



Faculty of Humanities Department of Psychology

MA Counselling Psychology Application Guide 2025 for 2026

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for considering the University of Johannesburg to potentially train as a counselling psychologist. The Department of Psychology offers the MA **Counselling Psychology** programme, which leads to registration as a Counselling Psychologist with the Professional Board of Psychology (PBP) of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). This full-time programme is presented in English on the Auckland Park Kingsway Campus (APK 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/lectures, contact sessions and practical work as well as a research component (completion of a research proposal, ethical clearance, and usually data collection). 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. The second year of the degree is the internship as well as the continued research component (with the completion of a minor dissertation by October).

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.

MA Counselling Psychology Training Team.

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ A recognised BA/BSc Honours degree in Psychology or an equivalent (i.e., **NQF level = 8**) 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 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 examinations in January 2026 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 **13 June 2025 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)**. These must be obtained and stamped as an original by the Psychology Department of your university. A screen print of your Ulink/official marks page will suffice. Please include proof of registration for current Honours programme.
7. As we receive over hundreds of applications, for ease of reference, please label every document using the following naming convention:

UJ Student number, surname, initials & document name e.g.
2024111111 Surname Initials – Academic record
2024111111 Surname Initials – Proof of payment
8. **Referee reports will only be requested from those invited to the selection week**. We will communicate this directly to the candidates.
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.
- 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.saga.org.za for more information.

SELECTION PROCESS

Staff from the Department of Psychology, supervisors from accredited internship sites, and professionals in the field, 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, approximately 60 to 80 students are shortlisted and invited to the selection week 25 – 29 August 2025. Applicants will be informed via e-mail whether they have been shortlisted (or not), from 28 July 2025.

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 evaluated based on several criteria.

Ratings for applicants are collated and the results discussed by the selection panel. The strongest applicants are identified based on several aspects, including but not limited to the quantitative scores, qualitative feedback (including referee reports) and HPCSA requirements. The programme is able to offer eight applicants a position for 2026. Applicants will be informed in writing as to whether their applications have been successful. If you are on the waiting list, you will be contacted should a position become available.

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 of the programme, the professional and the services for potential clients.

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 positions to offer on the programme.

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

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 refrain from sending multiple applications.

Please refer to the website for more information:

<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 supervised work at a practical placement.

Internships

Internships in Counselling Psychology can be applied for during the completion of the MA Counselling Psychology degree. These internships are ascertained by the students and currently do not form part of the programme and are not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Psychology. However, the University of Johannesburg continues as your supervising institution for your professional training, involved in your training and your minor dissertation.

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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 5digitPIN, 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 'Student Web' interface of the University of Johannesburg. On the left is a navigation menu with options: 'Update Address/Contact Details', 'Academic/Residence Application' (highlighted), 'Proforma Rules and Regulations', 'POPIA', 'Upgrading Grade 12 Results?' (highlighted), 'Academic/Residence Application', and 'Registration'. The main content area displays the user's name as 'Name: MESS' 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, there 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

This screenshot shows the 'Academic/Residence Application' page. The left navigation menu includes 'Update Address/Contact Details', 'Academic/Residence Application' (highlighted), 'Proforma Rules and Regulations', 'POPIA', 'Academic/Residence Application' (highlighted), 'Registration', 'SAICA Registration Online Prog', 'PRBU Registration Online Prog', 'Changes to Registration', 'Residence Registration', 'Cheque and Credit Card', 'Payment', 'Proforma Statement', 'AOD (Acknowledgment of Debt)', 'SRC Trust Fund Applications', 'SRC Fund and Meal Application', 'Appointment Humanities', and 'Faculty'. The main content area is titled 'University of Johannesburg' and contains a 'Note: Header note for returning student applications'. It lists several sections with 'Show' links: 'Biographical Information' (Note: Biographical notes for returning student applications), 'Address Information' (Note: Address Update notes for returning student applications), 'Contact Information' (Note: Contact Update notes for returning student applications), 'Contact Persons Information' (Note: Address Update notes for returning student applications), 'Disabilities' (Note: Disability notes for returning student applications), 'School Leaving Subjects' (Note: School Subject notes for returning student applications), 'Previous Studies' (Note: Previous Study notes for returning student applications), and 'Academic Applications' (Note: Academic Application notes for returning student applications). The 'Academic Applications' section is highlighted.

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 Applications				
Note: Academic Application notes for returning student applications				
Hide Academic Applications				
Academic Year	Academic Preference	Qualification	Description	Admission Status
2020	1	B1C1TQ	BCommons in IT Management	HONOURS ADMITTED
2019	1	B1C1SQ	BCOM IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS	SENIORS ADMITTED
2018	1	B1C1SQ	BCOM IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS	SENIORS ADMITTED
2017	1	B1C1SQ	BCOM (INFORMATION SYSTEMS)	SENIORS ADMITTED
2016	1	BC0014	BCOM (ACCOUNTING)	CANCELLED
2016	3	B1C1SQ	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:

Field A Programme or Qualification Containing:







Restrict the Search to: Do not restrict any programme

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 subjectline and **do not write anything in the body of the email as it's a server link email.**

The qualification codes below (please do not apply for both clinical and counselling psychology):

Faculty - HUMANITIES		
	M7012Q	MA in Clinical Psychology (CW)
	M7017Q	MA in Counselling Psychology (CW)
	M7042Q	MA in Psychology (RD)
	M7060Q	MSc in Psychology (RD)
	P7023Q	PhD in Psychology
	P7031Q	PhD in Psychology (RD)