

# Applying to Train as a Clinical Psychologist

Paul Graham Morris  
David Gillanders  
University of Edinburgh

# The Future is Always Unpredictable

- No-one can know what the future will hold for various career options, job conditions, the NHS etc.
- Perhaps the only constant in my career as a psychologist has been change.
- Thus plan for a future that will involve change. Think how the competencies that you have and will develop could be used in differing settings.
- Think about conditions of work beyond pay (reasonable level of autonomy, work that you value, workload, leave entitlement, pensions etc.)
- Be adaptable, but reflect on your values and seek to live consistently with them.

# Content relates to current 2025 entry process

- The application process is reviewed regularly throughout the year.
- We liaise with our various stakeholders and with colleagues involved in selection on other clinical psychology and related training programmes.
- Any changes to the process for future application years will, where applicable, be outlined on our publicly accessible webpages.
- Please carefully check for any updated guidance ahead of submitting an application for later entry to the programme

Most of this presentation is drawn from existing publicly accessible information. For example:

1. Our main webpages – Entry requirements page

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/health/subject-areas/clinical-psychology/postgraduate-taught/doctorate/entry>

2. Our entry on Leeds Clearing House

<https://www.clearing-house.org.uk/courses/courses-z/university-edinburgh>

3. Other university webpages about our degree programme, e.g.:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/health/study-with-us/postgraduate-taught/clinical-psychology/doctorate>

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/health/clinical-psychology/studying/resources/doctorate-resources>

# Avoid Seeing Clinical Psychology as your only career option



Reflect on whether you too are wearing blinkers

Are you actively considering the pros and cons of other career options?

Think carefully about what it is that you wish to be doing in your future career.

If it is primarily to work as a therapist, then other options may be better suited to this.

Be sure that the direction is right for you, before you spend years galloping in that direction.

# Career Options

Medicine

Accredited Cognitive  
behavioural therapist

Counselling  
Psychology

Clinical Associate  
(in Applied)  
Psychologist

Nursing  
Health  
Psychology

Clinical  
Psychology

Educational  
Psychology

PhD

Psychological  
Wellbeing Practitioners  
(PWP's)

Qualified high  
intensity  
therapists

# Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

- Professional Training Programme:
  - Combination of taught classes and NHS placements
  - Qualified graduates to take up NHS posts as practitioner psychologists
  - Funded by NES and students receive full-time salary
  - Placements in several Scottish Health Boards
  - Need to decide where you would like / be willing to live and work
- Established teaching team including academics and practitioner psychologists

# Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

- Teaching
  - Year 1: Clinical Psychology I: Fundamentals, Assessment and Measurement, Formulation, Intervention, Research 1, Adult mental health, Intellectual disability, Health psychology, Professionalism and Practice, Neuropsychology, Forensic
  - Year 2: Clinical Psychology II: Fundamentals, Children and young people, Older Adults, Professionalism and Practice, Research 2, Interventions,
  - Year 3: Advanced Practice Seminars: specialist topics selected in advance
- Clinical placements (two per year)
  - Six placements, across the life span, including children, adults of working age and older adults.
- Academic and Research Assessment
  - Two Case conceptualisations
  - A Thesis proposal (Research 1)
  - A Small scale research project (Research 2)
  - Doctoral thesis:
    - Systematic review
    - Empirical study



# Clinical and Health Psychology Department:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/health/clinical-psychology/people>

- **Timothy Bird**
- **Caroline Brett**
- **Clara Calia**
- Laura Cariola
- **Rebecca Curtis**
- Fiona Duffy
- Anne Finucane
- Zsofia Garai-Takacs
- **Maria Gardani**
- Liz Gilchrist
- **David Gillanders**
- Karri Gillespie-Smith
- Karen Goodall
- **Helen Griffiths**
- **Ben Wiffen**
- Jessica Hafetz Mirman
- Rachel Happer
- Mark Hoelterhoff
- **Fay Huntley**
- **Jamie Kennedy-Turner**
- **Juliane Kloess**
- Monja Knoll
- **Angus Macbeth**
- **Amy McArthur**
- **Neil Millar**
- **Paul Graham Morris**
- Emily Newman
- Suzanne O'Rourke
- Ingrid Obsuth
- **Richard Payne**
- Ewelina Rydzewska-Fazekas
- Helen Sharpe
- Emily Taylor
- **Hannah Wallace**
- Jo Williams
- **Sue Turnbull**
- **Satu Baylan**

# Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

- Minimum Entry Requirements for 2025 entry
- a GBC-accrediting honours degree with a mean percentage mark of at least 61 in the final two academic years fte  
OR a GBC-accrediting MSc conversion degree in psychology with a mean percentage mark of at least 61  
OR a GBC-accrediting higher diploma conversion in psychology with 240 credit equivalent (120 ECTS), where the overall number of research credits is at least 80 (40 ECTS) and with a mean percentage mark of at least 61.
- Have evidence of eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society (BPS) at the time of applying
- Meet English language requirements (see [our main website](#))
- Applicants need to have the [right to work without restrictions in the UK](#).

In practice you will need suitable experience of working with clients in an applied setting (clinical &/or research)

Around 45 places likely to be available– In recent years we have received 600+ applications, but many do not meet minimum requirements and most applicants apply to several programmes at the same time.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) route for those with a relevant existing qualification.

# Things we are Looking for

- Ability to understand and critically appraise relevant theory and practice.
- Relevant experience that enables the applicant to apply psychological principles in practice.
- Experience of conducting relevant research and of disseminating (e.g. publishing or presenting) that research.
- Ability to reflect on experiences and how they relate to clinical training and the role of clinical psychologist.
- A sound knowledge of psychological principles/models and how they can be applied.
- Effective communication, teamwork and interpersonal skills.
- Insight into the professional context and roles & responsibilities of clinical psychologists.

# Selection Procedure

- Stage 1: Initial check that candidates meet minimum criteria
- Stage 2: Candidates provide short written answers to additional questions and complete an online Situation Judgement Task, designed to assess ability to make judgements in complex situations.
- Ensure that you regularly check email provided in application form as failure to provide any additional requested information will result in the application being declined.
- Stage 3: Approx 90-100 candidates are invited to stage 3, which usually consists of an interview (combined academic/research and clinical/professional panel) and other tasks.
- Further details of the process are available on our website.

# Apply via Clearing House

- Applications for our programme and most others are made via Leeds based Clearing House (<https://www.clearing-house.org.uk/>)
- Usually apply between Sept and late Nov for places on programmes that would start the following autumn.
- For 2025 entry, applications close at **1pm (UK time) on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**
- You will need to ensure that suitability statements are submitted by relevant individuals by the deadline (see clearing house website)
- The clearing house website has useful information on each of the programmes that you can apply for

# Funding

- Funding for our DClinPsychol training places is provided by NHS Education for Scotland (NES). This pays both the course fees, trainee salaries and specified expenses.
- Edinburgh trainees currently commence employment at Spine point 21 on the Agenda for Change Salary Band 6. Subject to satisfactory progression, this will increase to Spine point 22 at the start of year 2 and Spine point 23 at the start of year 3.
- Trainees are both registered students and NHS employees.
- There are no self-funded places on the Edinburgh programme.