



Department of Psychology Faculty of Humanities

MA (Counselling Psychology) Application Guide for 2023

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, a research component (completion of a minor dissertation), as well as attending workshops, contact sessions and practical work. The second year of the degree is an internship; 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 Noorjehan Joosub
Programme Coordinator

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A recognised BA/BSc Honours degree in Psychology or the equivalent thereof at a recognised 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 ten years ago or proof of relevant training and academic contact with Psychology as a subject must be rendered.
- Successful candidates will only be provisionally accepted until such time that official Honours examination results are available and the candidate is thus in possession of an Honours degree. Please note that a candidate must have complied with all the requirements of the Honours degree before the beginning of the academic year for which they have been selected. Students from other Universities who still have to write exams in January 2023 will therefore not be considered.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Complete the online UJ web-application.
2. The Departmental application form will be completed online this year. Once you completed your UJ online application and your UJ online status is “subject to selection process” a link to the online Departmental application will be sent to you via email within 48 hours. Please note the link will not be sent until all online application requirements have been met.
3. Please note you can only apply for either Counselling or Clinical – **NOT BOTH**. Please do not make your 1st choice Counselling and 2nd choice Clinical. Your second choice has to be either Research Psychology or with another Department/Faculty.
4. The closing date is 6 July 2022 at 12:00 (midday).
5. **The following documents must be included with the Online Departmental application :**
 - a. Completed and signed Departmental Application;
 - b. Certified copy of your academic record and/or **progress report** indicating marks to date;
 - c. Please **do not** password-protect any uploaded documents.
 - d. Proof of payment.
 - e. **No other documents please.**
 - f. 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.
 - g. As we receive hundreds of applications, for ease of reference, please label every document as follows: surname, initial, UJ student number, document name e.g.
Smith J – 2022111111 - Academic record
Smith J – 2022111111 - Proof of payment
6. **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 6 July 2022. These should be sent by the referees themselves and not the applicant to the address on the referee form.**
7. Compulsory administration fee of R300 (EFT or Direct Bank Deposits only) – non-refundable. This applies to both internal and external students and returning students.

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

Bank: FNB

Name of Beneficiary: UJ Psychology

Account Number: 626 158 73149

Type of Account: Cheque Account

Branch: Main Street

Branch Code: 250655

REFERENCE: **005020.Couns**

(Please note 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.
- International students must contact the programme co-ordinator before commencing with application – Dr N Joosub njoosub@uj.ac.za.
- 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.sqa.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:

1. 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 candidates 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 candidates who will be invited for further participation in the selection process is compiled. Depending on the number of applications, between 40 and 50 students are shortlisted and invited to the selection week **15 – 19 August 2022**. Applicants will be informed via e-mail whether they have been shortlisted (or not), from 29 July 2022.

2. Selection week

Applicants who have been shortlisted are invited to participate in the selection week, **15 – 19 August 2022**. 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. Candidates are again rated against a number of criteria.

Ratings for applicants are collated and the results discussed by the selection panel. The strongest candidates are identified by means of consensus. Between six and eight candidates can be selected. Candidates 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 candidates 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 amount of applications each year. As such, some candidates that meet the minimum entry requirements will be declined due to the competitiveness of the course. We also have a limited number of seats to offer into the program.

The decision of the selection panel regarding successful candidates 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

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 refer to the web page regularly for new updates.

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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