



Deakin University - APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher education provider	Deakin University
Name of the Psychology AOU	School of Psychology, Faculty of Health
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Re-accreditation and initial accreditation (5 yearly cycle)
Programs and level of study assessed	Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Level 1) Bachelor of Criminology/Bachelor of Psychological Science (Level 1) Bachelor of Health Sciences (Level 1) Bachelor of Human Resource Management (Psychology) (Level 1) Bachelor of Marketing (Psychology) (Level 1) Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Psychological Science (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Child and Family) (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Forensic Studies) (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Organisational Studies) (Level 1) Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychology (Child and Family) (Honours) (packaged Level 1 and 2) Bachelor of Psychology (Forensic Studies) (Honours) (packaged Level 1 and 2) Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (packaged Level 1 and 2) Bachelor of Psychology (Organisational Studies) (Honours) (packaged Level 1 and 2) Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Honours) (Level 2)



	Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) (Level 2) Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced) (Level 2) Master of Professional Psychology (Level 3) Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) (packaged Level 3 and 4) Master of Psychology (Clinical) (packaged Level 3 and 4) Master of Psychology (Organisational) (packaged Level 3 and 4) Program in teach out: Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Pre-Practice) (packaged Level 1 and 2)
Campus	Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waterfront, Geelong Waurm Ponds, Warrnambool
Date of virtual site visit	2 - 4 June 2020
Date of APAC Board Determination	19 October 2020
Accreditation end date	31 December 2025



Background and overview

The Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) last reviewed Deakin University's (Deakin) suite of undergraduate Level 1, fourth year packaged Level 1 and 2 and Level 2, and postgraduate packaged Level 3 and 4 psychology programs for the purpose of re-accreditation in 2015.

At the time of the 2015 review, Deakin's range of Level 1, packaged Level 1 and 2, Level 2 and packaged Level 3 and 4 programs offered on campus and online were accredited for a shortened period of time as a small number of shortfalls were identified against the Accreditation Standards. Subsequent to the review, all outstanding conditions were satisfied and Deakin's range of programs have since been accredited without conditions.

Since the last review, Deakin has made a number of changes to the Level 1 programs, specifically, the inclusion of an additional unit to the core units of the Level 1 sequence, a creation of the option for students to undertake an additional major sequence, the partnership with the Faculty of Business and Law to introduce two new programs, and the introduction of a Level 1 Bridging program. During 2018 and 2019, the Level 2 programs underwent a substantial restructure with an emphasis on curriculum and assessment re-design, communication and online user experience. The School implemented the Level 3 Master of Professional Psychology (MPP) program for the first time in 2017 as well as conducting a program-wide analysis of the content and assessment of the packaged Level 3 and 4 programs. The outcome of the review saw the introduction of the Risk Aware program and a 2 day Aboriginal Cultural Immersion module which students in the Level 3 MPP and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical programs are mandated to compete.

Deakin also reported that the Faculty of Health underwent a series of change processes regrading professional staff in 2018/2019. This resulted in several professional staff who were previously within the School to move to either central university positions or Faculty teams and a substantial change in the profile of professional staff within the School.

The Assessment Team considered the School of Psychology, Faculty of Health's 192 page Application for Accreditation and attached appendices against the Accreditation Standards. Following the Assessment Team teleconference held on 23 April 2020 subsequent information was requested and received from Deakin.

Prior to the virtual site visit the Assessment Team was provided with access to Deakin's SharePoint to view a range of information, including:

- Course overviews, core and elective coursework unit guides and assessment examples for the suite of Level 1 undergraduate programs
- Course overview and core coursework unit guides and assessment examples for the Level 1 Bridging program
- Course overview, coursework and research unit guides and assessment examples, Course guide for students, Course guide for staff and Symposium series for the Level 2 and packaged Level 1 and 2 fourth year programs
- Course overview, coursework and placement unit guides and assessment examples, Inherent requirements, Practicum manual, list of placement agencies and Graduate student internship destinations for the Level 3 MPP program



- Course overview, coursework, placement and research unit guides and assessment examples, Placement information manual, Placement stages and responsibilities, supervision contract & safe placement guide and Research manual for the packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical Masters and Doctorate programs
- Course overview, coursework, placement and research unit guides and assessment examples, list of placement organisations, Placement induction module overview, Research manual and Course manual for the packaged Level 3 and 4 Organisational Masters program
- Video tour of the Cognitive neuroscience labs located at the Burwood campus
- Video tour of the Barwon Health Child & Youth Mental Health/Deakin University Psychology Clinic with supplementary explanatory notes
- Comprehensive description of the Eastern Health Child & Youth Mental Health/Deakin University Psychology Clinic

The APAC Assessment Team conducted a virtual site visit on 2 - 4 June 2020. During the virtual site visit the Assessment Team interviewed a range of individuals via Zoom teleconference, including:

- Head of School
- Vice Chancellor
- Associate Head of School (Research) and Higher Degree Research (HDR) Coordinator
- Professional staff
- Undergraduate, Fourth Year, Level 3 MPP, packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical and packaged Level 3 and 4 Organisational Masters Course Directors
- Undergraduate, Fourth Year, Level 3 MPP, Clinical and Organisational Unit Chairs and teaching staff
- Level 3 MPP, packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical and packaged Level 3 and 4 Organisational Masters Placement Coordinator
- Level 3 MPP, packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical and packaged Level 3 and 4 Organisational Masters placement supervisors
- Undergraduate, Fourth Year, Level 3 MPP, packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical, packaged Level 3 and 4 Organisational Masters and HDR students

During the virtual site visit, the Assessment Team was provided with additional information including a copy of the Organisational Psychology placements client activity guide & definitions information handout and APAC client definitions handout provided to students as part of their Placement ToolKit, a recently published research article on Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) development as well one on the Deakin Psychology Virtual Clinic and an email clarification on the coverage of Foundational Competency 1.5 within the Level 1 programs.

The findings in this report are based on the Assessment Team's evaluation of the material outlined above and interview evidence at the time of the virtual site visit.



Key findings

Deakin has a strong emphasis on learning from real-life world experience. Deakin's suite of psychology programs is designed to prepare students for each stage of their studies and assist them to become work-ready whether they choose to continue their pathway to postgraduate studies or exit after their undergraduate degree. The curriculum for each of the psychology programs is underpinned by the scientist practitioner model and is built to facilitate the acquisition of the skills required to interrogate, evaluate and communicate knowledge in psychology and produce new knowledge through research and analysis.

The evidence gathered by the Assessment Team indicates that the Level 1 program offerings are well organised and well established. The quality and flexibility in learning and teaching experience offered by the Cloud Campus placed Deakin well to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The facilities and resources available to students are excellent. The staffing profile is well positioned to deliver a broad range of educational experiences to students within the School.

The School has strong links to industry and constructive engagement with a broad range of placement providers. The professional programs provide students with a breadth of placement opportunities required to develop the professional competencies. Students are well supported in the practice setting, with dedicated supervisors providing appropriate oversight.

The School has demonstrated an openness to gather and act on feedback from students, with examples of how the program had been improved as a result of this feedback.

The School has a well-formed committee structure and mechanisms exist within the School's management structures and committees to ensure external input is incorporated into the design and management of the programs. The Level 3 MPP program would benefit further from systematic and ongoing external benchmarking of the program.

There are opportunities for the School to further strengthen the Organisational Masters program by providing greater exposure in inter-professional practice education both in content and assessment as well as developing students' understanding in cultural competence and responsiveness, in particular in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' and the School provided evidence to show this was currently in process.



APAC Board determination

That the following programs at Deakin University are re-accredited without conditions until **31 December 2025**:

- **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waterfront)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waterfront)
- **Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced)** (Level 2) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waterfront)
- **Doctor of Psychology (Clinical)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Burwood)
- **Master of Psychology (Clinical)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Burwood, Geelong Waterfront)

That Deakin University's **Bachelor of Human Resource Management (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Geelong Waterfront) program is accredited with conditions from **19 October 2020** until **31 December 2025**.

That the following programs at Deakin University are re-accredited until **31 December 2025**:

- **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds, Warrnambool)
- **Bachelor of Criminology/Bachelor of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds)
- **Bachelor of Health Sciences** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds, Warrnambool)
- **Bachelor of Human Resource Management (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus)
- **Bachelor of Marketing (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus)
- **Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Geelong Waterfront, Warrnambool)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds, Warrnambool)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science (Child and Family)** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds, Warrnambool)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science (Forensic Studies)** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds, Warrnambool)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science (Organisational Studies)** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds, Warrnambool)
- **Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds)
- **Bachelor of Psychology (Child and Family) (Honours)** (packaged Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds)
- **Bachelor of Psychology (Forensic Studies) (Honours)** (packaged Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds)



- **Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)** (packaged Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurn Ponds)
- **Bachelor of Psychology (Organisational Studies) (Honours)** (packaged Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurn Ponds)
- **Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Pre-Practice)** (packaged Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Burwood, Cloud Campus, Geelong Waurn Ponds) **in teach out*
- **Master of Professional Psychology** (Level 3) (Campus: Burwood, Geelong Waterfront)
- **Master of Psychology (Organisational)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Burwood)

Subject to the following conditions:

For the Level 1 and packaged Level 1 and 2 programs

By **31 December 2021:**

1. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2, 3.8 and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1 are met, the School is to provide evidence that *Foundational Competency 1.2* and cultural responsiveness including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are appropriately integrated across the Level 1 sequence of psychology, clearly articulated as a learning outcome, taught and assessed.

For the Level 3 MPP program

By **31 December 2021:**

1. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School is to provide evidence on the progress and outcomes of the external benchmarking exercise.

For the Master of Psychology (Organisational) program

By **31 December 2021:**

1. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 3.2, 3.8, 3.9 and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1 are met, the School is to provide evidence that the application of the principles of inter-professional learning is included as a required learning outcome and assessed, and cultural responsiveness including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are appropriately integrated across the program, clearly articulated as a required learning outcome and assessed.



Table 1: Summary of findings regarding each criterion for each Standard

	Level 1	Level 1 and 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3 and 4 Clinical	Level 3 and 4 Organisational
Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured					
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective					
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 3: Program of study	Standard Statement 3: Program of study, design, delivery and resourcing enable students to achieve the required graduate competencies					
	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is substantially met
Domain 4: The student experience	Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support					
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid					
	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is substantially met



Quality improvement suggestions

A quality improvement suggestion refers to an action or a course of actions that should be considered by the education provider to improve the delivery and/or outcomes of the program.

The suggestions are as follows. It is recommended that the School of Psychology, Faculty of Health at Deakin University:

1. update information in handbooks to remove reference to the APS college guidelines and replace this with reference to the APAC standards
2. review the direct client activity definitions to ensure that the packaged Level 3 and 4 Organisational Masters program student logbooks reflect definitions provided by APAC

Commendations

A commendation refers to a particularly significant achievement by the education provider with regard to the program.

The Assessment Team have made the subsequent commendations following the evaluation of the program.

The School of Psychology, Faculty of Health at Deakin University is commended for the:

1. strong leadership and the consistent support and guidance provided by the Head of School
2. collegiality, cohesion and satisfaction displayed amongst the academic teaching team and professional staff
3. openness and availability of staff and supervisors and the level of support provided to students
4. state of the art, award winning resources available through the Deakin Psychology Virtual Clinic
5. curriculum development improvements made by the Postgraduate Clinical team which saw the team win the Vice Chancellor's Learning Award
6. strong links to industry and constructive engagement with a broad range of placement providers