



DClinPsychol

Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

36 months

Apply by: **28 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The Doctorate in Clinical Psychology course is a three-year, full-time programme accredited by the British Psychological Society. When you graduate, you'll be eligible for Chartered Clinical Psychologist status, allowing you to practise as a Clinical Psychologist within the NHS.

Introduction

Applications for this course are currently closed. Please visit the [Clearing House website](#) for up-to-date details on the next application cycle. Select the 'Apply for this course' button above for instructions and full requirements (including Right to Work).

This programme offers clinical placements throughout the year, an academic course and an opportunity to undertake your own research work and dissertation.

Local NHS clinical psychology services on Merseyside offer a particularly rich variety of specialist placements at facilities such as Ashworth High Secure Hospital, the Windsor Clinic (Addictions), the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery

You will also have the opportunity to work with many esteemed practitioners in their fields such as; family therapy, paediatric liaison, brain injury rehabilitation and eating disorders.

Alongside clinical placements, time is also devoted to the major theoretical paradigms in clinical psychology (e.g. cognitive-behavioural, cognitive analytic therapy, psychodynamic,

and systemic), that continue to inform and influence clinical practice.

As you progress in your programme, the time devoted to the formally taught component in Year one with an intensive teaching block reducing through Years two and three as your own research and clinical practice provide the hands-on experience needed for registration to practice.

You will gain in-depth knowledge in the field of clinical psychology and contribute to the development of the mental health care services relating to the elderly or children and young adults from poor households.

In recognition of the challenging and, at times, demanding nature of the programme, your training is underpinned by a range of support structures.

You'll have regular access to an Academic Advisor (a member of the core team) who'll support your clinical, academic, research, personal and professional development. You'll also have regular contact with a Mentor, a qualified clinical psychologist working in the NHS who'll help you navigate personal learning and career objectives. In addition there'll be regular Clinical Reflective Practice Groups where you'll meet with the same group of colleagues to discuss and seek support for personal, ethical and professional issues.

Who is this course for?

This course is designed for students who already have an honours degree in psychology or a conversion degree pass.

This programme is suitable for you if you want to develop your clinical, professional, academic and research skills further to doctoral level, while providing you with a high level of independence, and equipping you to practice competently as a qualified clinical psychologist in the NHS.

What you'll learn

The programme is organised within a series of teaching units covering the theoretical and research bases of clinical psychology including;

- Adult, child and adolescent clinical psychology
- Intellectual disabilities

- Clinical assessment methods
 - Neuropsychology
 - Psychopharmacology
 - Forensic clinical psychology
 - Global mental health and human rights
 - Behaviour, cognition and emotion in therapy
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Accreditation

The programme leads to the award of the degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology, conferring eligibility to apply for registration as a Clinical Psychologist with the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#) and for Chartered status with the [British Psychological Society \(BPS\)](#).

Accreditation in detail

British Psychological Society

The British Psychological Society is the representative body for psychology and psychologists in the UK. This programme is BPS accredited, meaning it meets the BPS' standards for education and training.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

The programme begins with an introductory academic block of five weeks' duration, designed to equip you with the basic skills necessary for your first placement experience.

Among the taught modules you'll be studying are:

Addictions, Behaviours and Cognition, Human Rights, Human Sexuality, Family and System Therapies, Child and Adolescent Psychology, Learning Disabilities, Psychology of Older Adults, Psychological Models and Theories, Psychopharmacology, Psychosis and Recovery, Third Wave Therapies.

Year One also introduces you to a range of methods and issues arising in clinical research, clinical skills and assessment, Mersey Care induction, and ethical and social issues.

You'll be required to successfully pass the two supervised six-month clinical placements in NHS clinical psychology services which are mandatory and are specified by the British Psychological Society accreditation criteria.

From October to March – Core Adult

From April to September – Core Older Adult

Local NHS clinical psychology services offer a particularly rich variety of specialist placements, and trainees are encouraged to gain experience within the various specialised facilities on Merseyside.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

In your second year your modules will focus on;

- Children, Young People and Family, Eating Disorders, Personality Disorders, Intellectual Disabilities, Orientation taught modules

- Clinical Skills / Research Presentations, Family and Systemic Therapies, Third Wave Therapies
- Personal and Professional Development, Professional Issues
- Research Training Sessions, Presentations and Conferences.

In Year two the curriculum aims to develop research skills and knowledge in conducting empirical studies and literature reviews, critiquing research, as well as understanding recruitment and ethical issues in clinical research applications.

You'll be required to successfully pass the two supervised six-month clinical placements below in NHS clinical psychology services which are mandatory and are specified by the British Psychological Society accreditation criteria.

October to March – Core Learning Disabilities

April to September – Core Child & Family

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year Three

The taught modules you'll be studying in Year Two will include;

- Addictions, Forensic Practice, Psychosis and Recovery,
- Clinical Skills
- Enquiry-Based Learning (from practice to research),
- Research Sessions
- Optional seminars
- Professional Issues
- Personal and Professional Development
- Research Training Sessions
- Research Presentations
- Research Conference

You'll have the option to undertake one, twelve month specialist placement in Year Three. Combining the fourth and fifth placement into a 12-month core and specialist child and family placement may also be possible in a small number of cases.

From October to March: Specialist Placement 1

From April to September: Specialist Placement 2

March: Coursework Assignment 3

May and July: Research Dissertation and Viva Voce examination

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Much of the teaching on the core psychological topics are completed by the end of the first year, allowing you to make maximum use of this knowledge in subsequent placement experiences.

The programme is founded on giving approximately equivalent time to the major theoretical concepts (e.g. cognitive-behavioural, cognitive analytic therapy, psychodynamic, and systemic), that inform and influence clinical skills, theory and practice.

You'll be allocated placement experiences so that you gain 'hands on' experience of CBT plus at least one other therapeutic approach. The time devoted to the formally taught component decreases as the programme progresses through years two and three.

The clinical practice component of the training programme allows you to apply and supplement the learning and skills gained through the academic programme and which will enable you to obtain the qualification required for registration to practice.

How you're assessed

Specific methods employed for assessment include:

- Essays
- Clinical case research investigations
- Clinical services research investigations
- Group presentation and teaching assignment
- Dissertation
- Viva voce examination
- Placement evaluation report
- Clinical logbook

- E-portfolio
- Case presentations
- Application for ethics approval
- Research proposal

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

Graduate from this programme and you'll be eligible for Chartered Clinical Psychologist status, allowing you to practise as a Clinical Psychologist within the NHS. The Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme has an excellent record for employment of graduates.

Clinical Psychology is an expanding profession and graduates will have the opportunity to work within a variety of different settings within the NHS such as hospitals, local clinics and health centres and in community mental health teams.

As you gain more experience in practice you may decide to specialise in a particular area of work, or progress to management. Some graduate decide to pursue careers that combine both leading research and clinical activity.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Successful candidates are not required to pay course fees as they will be employed full-time by [Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust](#) at **Band 6** of the [Agenda for Change](#) pay scale. Further information is available from [Clearing House](#).

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution, as well as Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) from the British Psychological Society and clinically relevant experience.

You must have the unrestricted right to reside, study, train and work in the UK.

Acceptance onto the programme will be subject to satisfactory health screening and criminal record checks.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the **[University of Liverpool International College](#)**, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this DCLinPsychol, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

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