

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS·UV
HUMANITIES
GEESTESWETENSKAPPE
PSYCHOLOGY
SIELKUNDE

Master's Programme in Clinical and Counselling Psychology

INFORMATION BOOKLET

2016

CONTENTS

Applied Master's Programme in Psychology: Overall Orientation	2
Nature of the programme	3
National Board Examination	4
Community Service	4
Registration as a psychologist	5
Compensation	5
Selection	5
1. Selection process	5
2. Selection documents	6
3. Specific admission requirements	6
4. Application forms	7
5. Feedback	7
6. Important dates	8
A final word	8

APPLIED MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN PSYCHOLOGY: Overall orientation

Welcome to the selection for the Master's Programme in Clinical and Counselling Psychology. This programme is a professional qualification that leads to registration as a Psychologist (Clinical, Counselling) with the Professional Board of Psychology (Health Professions Council of South Africa). The training for the two registration categories is currently completely integrated with differences in registration category determined only by the accreditation of the internship institution where students work in the second year of the Master's Programme.

The requirements for the degree involve one year of full-time study; one year accredited internship (professional training) and the submission of a mini-dissertation. Clinical students have to do a community service year following the internship year.

More about the department: Our focus is eclectic thereby exposing our students to as much as possible of what the field of Psychology has to offer. We thus do not claim to adhere to one specific school of thought, but rather to a range of orientations in order to best equip students. We endeavor to strive for academic excellence through research and teaching. Part of our aim is to produce qualified psychologists who can effectively serve the diverse South African population.

Therefore, the master's programme is designed to train our students to meet the needs of our transforming society. With the compilation of the programme, we bear in mind the HPCSA requirements as well as national and international trends within the discipline. The department ensures, through external and internal moderation, that our training is of a high standard. We proud ourselves in focusing on the development of critical thinking skills, in-depth knowledge of the discipline as well as the ability to apply knowledge within different contexts.

Credit value of the course: 240

NQF level of the course: 9

Course co-ordinator: Dr L Nel

Course secretary: Mrs E Du Plessis

Nature of the course

The training for the two registration categories applicable for 2014 is currently integrated. Differences in registration category are mainly determined by the accreditation of the internship institution where students work in the second year of the master's programme. However, we also ensure that supervision occurs strictly within registration categories. Other differentiations, like the placement of clients, are also being made specifically according to registration categories.

The requirements for the degree involve two years of full-time study and professional training, and the submission of a mini-dissertation. In the **first year** students are based at the Department of Psychology and it is expected of students to be active participants in the learning process. The emphasis is on theoretical training and the main aim is to assist students in acquiring a range of core professional psychological competencies, including:

- Ethical, legal and practice management competence,
- Intervention competence,
- Assessment competence,
- Consulting competence,
- Research competence (Scientific basis to the practice of psychology),
- Cultural diversity competence.

Students also gain practical exposure by rendering therapeutic services to the public in two practices, specialising respectively in the assessment, intervention and management of children, adolescents and adults. Practical experience in community psychology is gained through the planning, implementation and evaluation of an intervention programme for groups with specific needs for personal growth. All these practical work is conducted under supervision.

The overall learning outcomes for the first year of training are:

- A. Students must be able to demonstrate an awareness of ethical issues and engage in appropriate ethical behaviour in professional activities;
- B. Students must be able to demonstrate proficiency in interview and psychometric assessments by accurately completing diagnostic or intake interviews and assessment batteries;
- C. Students must be able to use effective individual, group and community interventions that are based on empirical rationale and demonstrate the ability to document the course of their interventions in clear process notes;
- D. Students must be able to demonstrate the ability to competently and independently implement referrals and interventions with a broad range of patient populations under the supervision of a registered psychologist;

- E. Students must be able to submit written work samples (portfolio's) in which a treatment case formulation and treatment plan is included that demonstrates an empirically based and interdisciplinary, culturally competent approach to treatment;
- F. Students must be able to demonstrate competence in an empirical approach to clinical or counselling practice as reflected in case presentations that include demonstration of knowledge of the pertinent research literature, assessment of the critical idiographic and cultural data and integration of data into workable treatment plans;
- G. Complete one research study in which there is a written product (mini-dissertation or publishable article) co-authored by the research supervisor.

The **second year** consists of a practical internship. Internships are intended to provide trainees with the basic competence in the scope of practice for their relevant registration categories. Students themselves are responsible for obtaining an accredited 12-month internship (approved by the HPCSA) within the registration category that they have registered for as student psychologists. Failure to complete the internship in the specified time will result in an unpaid extension of the internship between 3 and 12 months.

The Psychology Department has no formal relationships with any internship institutions. Although we assist master's students with applications to do internships, **we do not accept responsibility for the placement of students at internship institutions.** You are welcome to apply for internships anywhere in South Africa. By October of the **second year** all Master's students must submit a mini-dissertation. Master's students are not allowed to write the Board exam or start their Community Service **before the submission and successful examination** of their mini-dissertations.

National Board Examination

As from 2002, students have to pass a national exam (a written examination arranged by the Professional Board of Psychology) as the final requirement for registration as an independent psychologist. This examination can be written during February, June and October of a specific year.

Community Service

It is expected of all **clinical** psychologists to do **Community Service** for 12 months following the successful completion of their internships. Students registered in the Clinical Psychology category, must attempt to submit their research by **August** of their internship year as Community Service can only be started after completion of all academic requirements necessary for the degree. Candidates can apply at the Department of Health for positions available throughout the country.

For more information regarding internships, the board exam or the community service year, please contact the Health professions council of South Africa at 012 338 9300 or visit their website at www.hpcsa.cp.za

Registration as a Psychologist

Registration as a psychologist takes place after a student has completed the following successfully:

- a. Theoretical and practical assessment
- b. Accredited internship
- c. Research (submission of an extensive mini-dissertation)
- d. Community service (in the case of clinical psychology)
- e. Board examination (administered by the Health Professions Council of South Africa - HPCSA).

Compensation

The first year of the course is an academic study year and consequently occurs without financial compensation. Students who require financial assistance are advised to contact the **Financial Aid Department, University of the Free State (Tel. 051-401 9160/2106/3603)** in time. In most cases, students receive financial compensation during their internship year. However, no guarantee can be provided for this.

Selection

1. SELECTION PROCESS FOR MASTER'S PROGRAMME

Owing to the limited number of internship positions, prospective candidates are subject to a selection process. The selection process takes place in two stages. The first stage involves a **selection on paper** during which the group of applicants is reduced. Students who pass the selection on paper are invited to Bloemfontein for the second stage during which a series of **practical selection activities**, as well as **panel interviews** take place. The practical selection activities include individual and group activities.

The Department uses the following selection criteria:

- a. Academic potential and achievement
- b. Psychological knowledge and insight
- c. Work experience (part-time and full-time)
- d. Community involvement
- e. Interpersonal skills
- f. Maturity
- g. Research skills

2. SELECTION DOCUMENTS AND FEES

Students who want to be considered for the selection process must submit the necessary documentation to the Department accordingly before or on **3 June 2016**.

See the document titled (Application form) for all the details in this regard.

IMPORTANT: No selection fee is payable, BUT students who need to complete the DV1 form (*Application for Admission to the UFS*) need to make sure of the application fees as indicated on the form.

Registration fees at the UFS: In 2015 the University made the decision to waive registration fees for master's and doctoral students. However, this decision only applies to research degrees and is **NOT APPLICABLE TO STUDENTS IN THE APPLIED MASTER'S PROGRAMME**. Consequently, students who intend to apply for the Applied Master's Programme in Clinical/Counselling Psychology will still be required to pay **registration fees**.

3. SPECIFIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- a. Candidates whose application forms are incomplete and/or have been submitted late will not be considered for selection to the programme.
- b. Candidates must at least have obtained a B-honours degree in Psychology or a B.Psych. degree in Psychology.
- c. Candidates who still have to complete their fourth year of training in Psychology in the year when they apply must submit current marks for the selection process (if available). Such candidates are selected conditionally pending the successful completion of their 4-year degree and the submission of the final marks before the Master's course commences.
- d. Because the Clinical and Counselling Psychology training programmes require intensive lecturing and studying, double medium teaching is not possible. Although efforts are made to make the course accessible (by means of explanations) for those speaking different languages, the majority of the course is presented in English. Fluency in **at least two** of the following languages is recommended: Afrikaans, English and Sotho.

4. APPLICATION FORMS

Applications of interested candidates must reach the Department before or on **3 June 2016**. Application forms can be obtained in the following ways:

1. A hard copy of the application form can be collected at the Department of Psychology, University of the Free State campus, Bloemfontein (Mrs. Elize du Plessis, **Room 202**) after 15 March 2016.

Requests for application forms or any further enquiries can be directed to:

Mrs. Elize du Plessis
Department of Psychology
Internal Box 40
University of the Free State
P.O. Box 339, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300
Telephone: (051) 401 9420
E-mail: duplesse@ufs.ac.za

2. Electronic copies are available at: www.ufs.ac.za/psychology
See the link *MASTER'S PROGRAMME* on left side of the Psychology's webpage.

5. FEEDBACK

- a. After the selection on paper, the names of students who are promoted to the next round will be published on the notice board at the main entrance of the Psychology building. These names will be announced on **27 July 2016**. All candidates will also be informed of the results via e-mail.
- b. The Department provides no feedback after the pre-selection process.
- c. After the selection process, which ends on 26 August 2016, the successful candidates will be informed telephonically.
- d. Candidates who have not been informed about the results of the selection within 24 hours must assume that their applications have been unsuccessful.
- e. The Department strictly adheres to procedures when selecting the new intake of students. The decision of the Department with regard to the success of an application is final and binding. If your application was unsuccessful, no correspondence will be entered into by the Department with any associates, family members or acquaintances whatsoever. Upon completion of both the paper selection and interview processes each prospective candidate will receive an official email with the final result. This will serve as the only form of feedback.

6. IMPORTANT DATES

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:	3 JUNE 2016
RESULTS OF PRE-SELECTION:	27 JULY 2016
SELECTION PROCESS:	22 – 26 AUGUST 2016
FINAL LIST OF SELECTED CANDIDATES:	26 AUGUST 2016

A FINAL WORD

We trust that you will experience the selection process as fair and as an opportunity for personal growth. We as a department appreciate your interest in our master's programme!

Dr Lindi Nel (Programme co-ordinator)

Ms Elize du Plessis (Secretary)