Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of GSC 6th August 2018

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation
Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Brief note about nature of change:
Minor modification to correct the omission of reference to the Health and Care Profession Code of Ethics and Conduct.

Location of change
2017/18 Examination Regulations found here: https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/dofclinpsyc/

Effective date
For students entering their second or third year in MT 2018
For first examination from 2018-19
**Detail of change**

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

1. The Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology Training shall have power, on behalf of the Medical Sciences Board, to admit Students for the Degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology.

2. The Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology Training shall make a return to the Registrar by the end of the first week of Michaelmas Full Term, showing the names of all persons admitted in that term as Students for the Degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology, and the Registrar shall keep a register of such students.

3. The Medical Sciences Board shall have power, on the recommendation of the Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology Training, to remove temporarily or permanently the name of a student from the register. This power shall include cases where students have been found under the procedures of the course and the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust guilty of gross misconduct or in breach of the Health and Care Professions Council or the British Psychological Society’s Code of Ethics and Conduct.

4. Students shall be admitted to the doctoral programme for a probationary period. The external examiner shall conduct a formal mid-course review during the second year of the course (i.e. between eighteen and twenty-four months after the commencement of the course). Candidates shall be required to complete successfully all elements of the work required before they are permitted to progress onto the second part of the course.

5. Subject to the provisions of clauses 3 and 4 above, students for the Degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology may hold that status for a maximum of five years.

6. The Proctors shall be responsible for overseeing the proper conduct of the examinations for the Degree in Clinical Psychology. They shall have power to investigate any concern regarding the conduct of any candidate for the examination and to impose any penalty equivalent to that which may be imposed upon a member of the University in similar circumstances.

7. An appeal against a decision of the Board of Examiners for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology must be made to the Complaints & Academic Appeals Panel of the Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology Training in the first instance, through procedures laid down in the course handbook. A candidate who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Institute’s Complaints & Academic Appeals Panel may submit an appeal through the University’s Procedures for Handling Complaints (including Academic Appeals) laid down and published by the Proctors under section 22 of Statute IX. No procedures arising from a candidate’s status as employee or former employee of the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust may affect a decision of the examiners.

8. Should any Students for the Degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology have access to University services and facilities, they will be required to observe the appropriate statutes, regulations, and/or rules governing the use of such services and facilities. The Proctors shall have power to investigate any alleged breaches of those statutes, regulations, and/or rules and to deal with the matter and
impose any penalty equivalent to that which they would have been empowered to impose upon a member of the University in similar circumstances.

**Special Regulations**

9. Candidates shall follow a course of training in Clinical Psychology for a period of at least three years. The training shall consist of Clinical, Academic, and Research elements, and candidates will be required to demonstrate their competence in all three elements. The precise periods of training, and the amount of time to be spent on each element, will be notified to candidates by the Course Director prior to the commencement of the course.

10. Candidates shall be examined in all of the following ways:

- *(a)* Clinical Activity

  Each candidate shall develop competence in five or six supervised clinical areas normally including the following:

  (i) Adult; (ii) Child; (iii) Disabilities; (iv) Older People; (v) Specialist (to be chosen by the candidate in consultation with the course tutors, subject to the availability of appropriate supervision. Final year candidates will normally either develop competence in one (twelve month) or two (six month) elective areas).

  Candidates shall submit to the Board of Examiners a report on five of the above clinical areas. Normally, at least one report will concern clinical work which is other than individually based. Each report shall consist of not more than 6,000 words including tables and diagrams but excluding references and appendices. Candidates shall also submit to the Clinical Tutor a notebook (Log Book) for each clinical area. The candidate's supervisor in each clinical area shall complete, in consultation with the Clinical Tutor, an Evaluation of Clinical Competence (ECC). The Reports and ECC Forms shall be assessed as part of the examination. The notebooks shall be available to the examiners.

- *(b)* Academic Activity

  Candidates shall be required to follow a programme of study, as prescribed by the Director of the Course, normally in each of the following areas:

  (i) Adult mental health; (ii) Children; (iii) Disabilities; (iv) Older People; (v) Specialist teaching.

   Candidates are required to submit an extended essay in three of these areas. The essay shall not exceed 5,000 words including tables and diagrams but excluding references, and shall be on a subject approved in advance by the Institute. One essay will take the form of a Critical Review.

- *(c)* Research Activity

  Candidates shall offer the following:
(i) One service-related project of approximately 4,500 words in length including tables and diagrams but excluding references and appendices. The project shall normally be carried out within a clinical context within the first two years of training and shall be of direct relevance to the clinical work.

(ii) A research dissertation of between 15,000 and 25,000 words, including tables, diagrams, references, and appendices. The Research Dissertation shall consist of a research report of a significant and substantial investigation with human participants and shall be of clinical relevance. The subject of the Research Dissertation must be approved in advance by the Institute.

All candidates will be examined on the Dissertation viva voce.

Candidates shall be required to satisfy examiners in each of the assessment units described in clause 10 above.

11. Guidelines on the preparation and submission of all written work will be updated annually as required and will be included in the Course Handbook.

12. Deadlines for the submission of all assessed work (i.e. essay titles, essays, service-related projects, integrated clinical reports, critical reviews, dissertation proposals and dissertations) will be published annually by the Institute in the ‘Annual Course Syllabus Book’ at the start of the academic year. They will also be posted in the Course Office.

13. All material submitted for examination must be sent to the Chair of Examiners for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, c/o the Course Manager, Isis Education Centre, Warneford Hospital, Headington, Oxford. It shall be accompanied by a certificate signed by the candidate indicating that it is the candidate’s own work, except where otherwise specified. In the case of the integrated clinical report, service-related project, and dissertation, this must be supported by a signed statement from the candidate’s supervisor indicating that the material submitted is the candidate’s own work. These certificates must be submitted separately in a sealed envelope addressed to the Chair of Examiners for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

Explanatory Notes

Students are subject to the ethical codes of two professional bodies: Health and Care Professions Council and the British Psychological Society. The regulations omitted reference to the HCPC, and this has been corrected.