



University of Newcastle - APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher education provider	University of Newcastle
Name of the Psychology AOU	School of Psychology
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Follow up site visit from an out of cycle assessment of a new program
Program and level of study assessed	Master of Professional Psychology (Level 3)
Campus	Callaghan
Date of site visit	4 June 2019
Date of APAC Board determination	30 September 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2020



Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accreditation assessment made following an application by the University of Newcastle for accreditation of its Master of Professional Psychology program following an initial on-paper out-of-cycle assessment in 2018.

During the course of the visit meetings were held with the Head of School, Course coordinator, teaching staff, external supervisors and current students.

The assessment team also inspected the facilities within the School of Psychology, and inspected further documentation (including assessments, logbooks etc.) The findings in this report are based on the documentation provided and information gained from the meetings during the site visit.



Key findings

The Master of Professional Psychology was offered for the first time in 2019 and has a current enrolment of 22 students (20 full time and 2 part time enrolment). The course consists of six compulsory coursework units and two placement units. Two of the six coursework units are aligned with those in the Master of Clinical Psychology. Feedback from stakeholders at the meeting was very positive about the quality of the course for its first year of delivery, with its focus on training and educating students to work in the Hunter region. It is evident that the team of staff coordinating and delivering the program are very dedicated and focused on giving students the best possible learning experiences. The team is particularly commended on the range of practical learning experiences on and off campus that they are making available to students. Given that the full program of units had not been completed by the first cohort of students at the time of the site visit, there are some standards for which it was not possible to collect full evidence.



APAC Board determination

That the University of Newcastle's **Master of Professional Psychology** (Level 3) (Campus: Callaghan) is accredited until **31 December 2020** subject to the following conditions:

By **19 February 2020**:

1. To ensure that Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.4 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of mechanisms by which it is ensured that organisations providing direct client activities for students have robust quality and safety policies.
2. To ensure that Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.5 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC that client informed consent is obtained prior to the provision of services by students.
3. To ensure that Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.7 and Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.3 are met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC that all staff who are teaching professional skills are appropriately qualified.
4. To ensure that Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.8 is met, the School is required to provide evidence from completed student workbooks to APAC to demonstrate the number of hours of supervision relative to the number of hours of supervised practice.
5. To ensure that Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.9 is met, the School is required to provide evidence from completed student workbooks to APAC to demonstrate the total number of hours of skills training and supervised practice completed by students.
6. To ensure that Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.10 is met, the School is required to provide evidence from completed student workbooks to APAC to demonstrate the number of hours of supervision relative to the number of hours of supervised practice.
7. To ensure that Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of response to student evaluations of the program and of external benchmarking.
8. To ensure that Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.3 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of external input into the design and management of the program, including a copy of the terms of reference and minutes of a course advisory committee meeting.
9. To ensure that Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.4 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of mechanisms by which contemporary developments in psychology education, the discipline, or profession will be responded to or monitored.
10. To ensure that Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.1 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of the pedagogical approach that informs the program design and delivery.



11. To ensure that Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.7 is met, the School is required to provide evidence from completed student logbooks to APAC to verify that students have completed appropriate numbers of placement hours and have had exposure to a range of professional experiences in order to be competent to practice across a range of settings.
12. To ensure that Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.9 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC that the application of the principles of inter-professional learning and practice as a required learning outcome to be evidenced in the program.
13. To ensure that Standard 4 Student experience, criterion 4.1 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC that:
 - all sources of information about the learning and assessment requirements to be aligned and consistent with the APAC requirements for the program
 - program and placement handbooks to be reviewed to ensure that content that is not applicable to the Master of Professional Psychology, and any reference to Clinical Psychology, is removed.
14. To ensure that Standard 4 Student experience, criterion 4.2 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC that entry requirements are correctly shown in all online and print sources.
15. To ensure that Standard 4 Student experience, criterion 4.5 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of how students are informed of the availability of support services and are equipped to adequately maintain their own wellbeing.
16. To ensure that Standard 4 Student experience, criterion 4.6 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of how equity and diversity principles are observed and monitored in the student experience in the course is required.
17. To ensure that Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.2 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of how students are deemed to have met Professional Competency 3.17.
18. To ensure that Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.4 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC of how moderation procedures as a routine practice ensure consistent and appropriate assessment.
19. To ensure that Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.5 is met, the School is required to provide evidence to APAC that all staff who are assessing professional competencies are appropriately qualified.



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

Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured
	Level 3 Standard is substantially met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective
	Level 3 Standard is substantially met
Domain 3: Program of study	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
	Level 3 Standard is substantially met
Domain 4: The student experience	Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support
	Level 3 Standard is substantially met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
	Level 3 Standard is substantially met



Suggestions

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

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

The suggestions are as follows:

- Ensure that all course documentation indicates the correct AQF level (Level 9, not Level 8)
- The format of the Skills training and supervised practice logbook be reconsidered to maximise the efficiencies of documenting placement and supervision hours for students and staff.
- Students to log 'skills training' activities that occur during coursework units to provide a more accurate log of all of the skills training and supervised practice undertaken across the course.
- Competency Record Sheets that currently appear to be non-compulsory and not linked to summative assessment be subsumed within other documentation, such as the Skills Training and Supervised Practice log
- Program and Placement handbooks to be reviewed to ensure that content that is not applicable to the Master of Professional Psychology, and any reference to Clinical Psychology, is removed.
- Exemplar assessment items and further information about assessment requirements and expectations could be provided.