



**Department of Psychology
Faculty of Humanities**

**MA (Counselling Psychology)
Application Guide 2024 for 2025**

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for considering the University of Johannesburg for furthering your studies. The Department of Psychology offers the MA **Counselling Psychology** programme, which leads to registration as a Counselling Psychologist with the Professional Board of Psychology of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). This full-time programme is presented in English on the Kingsway Campus in Auckland Park. Please note that due to the demands of this course and your role as a student psychologist you will not be able to hold any part-time or full-time employment.

The programme runs over two years, the first year consists of coursework involving attending workshops, contact sessions and practical work as well as a research component (completion of a research proposal). The second year of the degree is an internship and a research component (completion of a minor dissertation); students will apply for an accredited counselling psychology internship during their first year of their MA Counselling degree. Information regarding HPCSA-accredited internships and the application process, is provided to students during the course of the degree.

Please note that the MA Counselling Psychology programme requires a selection process. All applications will be subject to this selection process. Please read the instructions thoroughly. Should you decide to withdraw from the selection process after having submitted your application, please inform the Department of Psychology as soon as possible.

We wish you all the best for your prospective studies.

Kind regards,

Dr N Pule
Programme Coordinator

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A recognized BA/BSc Honours degree in Psychology or an equivalent (i.e., **NQF level = 8**) at a recognized South African or foreign university. Applicants should have obtained a **minimum average of 65% for their Honours degree**.
- The Honours Degree must have been **completed less than 10 (ten) years** prior to application.

- Successful applicants will only be provisionally accepted until such time that official Honours examination results are available and the applicant is in possession of an Honours degree with marks that make the required threshold. In other words, the selected applicant must have complied with all the requirements of the Honours degree before the beginning of the MA Counselling Psychology programme. Students who may still need to write exams in January 2025 will therefore not be considered.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Complete the online **UJ online** application.
2. The **Departmental application** form to be emailed to counsellingpsych@uj.ac.za in ".WORD" format only, not PDF.
3. NB - you can only apply for either Counselling or Clinical – **NOT BOTH**. Please do not make your 1st choice Counselling and 2nd choice Clinical or vice versa.
4. The closing date is **14 June 2024 at 12:00 (midday)**.
5. The following documents must be included with the Departmental application:
 - a. Completed and signed Departmental Application;
 - b. Certified copy of your academic record and/or progress report indicating marks to date; Please do not password-protect any uploaded documents.
 - c. Proof of payment.
 - d. No other documents please.
6. Applicants who are still enrolled in an Honours course must provide their **provisional results for the first semester (compulsory)**. Obtained and stamped as an original by the Psychology Department of their university. A screen print of your Ulink/Marks page will suffice.
7. As we receive hundreds of applications, for ease of reference, please label every document as follows:
 - UJ Student number, surname, initials & document name e.g.
 - 2024111111 Surname Initials – Academic record
 - 2024111111 Surname Initials – Proof of payment
8. TWO referee reports from individuals who are able to comment on your academic and/or professional performance.
Please note: Referee reports must reach the Department of Psychology before 12:00pm (midday) on 14 June 2024. These should be sent by the referees themselves and not the applicant to the address on the referee form.
9. Compulsory administration fee of R300 (EFT or Direct Bank Deposits only) – non-refundable. This applies to all applicants.

NB - Please do not use ANY other or older banking details

Bank: FNB

Name of Beneficiary: UJ Psychology

REFERENCE: 005020.Couns

Account Number: 626 158 73149

Type of Account: Cheque Account

Branch: Main Street

Branch Code: 250655

ONLY this reference will be permitted

Please note:

NO LATE OR INCOMPLETE documentation will be accepted. If there is **not** a progress report or academic record attached to your application it will be **deemed incomplete and will not be processed**.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the documentation reaches the selection committee before the deadline. Therefore, allow enough time for your application to reach us.

The Department of Psychology cannot take responsibility for documentation that is sent to the incorrect email address or does not follow the specified process.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students need to have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA, before applying to the University of Johannesburg for any of the programs on postgraduate level. Please go to www.saqqa.org.za for more information.

SELECTION PROCESS

Staff from the Department of Psychology, who are registered Counselling Psychologists, are involved in the selection process. This process can be summarised as follows:

Initial screening

All applications are considered by the selection panel and rated according to a number of criteria. One of these criteria is previous academic performance. Only applicants who have obtained an average of **at least 65% in Honours** and 70% at third year level (for applicants still enrolled in Honours) will be considered.

Depending on the number of applications, it is possible that only applicants, who have obtained an average of 70% or more on Honours level, or 75% or more on third year level, will be invited for interviews.

Ratings for all applicants are collated and a shortlist of applicants who will be invited for further participation in the selection process is compiled. Depending on the number of applications, 80 students are shortlisted and invited to the selection week 26 – 30 August 2024. Applicants will be informed via e-mail whether they have been shortlisted (or not), from 29 July 2024.

Selection Week

Applicants who have been shortlisted are invited to participate in the selection week. During this week, applicants will be involved in various tasks and activities that may include individual interviews, group activities, research aptitude tests, role-plays and panel interviews. Applicants are again rated against a number of criteria.

Ratings for applicants are collated and the results discussed by the selection panel. The strongest applicants are identified by means of consensus. Eight applicants can be selected. Applicants will be informed in writing as to whether their applications have been successful.

Selection Criteria

Several criteria are considered in determining whether an applicant is suitable to be shortlisted or accepted into the programme. These can be clustered as follows:

- Cognitive competencies (e.g. strong academic record; research ability)
- Professional competencies (e.g. maturity; capacity to have a positive impact on others; field-related experience)
- Interpersonal competencies and personal qualities (e.g. verbal communication skills; interpersonal sensitivity)
- Potential to contribute to diversity in the programme

Please note that the above list is not exhaustive and that the selection panel endeavours to consider applicants on the grounds of all round balance and potential.

Due to the large number of applications we cannot provide any individual feedback to applicants who have not been successful.

We receive an overwhelming number of applications each year. As such, some applicants that meet the minimum entry requirements will be declined due to the competitiveness of the course. We have a limited number of seats to offer into the program.

The decision of the selection panel regarding successful applicants is final and binding.

Contact Information

UJ Online Application queries (only):

Student Enrollment Centre: (011) 559-4555

Student Enrollment Centre Online Chat: <https://www.uj.ac.za/Pages/uj-chat.aspx>

Departmental Application queries (only): counsellingpsych@uj.ac.za

Programme coordinator – Dr N Pule

Student Finance Department: <https://www.uj.ac.za/admission-aid/student-finance/>

Please do not contact the department once you have applied. Official decision letters will only be sent out after paper selections have taken place.

Please refrain from sending multiple applications.

Please refer to the web page regularly for new updates

<https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/humanities/ma-psychology-counseling-psychology/>

Programme Overview

The programme consists of three major components: coursework, practical training and research. Overall, the programme is not committed to any one theoretical perspective, and the development of an integrative approach is encouraged. Contributors to the programme will articulate the philosophical perspectives, which inform their teaching.

1. Research

Research forms an integral part of postgraduate studies, and students are required to complete a minor dissertation. The dissertation contributes to 50% of the final mark for the degree.

2. Coursework

The coursework consists of five modules:

- Therapeutic Psychology I (Individual approaches)
- Therapeutic Psychology II (Group approaches)
- Psychopathology, psychodiagnostics and psychological assessment
- Child and adolescent psychotherapy and psychopathology
- Integrated professional development

3. Practical work

Students have the opportunity to develop the necessary competencies and practical skills through experiential training in the coursework component, as well as through working in a practical placement.

Internships

Internships in Counselling Psychology can be applied for during the completion of the MA Counselling Psychology degree.

These internships do not form part of the programme and is not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Psychology.

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UJ online application process

If you are a new UJ applicant please use the following link;

<https://www.uj.ac.za/studyatUJ/sec/Pages/postgraduate.aspx>

If you are a returning student that already have an UJ student number, use your student number and this 5digit PIN, log into the following returning applicant web link to complete your online application:

https://registration.uj.ac.za/pls/prodi41/w99pkg.mi_login

Once logged into the system, click on Academic/Residence Application as per the print screen below.

Thereafter, click on POPIA (if *not* already accepted), accept it and then click on Upgrading Grade 12 Results? To indicate if you are currently upgrading or have already upgraded your grade 12 results.

The screenshot shows the University of Johannesburg Student Web interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options like 'Update Address/Contact Details', 'Academic/Residence Application', 'POPIA', 'Upgrading Grade 12 Results?', and 'Registration'. The 'Upgrading Grade 12 Results?' option is highlighted in yellow. The main content area displays the user's name as 'MISS [REDACTED]' and a 'Student Number' field. A note states: 'Please supply the required information to complete the Request for Information. All fields with an * must be completed.' Below this are two dropdown menus: 'Please indicate where in the process of upgrading you are?' and 'Please Select Your Student Number and ID Number from the List'. A 'Save' button is at the bottom.

Thereafter click on Academic/Residence Application. Then click on "Show" under the *Academic Applications* category

The screenshot shows the University of Johannesburg Student Web dashboard. The left navigation menu is expanded to show 'Academic/Residence Application' and 'Academic/Residence Application' highlighted in yellow. The main content area displays a list of application categories, each with a 'Note' and a 'Show' button: 'Biographical Information', 'Address Information', 'Contact Information', 'Contact Persons Information', 'Disabilities', 'School Leaving Subjects', 'Previous Studies', and 'Academic Applications'. The 'Academic Applications' category is highlighted in yellow.

After clicking on show, a list of all your previous applications will show and a button on the bottom right named 'Add New Academic Application'. Click on "Add New Academic Application" as per screenshot below.

Academic Year	Academic Preference	Qualification	Description	Admission Status
2020	1	H1CITQ	BCom(Hons) in IT Management	HONOURS ADMITTED
2019	1	B1CISQ	BCOM IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS	SENIORS ADMITTED
2018	1	B1CISQ	BCOM IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS	SENIORS ADMITTED
2017	1	B1CISQ	BCOM (INFORMATION SYSTEMS)	SENIORS ADMITTED
2016	1	BC0014	BCOM (ACCOUNTING)	CANCELLED
2016	3	B1CISQ	BCOM (INFORMATION SYSTEMS)	ADMITTED

[Add New Academic Application](#)

Please note that you may not need to capture a "Qualification Specific Token" unless it is provided to you. So please leave this field empty. Also note that the token is *not the same* as the qualification code provided in the prospectus, by the institution.

You may search for the qualification by using a few letters of the qualification name (viz. LLM) or using the qualification code on the yellow highlighted space shown below:

University of Johannesburg Monday, 27th January 2020

Process Trail: Qualification

Choice of Programme or Qualification

Student Number:

Name: MSS

Note: Select your intended year of study from the "Academic Year" list provided. Enter a word or phrase pertaining to your intended field of study. This function will perform a search for an exact match of the text entered. All fields indicated with a * must be completed.

Academic Year: 2020 ▼

Enter a Qualification Specific Token if Applicable:

Find A Programme or Qualification Containing:

Restrict the Search to:

[Search](#) [Return to the Application Process](#)

Please ensure that **certified copies** of all supporting documents that may be required, are individually scanned and emailed to ujappdocs@listsrv.uj.ac.za with your student number in the subject line. Please **certify your academic record at a commissioner of oaths/bank/post office/police station to avoid the docs being deleted.**

When sending scan individually too ujappdocs@listsrv.uj.ac.za with your student number in the subject line and **do not write anything in the body of the email as it's a server link email.**

The qualification codes below;

Faculty - HUMANITIES



M7012Q
M7017Q
M7042Q
M7060Q
P7023Q
P7031Q

MA in Clinical Psychology (CW)
MA in Counselling Psychology (CW)
MA in Psychology (RD)
MSc in Psychology (RD)
PhD in Psychology
PhD in Psychology (RD)