

ORDINANCE 59(A): Degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) (applicable to students who commenced their studies from 2025-26 onwards)

1. The University may award the degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) to students who have pursued an approved programme of studies, as set out in the programme specification for the degree, to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners. The programme specification for the programme shall set out the aims, learning outcomes, structure, subjects of study and the assessment and re-assessment requirements of the programme. The subjects of study for the DClinPsy programme shall be as required by the appropriate regulatory/validating bodies. The DClinPsy is a postgraduate research programme, with taught and clinical components.
2. The programme comprises 540 credits of which 420 credits are at FHEQ level 8, and 120 credits are at FHEQ level 7. The Level 8 research element consists of a 30-credit research methods module, 270 credits of clinical modules and a 120-credit research thesis. The Level 8 components accurately represent the FHEQ expectations for a practice-based clinical doctorate. The 30-credit research methods modules equip candidates with the required skills to conduct academic research within a clinical setting.
3. To complete the programme successfully, students must pass 120 credits of taught clinical psychology modules at level 7, 270 credits of clinical modules at level 8, 30 credits of research methods modules at level 8, and a 120-credit research thesis at level 8. All modules on the programme are mandatory.
4. Candidates for the degree of DClinPsy shall, before entry upon the degree programme, have obtained entrance qualifications of a type and standard deemed appropriate by the University. These shall be stated within the programme specification.
5. The programme shall be full-time and shall normally extend over three academic years. The maximum period for which a student may be registered for the degree of DClinPsy, including extensions, resubmissions, periods of interruption of study and repeated years of study, shall normally be six years.
6. Students shall be required to attend the mandatory components of the programme as specified in the relevant programme specification. The Board of Examiners, or a Progress Panel acting on behalf of the Board of Examiners and University, shall be empowered to exclude from an examination any student who has not attended, to the satisfaction of the Programme Director of the Doctor of Clinical Psychology, the approved programme of study or who has not properly completed written or other work, including clinical work.
7. All assessments (apart from the research thesis) shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the programme specification for the degree. The research thesis component shall be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Post Graduate Research Code of Practice. Where there are differences, the provisions of this ordinance take precedence over those Codes of Practice.
8. Clinical module assessments are graded on a pass or fail basis only. Students who fail a clinical placement within a clinical module of the programme shall normally be offered a reassessment opportunity on only one further occasion throughout the duration of the programme. Failure in a subsequent clinical placement shall normally result in termination of studies.
9. The thesis shall contain no more than 25,000 words, unless permission is granted by the relevant School or Institute Director of PGR for a thesis to be longer for sound academic reasons.
10. Students who fail assessments in any taught module in any year of the programme shall normally be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in the failed components on one further occasion, where such re-assessments are possible and appropriate. Where there is alternative assessment provision, this shall be set out in the programme and module specifications. Students who fail to satisfy

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the Examiners at the second attempt may have their studies terminated. Students may not submit their research thesis for examination until they have satisfactorily completed and passed all the taught modules required.

11. All students are subject to a formal annual research thesis progress monitoring process which includes an independent assessment of their academic progress. A meeting of an Independent Progress Assessment Panel (IPAP) is held annually with the student to determine whether adequate progress has been made and to make an appropriate decision or recommendation. The IPAP shall normally comprise one member of UoL academic staff who is not a member of the student's supervisory team.
12. Students shall submit their research thesis for assessment to the DClinPsy Professional Services Team.
13. Where the outcome of an initial *viva voce* examination was revise and resubmit, the examiners may require resubmission either with or without a second *viva voce* examination.
14. Where a student's studies are terminated or they decide to withdraw from the programme, the student may be entitled to an exit award of either the Postgraduate Award, Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Psychology. These awards may be conferred to students who successfully complete 30, 60 or 120 credits of taught Clinical Psychology module credit at level 7 respectively. Programme certification refers only to the highest exit award achieved by the candidate. Candidates shall not receive separate certification for interim awards associated with the programme in addition to their exit award.
15. Subject to any overriding considerations of patient safety in relation to clinical assessments, the Board of Examiners shall be empowered to take account of extenuating circumstances affecting students' performance in determining the conditions relating to re-assessments, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.
16. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, in consultation with the Programme Director of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, has the right to require any student to withdraw from a clinical placement with immediate effect if the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor considers that the student's presence is against the interest of patients or of the establishment concerned. The student shall be suspended for a specified period pending full consideration of the circumstances by the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor under the University's Fitness to Practise procedures. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor has the right to extend the period of interruption if they consider that action to be justified.
17. Upon first registration with the programme, all students are also employed full time by the programme's host NHS Trust. Students must therefore adhere to all relevant policies of the employing Trust. If a student is dismissed from employment by the host NHS Trust, this shall also result in termination of their studies at UoL.

The Code of Practice on Assessment (including the Extenuating Circumstances Policy) can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/aqsd/academic-codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-on-assessment/>

The Fitness to Practise Policy can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/student-administration/policies-procedures/fitness-to-practise/>

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