

INTERNSHIP IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY 2025

The Unit for Professional Training and Services in the Behavioural Sciences (UNIBS) is an accredited internship site for the training of aspiring counselling psychologists located at the University of the Free State (UFS). UNIBS is offering a number of internships in counselling psychology during 2025. The internships would serve to fulfil the internship requirement for registration as a counselling psychologist with the Professional Board for Psychology at the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

These internships would involve assessment, diagnosis, and therapeutic treatment of a wide variety of problems in diverse client populations including primary and secondary school learners, children and families at Child Welfare, adults, and geriatric populations at the Universitas Pain Clinic, community service on the Phelophepa Healthcare Train and within the local community, etc.

Exposure at UNIBS includes, but is not restricted to:

- Developmental assessment in early childhood
- School-readiness assessment
- General scholastic assessment
- Subject choice counselling and assessment
- Career counselling and assessment
- Assessment of psychological functioning in individuals with chronic pain
- Individual psychotherapy with a diverse client population (children, adolescents, university students and adults)
- Couples and family counselling.
- Development, implementation and monitoring of various developmental programmes
- Exposure to multi-disciplinary practice within various contexts including neurodevelopmental pediatricians, medical doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, other psychologists, social workers, lawyers and other legal professionals, etc.
- Community service in the form of counselling, assessment, psychoeducation, workshops and interventions based on needs-analyses

The internships also include both theoretical and practical training components presented by local and international experts which focus upon the ethical practice of psychology, psychological and neurocognitive assessment, paediatric neurodevelopment, cognitive behavioural therapies (CBT, REBT, ACT), Schema Therapy, Solution Focused Brief Therapy, group work and couples counselling, development of case presentation skills and theoretical issues related to the practice of counselling psychology, etc. Comprehensive and collaborative supervision is provided for each intern on a weekly basis, therefore providing the opportunity for personal and professional development.

Minimum requirements:

Applicants must be:

- Registered as an MA, M.Soc.Sc. or MSc Counselling Psychology student at an accredited university/college.
- Registered as Student Psychologists with the HPCSA.
- A South African citizen OR
- A foreign national completing their degree at an institution where the M2 year is considered part of the Counselling Psychology degree, therefore allowing the student to be hired using their student visa.

Preferred competencies:

Preference will be given to applicants:

- With prior practical experience in psychological assessment and therapeutic intervention.
- Who are able to demonstrate proficiency in two of the following three languages: English, Afrikaans and Sesotho.

Application requirements:

Applicants are requested to provide Ms. Nicole Docherty with the following documents **on/ before 14**

June:

- A comprehensive curriculum vitae
- A comprehensive letter of interest
- Copies of all relevant academic records
- A copy of your identity document
- A copy of your student psychologist registration with the HPCSA

No late applications will be accepted. UNIBS reserves the right not to fill the positions in the event that suitable candidates cannot be identified.

Important dates:

- Shortlisted candidates will be notified on the 5 July.
- These candidates will then be expected to complete two assignments electronically on the 12th of July.
- Interviews will be conducted electronically with all short-listed candidates from the 22nd to the 25th of July.
- Final selection will be done by 29 July.

Applications and enquiries can be sent to: Ms Nicole Docherty
dochertyNL@ufs.ac.za

For more information on the internship please feel free to contact Nicole Docherty (dochertyNL@ufs.ac.za) or watch the video about our internship on our UFS webpage [https://www.ufs.ac.za/humanities/departments-and-divisions/unit-for-professional-training-and-service-in-the-behavioural-sciences-\(unibs\)-home](https://www.ufs.ac.za/humanities/departments-and-divisions/unit-for-professional-training-and-service-in-the-behavioural-sciences-(unibs)-home)