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**Clinical Psychology Doctorate Programme**

*FAQ’s - Frequently Asked Questions (please read)*

**To whom should I address my queries?**

First of all, read all information on this website and this section (FAQs) since they will generally cover most queries.

If you cannot find an answer to your query, please contact our administrator, Maria Rodriguez at [clinpsychadmin@ul.ie](mailto:clinpsychadmin@ul.ie)

**How many places are offered on the Programme?**

This is a 3 Year full time professional doctoral training programme in Clinical Psychology. We expect that for 2024 there will be around 15/16 places available at UL.

Similarly, to recent years UL and NUI Galway will operate a joint competition selection and interview process and it is likely that NUI Galway will also have around 15/16 places available on their programme. Whilst this will be a joint selection process, please note applicants are required to apply separately to each course for which they wish to be considered.

I**s the taught component of the doctorate programme offered at distance learning or via online?**

There is a requirement to be present on site as teaching takes several different forms not limited to didactic teaching (these include group work/ personal therapy for example as part of PPD modules etc).

**What is 'accreditation', and will the degree be accredited?**

Accreditation is the official recognition of a degree by the professional psychological body in Ireland - the [Psychological Society of Ireland](http://www.psihq.ie/) (PSI). All doctoral training programmes in clinical psychology must be accredited to allow you to pursue a career as a professional Clinical Psychologist.

UL Clinical Psychology Doctorate Programme is fully accredited by the PSI.

**What academic qualifications do I need to already hold for an application to be considered?**

**Based upon current criteria, at the time of application** applicants must **hold a primary degree in psychology or a postgraduate diploma in psychology recognised by the PSI as conferring eligibility for graduate membership of the Society.**

**Currently the degree must be at least at upper second-class honours level. Applicants who have a 2.2 degree in psychology and a recognised postgraduate qualification in psychology at Masters Level or higher may be considered for interview.**

If your qualification is not from the Republic of Ireland or the UK you need to have them checked by the PSI to see if they give you eligibility.

[Please contact the PSI for information on how to establish this](https://www.psychologicalsociety.ie/).

**Other than academic qualifications, do I need to meet any other criteria to apply?**

**Yes. Practical and/or Research experience relevant to clinical psychology is also required. It is expected that this experience totals a minimum of 12 months at the time of applying. Please note, applications can only be accepted from applicants residing in European Union (EU) countries.**

**What do I need to include with my application:**

* Qualification transcripts and certificates. If your qualifications have been obtained in a country where English is not the official language additional documentation must be provided (English translation of your qualification(s)/transcripts and English language Competency Certificate).

Marked: 2024 Application Qualifications

* A copy of your birth certificate/passport. Marked: 2024 Application Birth Certificate/Passport
* A passport sized photo. Marked: 2024 Application Passport Photo
* 2 References - 1 Clinical (work related) and 1 Academic using the required forms to be submitted directly to [clinpsychref@ul.ie](mailto:clinpsychref@ul.ie) by your referee preferably.
* Summary CV - maximum of 2 pages. Marked: 2024 Application Summary CV
* Completed 2024 Selection Work Experience Form.

**Do I send the reference forms to my referees?**

Yes. Your clinical and academic referee must receive the current templates from you. They fill them in and send their completed, signed forms to the email address provided: [clinpsychref@ul.ie](mailto:clinpsychref@ul.ie)

Make sure that you provide the most of up-to-date current clinical reference.

**Any tips on the application form?**

* The application form is essentially your opportunity to showcase that you have developed the competencies required for the programme. Please consider the information you provide very carefully as you will be shortlisted based on this information.
* The narrative sections of our application form, where you include the various academic, research, clinical and personal and professional competencies are very important. Demonstrate your capacity to present your information well.
* Only upload information required.
* Be very clear about your dates of relevant experience, official role title and core duties.
* Make links between qualifications and experience and competencies attained.
* Be mindful of confidentiality / anonymity issues related to clients / others you may have worked with.

**What are the fees?**

Fees are reviewed regularly. We anticipate that fees *per annum* for 2024 will be €14,628 per annum\*, however this will be clarified closer to the selection date. Historically, each student is financially responsible for 40% of each years’ fee with the sponsoring employer contributing 60%. This apportionment is also reviewed regularly in discussion with the employer to whom the successful applicants are contracted.

*\*Please note year 2 and year 3 fees are subject to change.*

Further information on fees and payment of fees is available from the [Student Fees Office](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fulsites.ul.ie%2Ffinance%2Ffinance-documents-0%23fees&data=05%7C01%7CTara.Jones%40ul.ie%7C274cd70dcd60401e9c8708dab11e5003%7C0084b9243ab4411692519939f695e54c%7C0%7C0%7C638017040991551812%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dNoQSqP1ID37OTAQcoXyDP2GtwTTPeJsSL%2FLw%2F4byX0%3D&reserved=0) website. All fee related queries should be directed to the Student Fees Office (Phone: +353 61 213 007 or email [student.fees.office@ul.ie.](mailto:student.fees.office@ul.ie))

Please click here for [information on funding and scholarships](https://www.ul.ie/gps/taught-programmes/education-and-health-sciences-taught-programmes/funding-your-postgraduate-degree)

**Can I choose where to undertake my Placements during the programme?**

Students are not permitted to secure their own placements as there is a designated system for Placement Planning between Programme Staff, the HSE and other relevant bodies. Students will be employed initially in the HSE and initial assignment will be to Community Healthcare Organisation Area **3/4/5/8, Placement Sites.** Students are required to complete no less than 390 days of placement experience (excluding leave) consisting of core and advanced/ specialist placements.

The majority of placements take place within the contracted area unless the placement requirements cannot be met. The placement locations are dependent on a number of factors such as the learning needs of the student, the numbers of qualified Supervisors available and the geographical area in which these Supervisors are based. Students may be required to work on placement in any service area within the above Administrative area as the need arises. The Health Service Executive reserves the right to assign students to any other location as the service exigencies require, in keeping with Doctoral Course requirements.

Where possible, there is consultation with students about the various locations on offer but ultimately the requirement to satisfy the operational criteria of the programme outweighs personal choice and this is an important aspect to consider when applying for the programme. Acceptance of a place on the programme will require a commitment to travel to various placement locations.

**Can the clinical placements be held in similar settings outside of Ireland?**

Not at the moment. The doctoral trainees, while students at the university, are also employees of the Irish Public Health Service and are contracted to complete their core supervised clinical placements within these services.

**How do I submit an application to UL?**

**UL operates an online only application process. This process is administered by the University’s Graduate & Professional Studies department. It is anticipated for 2024 applications that the online application process will go live mid- October 2023 at which time full details can be found here:**

<https://www.ul.ie/gps/course/clinical-psychology-doctorate-programme>

The closing date is Friday 12th of January 2024, please allow ample time in case of technical problems.

**Your application is not complete until all of the required supporting documentation has been uploaded. Only complete applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.**

if you have any issues submitting your application, please contact [GPS@ul.ie](mailto:GPS@ul.ie)

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