

## Principles and Practices of Psychological Assessment (GHMC985)

The aim of this subject is to examine the principles underpinning psychological assessment and introduce students to the practices of psychological assessment. The subject is designed to integrate learning acquired in previous years including theories of personality, intelligence assessment and statistical theory. It will examine how these issues are used in practice. Criteria to understand and evaluate psychological tests will be used as a common theme throughout the subject, including examination of their construct validity. The general ethical issues of psychological assessment will be compared to the specific Australian Psychological Society guidelines for psychological assessment. After examination of the theoretical principles, students will have the opportunity to administer, score and interpret commonly used assessment tools used to assess general intelligence, mental health, personality, emotional intelligence, vocational preference and psychological wellbeing.

## Advanced Abnormal Psychology (GHMC989)

This subject builds upon previous study in core areas of abnormal psychology, with contributions from personality, learning, and developmental psychology to consider the way theories of human behaviour are translated into tools for understanding and responding to psychopathology. Students will be expected to develop a critical and analytical understanding of the conceptual frameworks and assumptions of a number of major schools of abnormal psychology. Students will actively critique the types of evidence put forward to substantiate the benefits of psychological interventions developed to ameliorate psychopathology. Topics will include: the placebo effect, the ethical and practical problem of defining appropriate controls; implications of using consumer, observer, or practitioner perspectives of outcome; the efficacy vs effectiveness debate; the problem of common vs specific factors in interventions; issues in developing and evaluating theory-relevant qualitative vs. quantitative tools.

## WHY STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

The School of Psychology offers excellent facilities and staff which guarantee high quality education and opportunities for first rate research. It boasts extensive computer facilities as well as teaching and research laboratories which are equipped with the latest technology and supported by a team of professional technical staff.

Students will find the pleasant atmosphere of the University of Wollongong campus a relaxing and enjoyable one in which to study.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about this or any other courses offered by the School of Psychology, see the School website: <http://www.uow.edu.au/health/psyc/>. Alternatively, contact the School Administrative Assistants: by phone, (02) 4221 3742; or by email: [psycsec@uow.edu.au](mailto:psycsec@uow.edu.au)

Application forms are obtainable from the University of Wollongong, Northfields Avenue, Wollongong, 2522, or <http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/apply/> and should be lodged with transcripts showing details of previous study. Applications close 31 October.


Note: This information was correct at the time of preparation (February 2011) but may change.

\* Our degrees are set up to meet the requirements of the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council. For information about the Council, visit [www.apac.psychology.org.au](http://www.apac.psychology.org.au). For information about professional bodies, their regulations, and about post university practice as a Psychologist, please visit the Australian Psychological Society at [www.psychology.org.au](http://www.psychology.org.au) and the Psychology Board of Australia at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au). The School's representative of the APS, Mitch Byrne, can also answer APS queries.



School of Psychology

# Postgraduate Diploma In Psychology

University of Wollongong 

February 2011

The Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology is a postgraduate degree offering a fourth year of study, accredited by the Australian Psychological Society, to graduates with a major in Psychology. It is intended for those who are interested in studying Psychology at an advanced level, as an alternative to the Honours degree. It is a partial qualification for registration as a Psychologist with the Psychologists' Registration Board of New South Wales - a post diploma period of supervision also being required.\*

The Postgraduate Diploma is not intended as a route to PhD studies but it can serve as a 4th year preparatory to 5th and 6th year postgraduate coursework degrees (eg. the Clinical Masters degree) at Wollongong. It may also allow access to similar postgraduate courses in other universities. However, applicants should check with individual university departments on this matter before committing themselves to the course of study. A detailed guide to the Postgraduate Diploma can be found in the 4th Year Guide, via the School Website

The Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology is a fee paying course. Commonwealth supported places are available. For the student contribution amount payable to cover the remaining costs of this course, visit <http://www.uow.edu.au/student/finances/UOW008173.html>

(Fees for local students for 2011 are expected to be \$5442).

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Eligibility for entry to the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology program depends on:

- i. the successful completion of Bachelor's degree from the University of Wollongong with a major in Psychology.
- or**
- ii. an equivalent qualification from another tertiary institution approved by the Council of the University of Wollongong and accredited by the Australian Psychological Society.

Entry to the Postgraduate Diploma is competitive and is based on academic qualifications. The number of places is

limited. This, and the marks of the cohort of students applying to the degree determines the entry threshold, which may vary year to year. To calculate entry marks: for Wollongong graduates, we use the best 8 subjects from successfully completed 200- and 300- level Psychology subjects; for non Wollongong graduates, we use the average of the marks from all subjects in the student's accredited psychology major.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology requires the successful completion of 48 credit points (cp) made up of the following subjects:

GHMC978	Child and Adolescent Psychology	6cp
GHMC979	Major Research Project	18cp
GHMC984	Social Psychology and Health	6cp
GHMC985	Principles and Practices of Psychological Assessment	6cp
GHMC988	Contemporary Issues for Professional and Research Psychologists	6cp
GHMC989	Advanced Abnormal Psychology	6cp

The diploma requires two sessions of full-time or four sessions of part-time study, and no longer.

## **THE PROGRAM**

### **Child and Adolescent Psychology (GHMC978)**

This subject will review a number of topics essential to understanding the nature of Child and Adolescent development and threats to normal functioning. For example, the subject covers advanced conceptual and theoretical discussion and knowledge concerned with what constitute as the nature of self control, information processing, and the structure of memory and the acquisition of reading skills in relation to developmental progression in children's development. This subject will also develop an understanding of the factors and conceptual underpinnings of the nature of at-risk behaviour in childhood and

adolescence. The focus of this subject will be on further developing a wider theoretical understanding of some of the most important issues in relation to threats to normal child and adolescent development.

### **Major Research Project (GHMC979)**

This subject consists of an empirical study report of 9,000 words. Students complete an empirical study on a research topic chosen from given areas of staff expertise. Projects may be conducted in small groups, however, write-ups will be completed and assessed individually. Weekly research seminars consist of discussion of the research process, selecting a topic, and enhancing writing and oral presentation skills.

### **Contemporary Issues for Professional and Research Psychologists (GHMC988)**

The first part of this subject draws together key issues in ethics, research and professional practices in psychology. Ethics theory will be addressed and ethical and legal issues will be explored in research, therapeutic and professional settings. The second part deals with contemporary issues in experimental psychology including, for instance, the psychophysiology of ADHD, reading disorders, emotional intelligence, etc.

### **Social Psychology and Health (GHMC984)**

This subject addresses key theoretical and empirical issues in the area of Social Psychology and explains their implications for health behaviours. The focus is on the joint effects of internal and external processes in the causation and maintenance of human behaviours. Emphasis is placed on elaborating social psychological models of health behaviours, the roles of attitudes, values and beliefs in shaping different behaviours and the effects of conformity, compliance and life events on behaviour. A range of psychological and health principles will be examined within the context of formulating treatment and evaluation proposals or prevention programs designed to change social behaviours in relation to health issues, such as stress and coping strategies, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual behaviours, exercise and nutrition and aged care. The applicability of major research findings across cultures will also be addressed.