/or other clinically related activities following graduation are also desirable.

Q: Are there any scholarships or financial support for students of the programme?

A: Currently, there is no scholarship or financial support from the University as this is a self-funded programme. However, there are competitive external scholarships available from MOHH (Healthcare Graduate Studies Award) and Ngee Ann Kongsi (Post-graduate Scholarship in Social Sciences) for successful applicants to the programme. Singapore citizens aged 25 and above can use SkillsFuture Credit to offset tuition fees.

Q: What will happen after I submit my application?

A: This is what usually happens:

1. All applicants will be evaluated to ensure minimum admission requirements have been met on a case-by-case basis.
2. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for face-to-face interviews in Singapore.
3. Acceptance/rejection letters or email will be sent to applicants.

Q: Does the course meet requirements for practice as a clinical psychologist in Singapore?

A: The course is designed to meet the forthcoming minimum standards for clinical psychology training currently being considered by the Ministry of Health (MOH).

Q: Is the clinical programme accredited with the Singapore Psychological Society or other accrediting bodies?

A: Presently there is no formal accreditation of clinical programmes via the Singapore Psychological Society (SPS). Graduates from our clinical programme are eligible for SPS Full membership & the Singapore Register of Psychologists.

Q: Can I do the clinical programme part-time?

A: At present, the programme only admits full-time students.

Q: What is the job market like for clinical psychologists after I graduate?

A: There is currently a large shortage of trained mental health professionals including clinical psychologists in Singapore. It is expected that graduates will be able to secure posts upon graduation.