The ACU School of Psychology offers the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Psychology*, under the 5+1 model of psychology training. This program holds conditional accreditation with the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC) as a recognised 5th year in psychology. This program offers an alternative to registering as a Provisional Psychologist through a supervised practice (4+2) pathway or a Master of Psychology degree.

The course is designed to provide graduates in psychology with an additional year of full time education in the professional practice of psychology. This year is sufficient to prepare graduates for a final year of supervised practice prior to general registration as a Psychologist.

**Course Structure**

Students are required to complete 6 coursework units, in addition to 2 practicum units, including:
- Issues and Skills in Professional Practice
- Psychological Assessment
- Psychological Intervention
- Research Methods for Practitioners
- Practice across the Lifespan
- Elective Unit

Coursework units are conducted as all-day workshops so that students are provided with an interactive learning experience.

**Clinical Experience**

Students complete a minimum of 300 hours of practical experience through two clinical practicums in addition to meeting with a registered psychologist for supervision. The first practicum is completed in the university clinic, and the second practicum is completed with an external agency.

**Professional Recognition**

Students of the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Psychology* will be required to register with the Psychology Board of Australia as a Provisional Psychologist. Students and graduates of this program are eligible to apply for associate membership of the Australian Psychological Society.

**Admissions Requirements**

The admission requirements for entry into the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Psychology include:
- Four years of an accredited undergraduate psychology course or equivalent
- Minimum of Second Class Division B Honours or equivalent
- Academic referee report
- Professional/ personal referee report
- An interview
- Eligibility for registration as a Provisional Psychologist with APHRA

Apply online.

Applications close 9 January 2015. Interviews will take place between 19 - 30 January 2015.

*This program is currently not AQF compliant. It is currently undergoing review and is expected to be fully AQF compliant for 2015. The course will be renamed to the MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY once full approval has been granted.
### Sample Program Map - Showing Full Time Enrolment

#### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC650 Issues and Skills in Professional Practice</td>
<td>PSYC653 Research Methods for Practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC651 Individual Assessment</td>
<td>PSYC654 Practice Across the Lifespan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC652 Clinical Assessment and Intervention 1</td>
<td>PSYC656 Practicum 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC655 Practicum 1</td>
<td>Elective (may be selected from ACU courses PSYC657 Forensic Psychology or PSYC658 Advanced Cognitive Neuropsychology OR USQ courses PSY5030 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs or PSY5040 Relapse Prevention (provided pre-requisites and co-requisites are met)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### What Our Students Say

“The course has taught me a lot about the professional and interpersonal competencies required of students in relation to supervised practice in both mental health-specific and more general settings”

**DANIELLE BELL**

“As well as providing students with an additional year of theoretical knowledge in psychology with a strong focus on the practical aspects of being a psychologist by exploring for instance ethics, rapport building and report writing, the most important part of the course is that it involves the two practicums and the opportunity to participate in these at the university clinic”

**DENISE JONES**

“The ACU clinic offers exposure to a diverse range of clientele requiring both assessment and therapy, ensuring students gain the experience required for their sixth year whilst endeavouring to gain full time employment as Provisional Psychologists”

**MADELINE TURNBULL**

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