

2324-04-TPT

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of Education Committee 17th May 2024

Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Brief note about nature of change: changes to the Doctor of Clinical Psychology programme as a result of a move from validated to collaborative provision

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2023*: [2023-24, Doctor of Clinical Psychology \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/examination-regulations/2023-24/doctor-of-clinical-psychology)

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2023

And

For first examination from 2023-24

Detail of change

General Regulations

~~1. The Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology Training Department of Experimental Psychology 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.~~

~~3.2.~~ 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.

~~4.3.~~ Students shall be admitted to the doctoral programme for a probationary period. The Board of Examiners shall conduct a formal mid-course review during the first half of the second year of the course (i.e. between twelve and eighteen 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 from the probationary period. Failure to meet mid-course requirements within 18 months of registration will usually result in withdrawal from the programme without award.

~~5. 4.~~ Subject to the provisions of clauses ~~2 3~~ and ~~4-3~~ 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.~~

5. Students will be expected to keep statutory residence while registered for the Degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology. Exceptional requests to live outside the statutory residence area may be made in accordance with the Regulations for Residence in the University. Requests to live outside the NHS Thames Valley and South Midlands area are unlikely to be supported by the department.

Special Regulations

1. 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~~ specified in the Course Handbook.

2. ~~Candidates shall be examined in all of the following ways:~~ must satisfy the examiners in the following:

(a) Clinical Activity

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

- (i) Adult;
- (ii) Child;
- (iii) Learning Disabilities;
- (iv) Older People;
- (v) (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 an integrated clinical 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 4,000 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 (a minimum of five) shall be assessed as part of the examination. The notebooks shall be available to the examiners.

Candidates must meet the subject area requirements through their Clinical Activity as detailed in the Course Regulations Handbook. Candidates may choose to offer case presentations to meet some subject area requirements, as set out in the Course Regulations Handbook.

(b) Academic Activity

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

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

Candidates are required to submit an extended essay. The essay shall not exceed 3,000 words ~~including tables and diagrams but excluding references, and shall be set by the course academic tutor team in December of the first year on an academic topic from the working age adult teaching in the Michaelmas term.~~ and further instructions are provided in the Course Handbook.

(c) Research Activity

Candidates shall offer a research portfolio ~~of between 12,000 and 18,000 words, including tables, diagrams, references and appendices,~~ comprised of:

(i) One service improvement project of between 3,000 and 5,000 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 report of 3,000-5,000 words concerning a significant and substantial investigation with human participants which shall be of clinical relevance. The subject of the ~~Research Report~~ research report must be approved in advance ~~by the Institute~~ according to the instructions in the Course Handbook.

(iii) A systematic review of 3,000-7,000 words which may include theoretical work in a clinical subject. The subject of the systematic review must be approved in advance ~~by the institute~~ according to the instructions in the course handbook.

(iv) A reflecting connective narrative of 1,000 words.

The word count for each element of the research portfolio does not include references or appendices.

All candidates will be examined on the research portfolio viva voce.

~~3. Candidates shall be required to satisfy examiners in each of the assessment units described in clause 2 above.~~

3. Candidates are required to pass all assessments in four units. The four units are:

- (i) Three professional/academic assessments
- (ii) Three assessed research proposals
- (iii) Six clinical placement assessments, each with an evaluation of clinical competence and two ratings of direct observation of clinical work except the fifth, which will have only one. The first five placements also require a separately marked integrated Clinical Report.
- (iv) A Research Dissertation in the form of a portfolio of publishable papers with a connecting and reflective narrative and executive summary.

Resits are permitted in the event of up to two initial failure marks in each unit. A total of five or more initial failures across the four units or a second failure at resubmission for any assessment will normally be deemed to constitute a failure of the doctorate and withdrawal from the programme.

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

5. Deadlines for the submission of all assessed work (including essay titles, essays, service improvement projects, integrated clinical reports, critical reviews, research proposals and research reports) will be published annually in the course handbook and on the course VLE by the Institute at the start of the academic year.

~~6. All material submitted for examination must be sent to the Chair of Examiners for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, c/o the Head of Operations of OCPH, Isis Education Centre, Warneford Hospital, Headington, Oxford. It shall be accompanied by a statement indicating the extent of any contribution by others in 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.~~ All material submitted for examination must be submitted via the approved online submissions platform according to the deadlines published in the Course Handbook.

7. Once the board has granted a candidate leave to supplicate, they must submit an electronic version of their finalised copy of the thesis, as approved by the examiners, to the Oxford Research Archive. These should incorporate any corrections or amendments which the examiners may have requested of the candidate. The examiners must confirm in writing in their report to the board that any corrections required have been made. No corrections, changes or additions of any kind shall be made to the thesis after the board has granted a candidate leave to supplicate.

Explanatory Notes

The revisions to the Doctor of Clinical Psychology have been made following the transition from validated provision to collaborative provision. The revisions also include clarifications.