



# POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

**Clinical Psychology is an applied discipline that has its roots in psychological science and research.**

- Learn how to understand and treat children's, adolescents' and adults' psychological problems.
- Work in an on-campus psychology clinic with a team of clinical psychologists.
- Develop high-quality research skills with a research thesis.
- Go on to register and practise as a clinical psychologist.

Through the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology, you'll learn to understand, assess, and treat a range of psychological, emotional, and behavioural difficulties. You'll gain expertise in the scientific methods within clinical practice and develop the skills required to combine compassion and respect for others with excellence in practice, in the context of our bicultural society.

This professional course of study is a clinical training programme undertaken alongside a research thesis. You will graduate with both a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology and a Master's or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Psychology. This programme will set you up to work as a clinical psychologist within health, corrections, welfare, or community settings.

## WHO CAN APPLY

Entry is limited. You'll need to have an undergraduate degree in Psychology with at least an A- average in your final year and a demonstrated commitment to bicultural New Zealand. Some relevant experience would be advantageous. You'll need to submit an academic transcript, a CV, the contact details of two referees, and a completed application form.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

This programme will take three years if completed alongside a Master's degree and at least five years if completed with a PhD. The first year is provisional and comprises:

**PSYC 412 The Psychology of Criminal Conduct 1: Basic Concepts in Criminal Justice and Crime** (15 points): This course covers basic concepts in criminal justice and the study of crime, and examines the nature of offending from sociological, psychiatric, and psychological perspectives.

**PSYC 451 Clinical Adult Assessment and Intervention** (30 points): This course presents students with a basic understanding of the conceptual, empirical, and practical issues associated with the assessment of adults.

**PSYC 452 Clinical Child, Adolescent, and Family Psychology** (30 points): This course focuses on the ethical, conceptual, empirical, and practice issues in assessment and intervention with children, adolescents, and families in clinical contexts.

Either: **PSYC 442 The Psychology of Criminal Conduct 2: Areas of Application** (15 points): Focusing on the application of theory and research to practice, this course usually includes theories and rehabilitation with various types of offenders, psychopathy, rehabilitation topics, and forensic assessment.

Or: **PSYC462 Indigenous Psychology** (15 points). This discussion-based course is focused on psychological theory and research relating to indigenous communities in New Zealand and other countries.

If you haven't already completed a research project, you'll need to take PSYC 489 Research Project (30 points) as well.

The following two to four years comprises:

**PSYC 561 Practicum** (60 points): This course consists of supervised practise in our psychology clinic for approximately 100 half days throughout the year and is complemented by full-day workshops focused on skill development.

**PSYC 562 Advanced Practicum** (120 points): Students must register with the New Zealand Psychologist Board as intern psychologists and complete 1,500 hours under the supervision of a qualified practitioner.

**PSYC 571 Advanced Neuropsychology Theory and Practice** (15 points): The course addresses clinical neuropsychological assessment for adult populations.

**PSYC 572 Adult and Child Clinical Psychology: Advanced Intervention Skills** (15 points): This course addresses skills for advanced interventions and therapies for adult, child, and family problems.

You'll also need to complete either a Master's or PhD research thesis.

### Contact details

Helen Lloyd  
Programme and Clinic Administrator

📞 04 463 6400

✉️ helen.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

Professor Karen Salmon  
Programme Director

📞 04 463 9528

✉️ karen.salmon@vuw.ac.nz



## DR GAURANGA (RONGO) JERAM PATEL

Clinical Psychologist, Capital and Coast District Health Board

"I work as a clinical psychologist in a district health and mental health service. This role involves one-on-one therapy work with clients, organising and running therapy groups, and advising on how services can be developed for clients and the community.

"Many clients go from the depths of their struggle with addiction and multiple problems such as poor physical health and housing concerns, to leading meaningful lives.

"The training I received at Victoria University of Wellington allowed me to step straight into this role. I am able to apply my knowledge of evidence-based practice and research to my clinical practice with clients and to my role in the mental health service."