



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	Flinders University
Date of determination	24 October 2016 & 14 December 2016
Standards version	June 2010 ver 10; Rules March 2014 incorporating amendments as at May 30 2016
Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation	<p>Three year: Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology). Bachelor of Law and Legal Studies/ Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology). Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology)/Bachelor of Arts. Bachelor of Science (Animal Behaviour)/Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology). Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology)/Bachelor of Computer Science.</p> <p>Bachelor of Psychological Science. Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management). Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Business (Marketing).</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts. Bachelor of Arts and Science.</p> <p>Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Graduate entry).</p> <p>4th year: Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Honours). Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours). Bachelor of Arts (Honours).</p> <p>Four year: Bachelor of Psychology (Honours).</p> <p>5th and 6th years: Master of Psychology (Clinical). Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology).</p>

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychology at Flinders University at Bedford Park 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 of Psychology at Flinders University resides in the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences. The five years since the last accreditation site visit have been marked by stability in the School in terms of staffing and programs offered. While there have been recent retirements, these positions are being filled. Growth is noted in the number of PhD students and post-doctoral research positions in the School with its areas of research strength (applied cognitive psychology, clinical/health psychology, lifespan developmental psychology, social psychology, and psychophysiology/neuroscience) well represented.

The School underwent an external review in 2015 and was commended for its reputation for strong performance in teaching, research and engagement activities.

All of the *Standards* relating to the AOU are met and, in particular, it is noted that the School of Psychology had a dedicated team of administrative and technical staff. From discussions with academic staff and students as well as the administrative and technical staff themselves, it was clear they provide very high level services and are fundamental to the smooth running of all aspects of the research and teaching activities in the School. Postgraduate students did however comment that offices and desks available to them were old and equipment did not always work straight away although the IT staff were always available and helpful.

Students are provided with comprehensive unit outlines containing all the information necessary for completion of the unit. As far as could be seen, these are updated regularly although in making these revisions it was suggested that particular attention be paid to the currency of the recommended readings and textbooks and also make sure these are listed in APA format to model the referencing style for students..

There are four different undergraduate sequences (including the Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Graduate entry) where there is a pre-requisite of 1st year units which Flinders offers in distance mode if a student has not formerly completed an accredited first year of psychology). All sequences meet the *APAC Accreditation Standards* in terms of structure, content and assessment.

The fourth year is offered in three Honours courses as well as in the four year course and is identical across all of them. Students complete an independent research thesis (50% of the year) and coursework units in Research and Practice (25% of the year), Contemporary Issues in Psychology (12.5%) and Applications of Psychology (12.5%). After discussions with staff and students, careful perusal of the documentation provided and inspection of assessments and theses, the APAC team was satisfied that all of the *Standards* for the Fourth year courses were met.

There is one four year course at Flinders University. Students in the four year Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) take the same sequence in the first two years as students in the other three year sequences but in 3rd year, instead of taking the unit called Applications of Psychological Science, students complete two units specific to this degree, namely, Interviewing and Counselling and Ethics and Professional Practice in Psychology, which includes a 10 day work experience placement. External supervisors (interviewed in relation to the postgraduate courses) commented on the value of these experiences as a flow-on to the subsequent practical placements in the postgraduate

courses. The fourth year is identical to the Honours courses. The exit degree at third year for students is the Bachelor of Psychological Science. Standard 4.2 is met.

There are two postgraduate professional courses, the Master of Psychology (Clinical) and the PhD (Clinical Psychology). The two are identical in terms of coursework and practicums although the weightings for one coursework unit (Psychological Assessment) and one practicum (Practicum B) are less for the PhD students due to the requirement of a 67% weighting for the PhD thesis. The differential is reflected in an additional exercise or report that has to be completed by the Masters students enrolled in those units. The two courses otherwise identical and meet all the *APAC Standards*.

The clinical program has two Advisory committees. The Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) comprises all clinical teaching staff and clinical psychologists from the field. It is the primary forum with which the clinical programs liaise with the profession. The Clinical Consultative Committee (CCC) comprises all clinical teaching staff, the Chair of the PAC (a representative from the field) and a student representative from each year level of both clinical programs (Masters and PhD). It provides a forum for discussion and review of all aspects of the course, including student feedback on the course. Minutes from the bi-annual meetings of these Committee were sighted.

A comprehensive table was provided in the documentation of where the core capabilities were taught, experienced and assessed. This was supported by an examination of assignments, log books and case studies.

Particular attention was paid to the log books to establish that practical placements and experience, case work and supervision were documented and signed off by supervisors on a regular basis. Hard copies of electronic spreadsheets were provided and after some concern about the lack of signatures, the original log books (stored securely in the Psychology office) were inspected and all were appropriately maintained and signed.

The School of Psychology has a large number of clinical, experimental laboratories which not only offer high level opportunities for research projects but also internal placements (often in conjunction with an external or other internal placement such as the food cravings laboratory and the Statewide Eating Disorders Service). Together with its high rating research strengths, the School offers 'excellent' supervision according to the students who commented positively on the conduct of their research projects and the quality of the supervision at both Masters and PhD levels.

Students complete at least three placements, one of which is a child placement. This is often undertaken in the Psychology Clinic on campus or the Southern Child and Family Clinic, an external clinic operating on the Flinders University campus. The latter was inspected by the team and the facilities and resources were sufficient to support quality training for students.

Although APAC does not accredit research degrees, it is worth noting the enviable research milieu that the School of Psychology has. The School has been identified by the University as an area of strength and growth, with the Flinders Institute of Psychological Science receiving around \$100,000 annually from the DVC-R. The School averages over \$1m in external competitive funding per year.

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: Flinders University

Date of Site Visit: 17 and 18 May 2016

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	✓		



Four Year Sequence Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Program of Study Structure	3.1.2-5 /4.1.3	✓		
Program of Study Content (Years 1 - 4)	3.1.6-7 /4.1.4-7	✓		
Research Methods and Professional and Research Ethics	4.1.8	✓		
Research Project	4.1.9-15	✓		
Assessment	3.1.11-16 /4.1.16-17	✓		
Assessment of 4 th Year Research Project	4.1.18-20	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	3.1.17-19	✓		

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	✓		



Australian Psychology
Accreditation Council

Authorised:

Professor Simon Crowe

Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

Date: 14 December 2016