Pathways to become a psychologist

In Australia, to register as a psychologist, you are required to complete approved university training and supervised practice.

At ANU, we offer three degree pathways accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) that enable you to pursue a career as a registered psychologist in Australia.

The pathways are open to domestic and international students, who can apply to enter each phase of our pathways, such as Bachelors and Honours degree, or Masters level. Interested students are required to follow the admissions process and apply for each phase of the degree that they want to start their pathway from. More information about the pathways is available below.

Master of Professional Psychology Pathway

Duration: 6 years full time

Step 1. ANU bachelor degree majoring in Psychology

There are three APAC accredited bachelor’s programs at ANU that allow you to complete psychology courses that are required for admission into the Master of Professional Psychology: Bachelor of Science (Psychology), Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts.

Step 2. Master of Professional Psychology

This program is accredited by APAC and is the first in Australia to provide the fourth and fifth years of university study in the 5+1 pathway to registering as a psychologist. You will complete coursework on psychological assessment, interventions, professional skills and a group research project in the first year. This program includes practical placement experience in the second year.

Upon successful completion of the first year (48 units) of the Master of Professional Psychology, you will need to obtain Provisional Registration with Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA) and satisfy other requirements through this process in order to enrol into the second year of the program that involves practical placements.

Step 3. Internship

You must undertake one year of internship training in the field under the auspices of the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA) that can be completed in a full-time or equivalent part-time arrangement. More information can be found on the 5+1 internship program website. Note: the internship is organised by students.

Step 4. National Psychology Exam

At the end of the internship, the final step in this pathway is to complete the National Psychology Exam. On successful completion, trainees will be eligible to apply for General Registration as a Psychologist.

Step 5. Apply for General Registration

* The bachelor’s must be an APAC accredited three-year sequence. **Definition of terms such as major and honours at ANU can be found at policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_002601
### Master of Clinical Psychology Pathway

**Duration:** 6 years full time

1. **Step 1. ANU Psychology Honours**

   At ANU there are five APAC accredited Honours programs that you can choose from: Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours), Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), Bachelor of Science (Honours) and Bachelor of Science (Psychology) (Honours). Note: some of these programs can be completed as three-year bachelor degrees with an additional fourth honours year.

2. **Step 2. Master of Clinical Psychology**

   In this program you will study clinical coursework, undertake clinical field placements and conduct clinical research.

   You will complete clinically relevant coursework over the two years of the Masters. In the first year you will undertake supervised clinical practice in the ANU Psychology Clinic, and in the second year complete two supervised clinical placements outside ANU. In addition to 1,000 hours of clinical placement, you will also conduct an approved empirical research project.

   Students are required to apply for provisional registration at the commencement of the Masters course and remain provisionally registered over the duration of the course.

3. **Step 3. Apply for General Registration**

   Do not need to complete the national psychology exam.

4. **Step 4. Obtain Clinical Psychology Endorsement**

   Graduates from this pathway can apply for general registration with the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA), however in order to obtain clinical endorsement, they are required to complete 2 years of supervised practice.

### Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) Pathway

**Duration:** 4 years full time to complete the doctoral program

**Program:** Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology)

This APAC accredited doctorate degree consists of coursework, 1,000 hours of clinical placements and a research thesis equivalent to a PhD by research thesis in size and scope. It is designed for those who have a particular interest in the academic and research aspects of clinical psychology.

You can apply for general registration upon successful completion of the Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) without taking the national psychology exam, however in order to obtain clinical endorsement, they are required to complete 2 years of supervised practice.

### FAQ

**How to apply for the Honours year in psychology at ANU if I complete my bachelor’s at another Australian University?**

External applications are welcome. If your undergraduate degree in Psychology was earned from an APAC accredited institution and fulfills all of the ANU course requirements needed for Honours entry, then you will be eligible to apply for Psychology Honours at ANU. Note: the ANU grading criteria will be applied (e.g. if ANU has a higher cut-off than your institution, we will apply the ANU cut-off).

**How to apply for a Psychology Masters at ANU if I completed my degrees elsewhere?**

Australian Psychological Society Assessment is required if you studied outside of Australia, APAC Accredited sequence of study is required if you studied in Australia.