University of Limerick

Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology

Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology - www.ul.ie
Background

- In partnership with the Health Services Executive
- Psychologists in Clinical Training who undertake three years of full-time study, research and clinical practice to Doctorate level.
- Will qualify for formal entry into the profession of Clinical Psychology
- Is fully accredited by The Psychological Society of Ireland.
Overall Objectives

The programme has objectives in five key areas:
1. Academic Competence
2. Clinical Practice
3. Research
4. Professional Development
5. Impact on Community
Objectives

- To provide a programme that is academically rigorous to the highest standards of its international counterparts.

- The programme accords with the principles of best practice in professional education of clinical psychologists and that meets accreditation standards laid down by The Psychological Society of Ireland – current accreditation in place until 2017.

- To enable students to develop clinical practitioner skills through appropriate, supervised clinical placements in which clinical and research skills can be applied in a real world setting.
Objectives

• To engage students in academic and service-based research.
• To promote student ability and commitment to practice within a strong ethical framework.
• To provide the community with competent professional clinical psychologists to work in the health service.
Ethos of Programme

The programme is based on lifespan developmental psychology principles which are applied to clinical settings via the scientist-practitioner model of working. This complements training in the major theoretical orientations at both academic and clinical skills level. A particular emphasis on CBT and Dynamic Models of clinical practice.
Ethos of Programme

There is a strong emphasis on and training in:

– reflective practice,

– ethical practice and

– personal development incorporating personal therapy and group process work.
Learning Principles

• A model of adult learning has been adopted that reflects:
  1. Self-direction as a motivation to learn
  2. The use of previous experience to inform current learning
  3. Current learning as a developmental task in a career-long process of professional development
  4. The importance of applying current learning to a work setting.
Teaching Modalities

- Such principles are translated into practice by the use of reflective practice, participative learning, experiential learning and the use of workshops.
- There is little emphasis on didactic teaching
- Problem based learning is a core teaching medium
Programme Content

Core Area 1: Child Mental Health
Core Area 2: Adult Mental Health
Core Area 3: Intellectual Disability
Core Area 4: Elective Clinical Placement
Core Area 5: Research
Core Area 6: Personal Development
Programme Structure

- Minimum 390 clinical placement days (organised by the programme team)
- 200 research days
- 110 academic days
- 60 hours PD work
Assessment

- Assessment of Clinical Placements
- Case studies, Essays, Reviews
- Small scale research reports
- Thesis proposal, monograph and journal article
Unique Features

• A programme ethos driven by two different philosophical foundations – adult education and clinical practice (based on lifespan developmental psychology);

• Personal Development module that includes personal therapy and group process work;
Unique Features

1. The use of long clinical placement modules to enhance learning outcomes and performance outcomes;

2. Development of strong research links with partners across disciplines, professions and providers of services, to place the programme at the centre of delivery of research that reflects the needs of the community.
Minimum Entrance Requirements

- 2:1 Honours degree in Psychology as recognised by The Psychological Society of Ireland
- One year of work experience relevant to clinical psychology.
- Must be EU citizen to be eligible for selection
- Must hold a primary degree in psychology as recognised by The Psychological Society of Ireland
- Short-listing & selection by interview will apply.
- Approximately 160 applicants per annum
- Average 35 short-listed for interview
- Average of 10 selected for entry to the programme
| **Fees:** | Contact Graduate School. Fees are currently subject to a 60% contribution from HSE (this remains under constant review). Note: Self-funding is not permitted under current accreditation criteria. |
| **Salary:** | Successful applicants receive a salary from the HSE in line with its current pay scales for Psychologists in Clinical Training. |
| **Application:** | On-line application only. Closing date is normally the last Friday in January for intake in the Autumn semester of the following academic year. |
Careers

Graduates from this course will be qualified to work in the Irish Health Service, Voluntary Healthcare Sector, The Irish Prison Service and other related areas.