



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	University of Newcastle	
Date of Determination	29 October 2018	
Standards Version	June 2010 (Version 10) and Rules for Accreditation (2014 incorporating amendments as at May 30 2016)	
Program	5th year: Master of Professional Psychology	Campus: Callaghan

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychology, University of Newcastle, and the under development program the Master of Professional Psychology. This summary highlights selected key features of the assessment. Comprehensive analysis of the assessment is contained in the full APAC Accreditation Assessment report.

The majority of the assessment can only review the intentions or proposal against the current Standards. A follow up site visit will be required once the program has commenced.

The AOU proposes to recruit a new full time Level C academic who is a registered psychologist as the Course Coordinator. Five current staff, four of whom are registered psychologists, are also proposed to contribute to teaching in the program. The Level D academic who will provide academic leadership of the program was not specifically identified in the application.

The application does not specify the proposed intake of students; therefore it is not possible to estimate the student: staff ratio at present.

It is intended that staff who are responsible for placement supervision will be registered psychologists with at least two years of relevant full time professional experience.

The proposed composition of the Course Advisory/Liaison Committee is consistent with the Standards.

The AOU has access to facilities at both the Callaghan and Ourimbah clinics. There will be the need to ensure that the facilities are adequate for both existing postgraduate students and the proposed Master of Professional Psychology (MPP) students. The AOU proposes to purchase additional tests for the MPP students.

The proposed criteria for awarding credit for previous study and not awarding credit for work experience are consistent with the Standards. No information was provided in relation to credit for research experience.

The mapping of the proposed course content and assessments to the Core capabilities and attributes is consistent with the requirements.

The documentation submitted indicates that students will keep a logbook of their placement that includes comprehensive details of activities and supervision.

The proposed forms of assessment of the core attributes indicates a comprehensive examination of all areas presented, using a variety of assessment tasks including case studies, examinations, vivas, and role-plays. It is assumed that processes related to final marks and grades would be equivalent to those for other accredited psychology programs within the AOU.

The objective of the proposed MPP is stated to be “for graduates to gain advanced knowledge and skills for professional practice in psychology ...” There is evidence of the focus on generalist professional competencies, core professional capabilities, and a scientist-practitioner approach.

The proposed entry requirements and selection processes are consistent with the Standards.

The proposed program is one year of full time study, and consists of eight equally-weighted core units in psychology. Five of the six proposed staff are registered psychologists, and there are an additional nine staff who are planned to contribute to teaching in the program, several of whom have qualifications in other professional areas. There are six coursework units and two placements.

The coursework and placement units are sequenced to enable progressive development of core capabilities and attributes. Mapping of the units and assessments suggests that students will receive education and training in the core capabilities.

It is proposed that students will complete two placements and would complete a core unit in Professional and Ethical Practice in intensive mode prior to commencing their placements.

It is proposed that the placement coordinator is a registered psychologist, and that all supervisors hold appropriate qualifications.

A one day follow-up accreditation assessment visit will be scheduled for mid-2019, or at such time that students have been admitted to the program and have commenced placement activities.