



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	Edith Cowan University, School of Psychology
Date of determination	3 December 2015
Standards version	June 2010 version 10
Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation	Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) E95 Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Addiction Studies) K12 Bachelor of Arts (Psychology, Criminology and Justice) K13 Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Counselling) K82 Bachelor of Science (Psychology) E37 Bachelor of Psychological Science K67 Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychological Science K58 Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) K34 Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Honours) K84 Bachelor of Science (Psychology) (Honours) K86 Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) I69

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychology at Edith Cowan University (ECU) and its programs of study. This summary highlights selected key features of the assessment. Comprehensive analysis of the assessment is contained in the full APAC Assessment Team Report.

The School sits with the impressive 'Health at ECU' initiative, which is seen as an area of strength and investment by the University. Being part of this initiative offers psychology at ECU a number of interesting and exciting opportunities in relation to professional training in the future.

The assessors met with a number of staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and also inspected the relevant resources and facilities.

The School of Psychology and Social Science meets all the Standards relating to the AOU.

All the degrees for which accreditation is sought conform with the relevant Standards relating to degree nomenclature.

The overall student:staff ratio is adequate and meets the Standards relating to Academic Staffing. The student:staff ratio for the postgraduate professional program in clinical psychology is also acceptable and the profile of the academic staff meets the Standards.

The office space for staff and postgraduate students is appropriate and there are a number of laboratories which are well utilised. The teaching spaces are good as are the computing facilities for both staff and students, and there is a well-stocked library.

The new facilities of the clinic in the off-campus ECU Health Centre are excellent and well suited to the training of professional psychologists. There is a steady stream of referrals to the Psychological Services Centre with the potential for multi-disciplinary experience. The test-library is well-stocked and overseen, and has appropriate operating procedures.

A restructure involving centralising of IT services may have negative implications for the AOU. All psychology Honours students and postgraduate students have to complete an independent research project. Unless there is dedicated support for the computer based research, students may be disadvantaged.

The School has a commitment to quality teaching, with a number of staff receiving awards for this area of their work. The University's learning management system, teaching materials and methods meet all the relevant Standards.

The School of Psychology and Social Science (Psychology AOU) at Edith Cowan University received the grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

The accredited psychology sequence at ECU can be taken in a number of undergraduate degrees. In three of the undergraduate degrees for which accreditation is sought, the psychology sequence is offered with another applied area, including addiction studies, counselling or criminology and justice. This is very commendable as such combinations are likely to give graduates additional practical skills that will complement the psychological knowledge obtained and increase employability.

A variety of assessment methods are used, including laboratory reports, essays, in-class tests, presentations and examinations.

All Standards relating to the 3-year undergraduate sequence have been met.

The:

Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Addiction Studies)

Bachelor of Arts (Psychology, Criminology and Justice)

Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Counselling)

Bachelor of Science (Psychology)

Bachelor of Psychological Science

Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychological Science

Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

received the grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

The standalone fourth year Honour's program can be taken either in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours). The program is one year in length (full-time), is 100% psychology and has appropriate entry requirements. Students are required to complete a research thesis which contributes 50% of the final mark for the Honours program, and four coursework units. Content in the coursework units and the research component meet the Standards.

The examples of student work seen by the assessment team were judged to be of an appropriate standard as was the feedback provided to students.

While the content or structure has not changed, from 2015 the program is only being offered in the external mode. The online material for the units does not appear to be as well developed as those for the first three years. However, all relevant Standards relating to undergraduate fourth year courses are met.

The program of study comprising the fourth year of psychology education within the Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Honours) and the Bachelor of Science (Psychology) (Honours) at Edith Cowan University received the grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

The aim of the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) program is 'to produce Clinical Psychologists with high level skills in clinical practice and in research, and who understand the value of both research and clinical skills to the profession and communities they serve'. It is a two year degree which can be studied either full-time or part-time, thereby satisfying the Standard relating to Length.

The staff arrangements for the program are satisfactory. A notable feature of the staff of the program is that in addition to the Clinic Director, three other psychologists are specifically employed to provide supervision in the Clinic.

The AOU staff who provide practical placement supervision are all registered and endorsed psychologists and are listed on the PsyBA Register of Supervisors. Academic Staffing Standards are met.

There is an Advisory/Liaison committee which has appropriate representation from agencies providing practical placements. However, there is only one student representative on the committee. Standard 5.1.4 is therefore not met.

Within the off-campus clinic, resources including interview rooms, recording facilities, duress alarms as well as documentation, handbook and access to supervisors meet the Standards relating to resources. The AOU has appropriate test holdings and facilities, also meeting the Standards, although the fact that the main test library is on the campus is not ideal from the Clinic perspective.

While the University has an official policy on credit for previous study or experience, there is no documented policy relating to the credit requirements outlined in the Standards. Hence Standards 5.1.9 to 5.1.11 are not met.

There is a comprehensive and progressive curriculum which provides good coverage of the core capabilities and attributes in the programs. The coursework clearly links research and

practical application. Competency based assessments are built into some units. Standards relating to Core Capabilities and Attributes and Assessment are met.

The Assessors sighted a number of hard copies of logbooks and these were judged to be satisfactory. All had been appropriately endorsed by the supervisor. The Standard relevant to Log Books is met.

The minimum entry requirements for all of the professional programs meet the Standards.

The Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) consists of coursework, research and practical placement and these components are integrated and meet the Standards relating to Course Structure. The coursework is all psychology and is taught by psychologists, the majority of whom are registered and teaching in their professional area of expertise.

The Topics of the samples of theses that were viewed were appropriate, the quality of research was satisfactory and the procedures for marking the project were satisfactory. The research component therefore meets the Standards.

There are three '45-day' practicum placement units providing students with 1012 hours of supervised practical experience. There is a range of suitable placements in the field for the external placements and these are allocated through a collaborative arrangement with the other three Universities in Perth. Almost all the field supervisors have appropriate endorsement and supervisor training. In cases where a field supervisor is registered but does not have appropriate endorsement, additional supervision is provided by a member of the AOU staff, meeting the relevant Standards. However, there is an apparent lack of handover from one placement to another. It appears that there is no formal recognition of external supervisors as is required, and so Standard 5.3.21 is not met.

The placements are coordinated by the Director of the Psychological Services Centre who is a registered psychologist with clinical endorsement and is approved as a supervisor.

The majority of forms relating to supervision contracts, mid-placement reviews and final placement assessment had been signed off appropriately. However, two case reports had not been signed by the supervisor as is required, and so Standard 5.3.22 is not met.

The Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) received the grade of Accreditation With Conditions.

The accreditation outcomes are summarised in the attached Accreditation Summary Checklist.



APAC Accreditation Summary Checklist

for use with APAC Standards June 2010 Version 10

Name of Higher Education Provider: Edith Cowan University

Date of Site Visit: 11 – 12 August 2015

Accreditation of the AOU

Rules	Rule Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Section 5 – Accreditation Status	5.1-5.6	✓		

General Accreditation Standards	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
The Psychology AOU	2.1.1-10	✓		
Multi-Campus Institutions	2.2.1-2	✓		
Degree Nomenclature	2.3.1-13	✓		
Academic Staffing	2.4.1-11	✓		
Resources	2.5.1-12	✓		
Teaching and Materials: Managing the Learning Process	2.6.1-14	✓		
Special Arrangements for Offshore Teaching	2.6.15	✓		

Undergraduate 3-Year Sequence Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Length	3.1.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	3.1.2-5	✓		
Program of Study Content	3.1.6-10	✓		
Assessment	3.1.11-16	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	3.1.17-19	✓		

Undergraduate Fourth Year Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	4.1.1	✓		
Length	4.1.2	✓		
Program of Study Structure	4.1.3	✓		
Program of Study Content	4.1.4-7	✓		
Research Methods and Professional and Research Ethics	4.1.8	✓		
Research Project	4.1.9-15	✓		
Assessment	4.1.16-22	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	4.1.23-25	✓		



Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3	✓		
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4		✓	
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Study	5.1.9-11		✓	
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17	✓		
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.3.3-4	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.3.5-8	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.3.11-16	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	

Authorised:

Professor John Dunn
Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

Date: 3 December 2015