M.S.Sc. in Clinical Psychology

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Introduction (1)

- The MSSc Programme in Clinical Psychology was established in 1988 as a joint programme of the Department of Psychology and the Department of Psychiatry.
- It is a two-year, full-time programme modeled after the clinical psychology training model of the British Psychological Society and is based on the scientist-practitioner model of training.
- The Programme has a quota of 19 students each year – the largest publicly funded CP training programme in Hong Kong.
- Since the introduction of the Programme, about 211 students have successfully graduated. The majority of them are now serving the community as clinical psychologists in hospitals, clinics, government and voluntary agencies.
Introduction (2)

- At present, only the clinical programmes offered by our university and the University of Hong Kong are recognized by the Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP) of the Hong Kong Psychological Society (HKPS), a professional body formed in January 1982 that monitors and promotes the standard of practice of clinical psychology in Hong Kong.
Program Objectives

- Based on a **scientist-practitioner model** of professional training

- **A scientist:**
  - Be knowledgeable in basic psychological processes and research methodology
  - Develops empirically based theories and practice through research to advance the development of the profession

- **A practitioner:**
  - Possesses personal qualities and professional skills necessary to provide quality service to the clientele
  - Approaches clinical work with breadth of knowledge, conceptual clarity, and objectivity of a scientist
Admission Requirements

- A Bachelor’s degree in Psychology (Honors Degree) or qualifications equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology; and

- be eligible for graduate membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society

- *It is preferable that the applicants have undergraduate studies in abnormal psychology, neuropsychology and counselling/psychotherapy.*

- *Abilities to speak Cantonese and read / write in Chinese are required, as are English language skills. (Courses are taught in Cantonese and English.)*
Program of Study (1)

● **Course Work**  
  **1st year**
  - Seminar in Research Methods I
  - Assessment of Psychopathology and Personality
  - Ethics and Professional Issues
  - Psychopathology
  - Intelligence Assessment
  - Intervention Seminar I: Behaviour and Cognitive Therapies
  - Clinical Seminar I
  - Research Issues in Clinical Psychology
  - Health & Community Psychology
  - Intervention Seminar II: Working with Children and Adolescents
  - Clinical Seminar II
Program of Study (2)

- Course Work  2nd year
  - Neuropsychology Assessment
  - Intervention Seminar III: Special Topics
  - Clinical Seminar III
  - Special Topics in Clinical Practices
  - Clinical Seminar IV
Program of Study (3)

- Practical Training
  - Must attend 5 blocks of placements
  - Totaling 220 working days
  - On-site supervision by clinical psychologists
  - 3 Core Placements:
    1) Adults with psychological problems
    2) Child and Adolescent with Psychological Problems
    3) Individuals with general medical conditions or impairments including learning disabilities

- 2 Electives
Program of Study (4)

- **Overseas Placements**
  
The programme has collaboration with two overseas prestigious universities, so that four of our clinical psychology students can receive their fifth clinical placement in one of these two sites during June-August of the second year:

  - Boston University (cognitive behavioral therapy on anxiety and related disorders)
  - University of California, San Diego (neuropsychology)
Program of Study (5)

● An Independent Research Thesis
  – Students are required to complete an independent thesis involving empirical data.

● Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Programme
  – Students are given the opportunity to learn mindfulness during their two year of clinical psychology training.
    – Personal growth and development
    – Professional training
Academic Staff Profiles (1)

- **Prof. Winnie W.S. Mak, Ph.D. (UCSB), Programme Director**
  
  **Research interests**
  - Stigma of social minorities
  - Consumer-defined recovery of mental illness
  - Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention

- **Prof. Patrick W.L. Leung, Ph.D. (Sheffield)**

  **Research interests**
  - Child & adolescent psychiatry
  - Cognitive processes and psychopathology
  - Family functioning and parenting
  - Psychotherapy and counseling
Academic Staff Profiles (2)

● Prof. Fanny M. Cheung Ph.D. (Minnesota)

  Research interests
  - Cross-cultural personality assessment, including the Chinese MMPI & Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory (CPAI)
  - Cultural aspects of Psychopathology (Somatization and Help-seeking behavior)
  - Violence against women & women leadership

● Prof. Agnes S. Y. Chan, Ph.D. (UCSD)

  Research interests
  - Clinical neuropsychology
  - Cognitive impairment associated with brain disorders
  - Cortical plasticity on cognitive function & Cognitive interventions
**Academic Staff Profiles (3)**

- **Prof. Freedom Y. K. Leung, Ph.D.** (Concordia)
  
  **Research interests**
  - Emotion Regulation
  - Personality Disorders
  - Non-suicidal self-injury

- **Prof. Suzanne H.W. So, Ph.D.** (King’s College London)

  **Research interests**
  - Psychological models of psychosis
  - Role of reasoning and emotions in the development of and recovery from delusions
  - Early intervention for psychosis
  - Treatment for delusions and reasoning biases
Academic Staff Profiles (4)

● Prof. Chui-De Chiu, Ph.D. (National Taiwan University)
  Research interests
  – Cognitive and socio-cognitive mechanisms of psychological dysfunctions and mental disorders
  – Trauma model of psychopathology
  – Child abuse and neglect

● Prof. Peter W.H. Lee, Ph.D. (HKU)
  Research interests
  – Adolescent high-risk behaviors
  – Psychological impact of medical illness and medical interventions
  – Psychotherapeutic Treatments for Mental Disorders
  – Psychosocial Oncology & Clinical Health Psychology
Academic Staff Profiles (5)

● **Prof. Chee-Wing Wong, PsyD (Surrey)**
  
  **Research interests**
  - The relationship between anxiety and depression from a structural perspective
  - Mental contamination in obsessive compulsive disorder

● **Prof. Rachel S.M. Poon, PsyD (CUHK)**
  
  **Research interests**
  - Autism
  - Eating disorders
  - Family therapy
Career Opportunities for Our Graduates

- Our graduates are eligible to work as Clinical Psychologists in Hong Kong
- They are serving our community in many different settings, which include:
  - Hospital Authority (HA)
  - Correctional Services Department (CSD)
  - Social Welfare Department (SWD)
  - Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)
  - Department of Health (DH)
  - Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
Practice of Clinical Psychology in Hong Kong

- In addition to direct client care, clinical psychologists are also involved in
  - training and consultation of other professionals
  - advocacy and public education
  - health promotion and illness prevention
  - research
  - mental health program development & service planning
Application (1)

- **Deadline:** 29 January, 2016
- **For details**
- **Online application**
  - https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/page/ApplicationforAdmission
- **Supporting documents required**

  **General Application Materials:**
  - Official Transcript in officially sealed envelope
  - 2 Letters of Recommendation
  - Copy of Certificate of Graduation and HKID
  - Original score report of TOEFL, GMAT or IELTS (if needed)
Application (2)

Supporting documents required

**Additional Application Information:**

1. A full resume
2. An abstract of Bachelor's or Master’s thesis
3. A self-description in English (750 words) including the followings:
   - My own personality sketch
   - What aspects of me will facilitate or impede my development in this profession?
   - Describe a personal significant life event. In retrospect, how do you see yourself being influenced by the event? Or, what have you learned from it?
Supporting documents required

**Additional Application Information:**

4. A statement on the following information:
   - Have you ever applied to our MSSc in Clinical Psychology Programme in the past?
   - If yes, please list the years you have applied and describe in English (400 words) how you have changed since last application. If no, please skip this question.
Eliza Cheung, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
Hong Kong Red Cross

Ellery Wu
Clinical Psychologist
Castle Peak Hospital