

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY



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IMPORTANT: The Master of Professional Psychology at Flinders University is currently provisional accredited by APAC.

This guide provides information about the current eligibility criteria and application process for entry to The Master of Professional Psychology in 2022 only. Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this guide is accurate at the time of publication: September 2021. Flinders University reserves the right to alter any information contained herein without prior notice.



Flinders University was established on the lands of the Kaurna nation, with the first University campus, Bedford Park, located on the ancestral body of Ngannu near Warriparinga.

Flinders University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians, both past and present, of the various locations the University operates on, and recognises their continued relationship and responsibility to these Lands and Waters.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Master of Professional Psychology Application Guide. Reading this guide is the first step on the way to applying for the Master of Professional Psychology course at Flinders University.

This guide will help applicants determine their eligibility to apply and to understand the application process and required supporting documentation. Reading and understanding this guide forms part of the application process.

If, after reading this guide, applicants have any questions relating to the application process, they are asked to email askflinders@flinders.edu.au for assistance.

We thank applicants for considering the Master of Professional Psychology at Flinders University.

All prospective students are expected to act professionally toward the university, its staff, students and other applicants. Flinders University reserves the right to consider any aspect of an applicant's behaviour in the assessment of their suitability for admission.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

2021 FOR 2022 ENTRY

Monday 6 September	Applications for Master of Professional Psychology and Master of Psychology (Clinical) open 9am (ACST)
Friday 1 October	Applications for the Master of Professional Psychology and Master of Psychology (Clinical) close 11.59pm (ACST)
Friday 1 October	Deadline for submission of Official Academic Transcripts
Friday 29 October	Deadline for submission of Referee reports
November	Applications assessed and applicants notified if short-listed for interview
Mon 22 – Wed 24 November	Short-listed applicants are interviewed
Early December	First round offers are made
Mid December	Second round offers made (if required)
Late February 2022	New student information session (attendance is compulsory)

POSTGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The course provides a fifth-year qualification in Psychology structured to meet the accreditation standards of the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). After completion of the degree, students are required to undertake a one-year internship via the Psychology Board of Australia before they are eligible to apply for general registration as a psychologist. While this course enables graduates to apply for general registration as a psychologist following the one-year internship, graduates are not eligible to apply for endorsement in an area of specialisation such as clinical psychology.

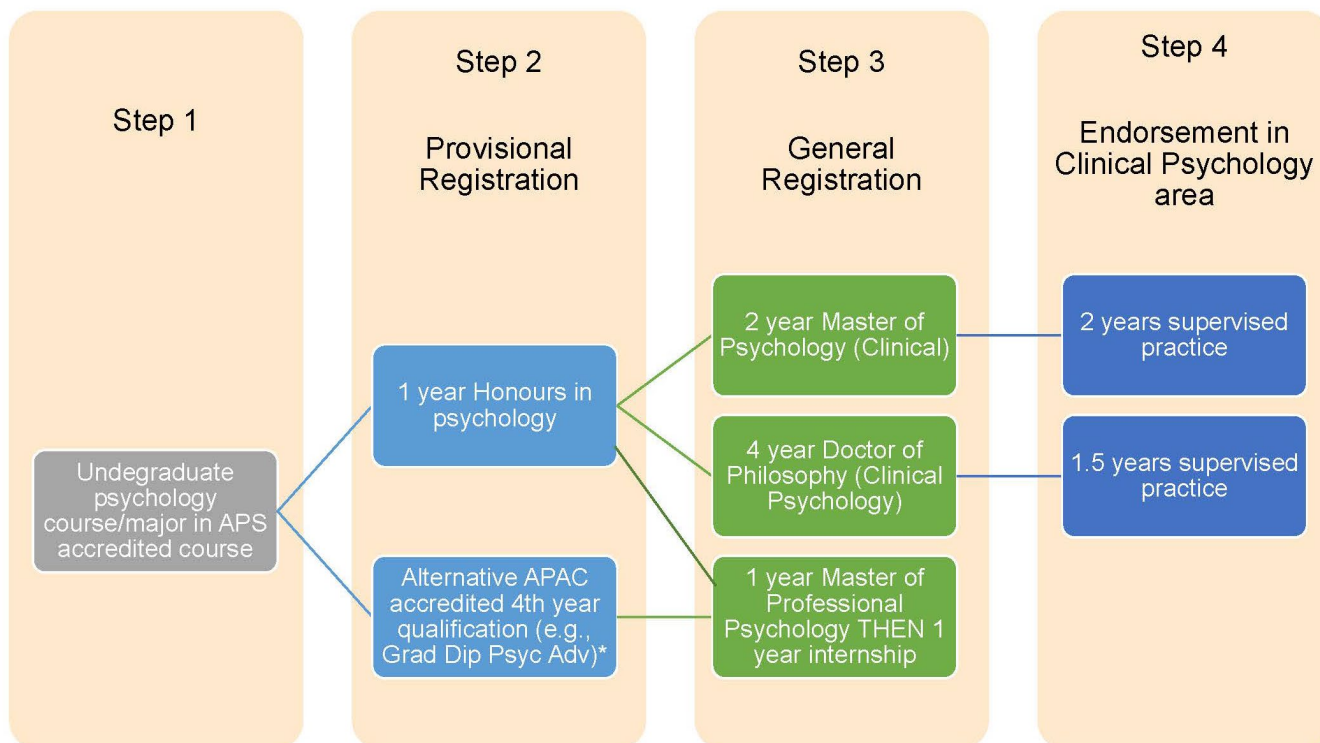
MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGY (CLINICAL) & DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) program of study meets the requirements for general registration as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia. Completing approved post-degree supervision allows endorsement to practice as a clinical psychologist as set out by the Psychology Board of Australia.

The PhD (Clinical Psychology) is designed to provide students with the opportunity to pursue doctoral level research in specialised areas of clinical psychology and to complete coursework topics and field placements to meet eligibility for general registration as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia. Completing approved post-degree supervision allows endorsement to practice as a clinical psychologist as set out by the Psychology Board of Australia. The overall aim is to produce scientist-practitioner clinical psychologists who are able to make a substantial contribution to knowledge in clinical psychology through completion of their PhD and to assume leadership roles in the professional, research and academic spheres of activity.

The application guide for the Master of Psychology (Clinical) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) for 2022 entry can be found on our website www.flinders.edu.au/study/courses/postgraduate-psychology-clinical.

More information on the study pathways that lead to registration as a psychologist can be found at www.psychology.org.au.



*APAC accredited 4th year qualification as confirmed via <https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/>

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

Applicants must meet citizenship requirements, English language requirements and academic requirements to be eligible to apply.

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents and Humanitarian Visa holders are classified as domestic applicants. New Zealand citizens are also classified as domestic applicants.

Applicants are required to meet domestic eligibility criteria at the time of application. Applicants who do not meet the domestic citizenship classification above are considered international applicants and are not eligible to apply as domestic applicants.

Note: New Zealand permanent residents are classified as international students. Details on how to apply as an international applicant are available at www.flinders.edu.au/international/psychology.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The [Psychology Board of Australia](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au) requests that applicants who did not complete both secondary and tertiary education in Australia or in a country where English is considered the first or native language, demonstrate English language skills at IELTS (International English Level Testing System) Academic level 7 and achieve the required minimum score of 7 in each component of the IELTS Academic module.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to have satisfactorily completed or be in the final year of an APAC-accredited undergraduate 4-year sequence in Psychology including an Honours year or equivalent accredited qualification in Psychology at the Flinders equivalent class of 2A level or above or an accredited Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Advanced) which will be considered on Grade Point Average achieved in these studies

As a guide, applicants who have an Honours or Graduate Diploma in Psychology Flinders equivalent mark of less than 81, are unlikely to be shortlisted for an interview due to the very competitive nature of the application process were a significant number of applications are received for limited places available.

Applicants who are graduates with psychology degrees from non-Australian universities must have their qualifications assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) for equivalence to an Australian programme of study prior to submitting their application. Pre-assessment for equivalency is not possible. Applicants can have their overseas qualification assessed for equivalency through <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/>.

APPLICATION

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are submitted directly to Flinders University through the online application system.

Applicants who wish to undertake the course on a part-time basis can choose this as an option when selecting the course in the online application system.

Applicants should be aware that they need to be available for coursework and/or placement activities 2.5 days per week throughout the period of candidature if they wish to study on a part-time basis. Thus, the part-time course is no less than half-time. A set part-time program of study based on maximising learning outcomes for students is in place and all part-time students are required to follow this program of study.

Refer to our step-by-step [Direct Application Guide](#) for assistance on the application submission process.

PLACES AVAILABLE

There are up to 15 full-time equivalent places.

Admission to Postgraduate Psychology courses is extremely competitive as places are limited and a significant number of applications are

received. As a guide, successful applicants to the Master of Psychology (Clinical) and Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) in previous years have typically had a strong academic record e.g. first-class Honours, PhD [for those applying to Masters] and experience relevant to clinical psychology, to be short-listed for interview.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

OFFICIAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

Those applying based on their Flinders qualifications do not need to provide Official Academic Transcripts unless components of their study in a 4-year accredited sequence in psychology, including their Honours year, Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Advanced), or research higher degree was completed or is being completed at another tertiary institution.

Those applying based on completing a 4-year accredited sequence in psychology or research higher degree from another tertiary institution, are required to submit an official academic transcript for each of these studies by the deadline. The transcript/s must show grades for completed studies so far in the course and must also be provided as part of the online application. Please include a grading key (normally found on the back of the official transcript).

An electronic copy of an original or a certified copy of an Official Academic Transcript must be uploaded to the application by the deadline as evidence of meeting this requirement.

It is an applicant's responsibility to comply with requests to provide further documentation, either in the original language or English translation.

Note: Applicants who submit Unofficial Academic Transcripts, statement of results, exam slips, screen shots of grades, AHEGS, etc. will not be considered.

It is an applicant's responsibility to comply with requests to provide further documentation, either in the original language or English translation.

Applicants who do not provide official academic transcripts by the deadline will NOT be considered.

Applicants who are due to complete their APAC accredited fourth-year degree in 2021, are also required to submit an academic transcript as above by the deadline, showing their completed studies so far. Those who are shortlisted for interview will be contacted to provide a final copy of their official academic transcript showing the completion of their APAC accredited fourth-year degree once available.

My eEquals

If an applicant's Official Academic Transcript is available via the My eEquals platform, they can provide their URL link to allow access to the digital document in their application. If they have set a PIN via my eEquals (this is optional) they will also need to supply this. If they wish to set an expiry date for access to the digital document, they must ensure the date selected is **after February 2022** as the University may need to access the document up to and including this time.

For further information about providing Official Academic Transcripts via My eEquals visit www.myequals.edu.au/students/.

It is recommended applicants provide their My eEquals link by the deadline but only once their grades/completion/finalisation of their academic transcript is confirmed, as the My eEquals link cannot be changed by applicants once provided.

Any subsequent updates to the academic transcript are not automatically reflected on the link provided and applicants are required to provide a new link by the deadline for updated grades, etc to be considered.

If after submitting their application, applicants receive further results or need to update their previous link by the deadline, they will need to email askflinders@flinders.edu.au. Applicants will then be sent an email with instructions on how to update this requirement on their submitted application.

Note: Links provided after the deadline for update of academic transcripts will not be accepted.

Document authenticity through My eEquals

Some digital academic transcripts specifically mention the University issuing the transcript will only guarantee the document's authenticity when it is accessed through the My eEquals portal. They further state that when viewed online, the security of the document is only verified by the presence of the 'Certified' blue ribbon above the document.

PDF documents also contain a blue ribbon stating 'Certified by (University)... all signatures are valid' in the Signature Panel above the document. 'University' cannot verify this document's authenticity in printed format. If your transcript includes such text, please ensure you provide the My eEquals link or the pdf document that meets your university's authentication requirements so that your transcript can be

accepted for consideration for the course.

Note: Official Academic Transcripts submitted in the format specified by the institution as not being able to verify the authenticity will not be accepted.

Applicants must upload all supporting documentation to their online application in one of the following file formats: JPEG, DOC, DOCX, or PDF e.g. transcript.pdf.

Only clear legible scans will be accepted. The entire document must be included without any external elements visible – such as a table, shadows, etc. We only accept scanned copies of original documents.

Upload of screenshots, photos, statements of results, academic record, AHEGs, or unofficial transcripts, etc. will not be accepted.

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATION ASSESSMENT

Applicants for the Master of Psychology (Clinical) and Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) who are graduates with psychology degrees from non-Australian universities must have their qualifications assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) for equivalence to an Australian programme of study prior to submitting their application.

Information about the process for obtaining this assessment can be found on the **APS website**. Please note that Flinders University also requires completion of a substantive research thesis within a 4-year degree that demonstrates knowledge of research methods and quantitative statistics.

If academic transcripts are in a language other than English, applicants must submit copies of both the original transcript and full translations in English. Translations must show results for all subjects undertaken and be certified by an independent accredited translator (NAATI) and feature the translator's original stamp and signature on every page. The translation must be a scan of the original hard copy translation document issued by the translator. Electronic versions of the translation, where the translator's stamp has been affixed electronically, cannot be accepted.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

FOURTH YEAR PERCENTAGE MARK

Applicants are required to provide their marks from their APAC accredited fourth year degree. They must be due to complete their fourth year by the end of 2021.

If this information cannot be obtained from the supervisor, Flinders will assign the lowest grade in the Flinders grade range as their base score. For example, if your second-class honours grade is only specified as 2A by your home university, we will assign 75 as your mark as the Flinders equivalent 2A mark range is 75-84.

Applicants who have completed or are due to complete an alternative APAC accredited 4th year degree (e.g., Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Advanced)) must provide a transcript showing all completed grades and their GPA. We will convert applicants' GPA to a Flinders-equivalent GPA and then to a percentage mark to use as a base score for interview shortlisting.

THESIS OR RESEARCH PROJECT DETAILS

Applicants are required to provide details of any theses completed or currently being undertaken, including title, abstract, length and supervisor.

EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Applicants are required to provide details of any independent research projects (e.g., Honours thesis, Graduate Diploma research project) completed or currently being undertaken within their APAC accredited 4th year, including title, abstract, length and supervisor (if applicable).

Applicants are required to provide details of any other experience relevant to psychological practice (e.g. voluntary work, research assistant work, clinically relevant experience). Applicants must indicate the period of time they undertook the experience for and estimate the number of hours per week undertaken. Please do not attach a curriculum vitae but supply the information at the appropriate points in the online application.

Please do not attach a curriculum vitae but supply the information at the appropriate points in the online application.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Applicants are required to provide details of any other clinically relevant psychology experience (e.g. voluntary work, research assistant work, clinically relevant experience). Applicants must indicate the duration of the experience and estimate the number of hours per week. Please do not attach a curriculum vitae but supply the information at the appropriate points in the online application.

PUBLICATION AND GRANT DETAILS

Applicants are required to provide the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number and title for any publications they may have produced. Applicants who have obtained a competitive research grant as lead investigator are encouraged to provide details in their application.

REFEREE REPORTS

Two confidential referees' reports are required, at least one of which should be from your most recent academic supervisor (Honours or PhD). Should you not choose to include your most recent research supervisor as one of your referees, please explain why in an email to askflinders@flinders.edu.au and include your application number to add this information to your application. The other may be from a person who has observed you and your work in a non-academic context. The reports must be submitted online via the Reference Request System. The Reference Request System allows applicants for Australian postgraduate programs in Psychology to apply for a reference from academic and/or professional referees. There is a \$25.00 fee payable for use of the Reference Request System.

For further details see www.psychologyreference.org. Your referees must submit their reports to the Reference Request System by the deadline. Late referee reports will not be accepted.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Offers for a place in the courses are made based on interview and overall application.

INTERVIEWS

The interview is very important as it enables the interview panel to assess the applicant's interest in and motivation for the course, to question the applicant about their relevant employment or clinical background, and to judge the applicant's capacity to satisfactorily complete the course. An opportunity is also provided for the applicant to ask any questions about the course so that applicants can make a fully informed decision should they be offered a place in the course. The interviewing panel members are Flinders Psychology academic staff and a clinical psychologist from the community.

Applicants will be short-listed for interview based on:

- Academic Record
- Relevant psychological practice experience
- Referee reports
- Publications/grants

Applicants are given a percentage score from their Honours/Graduate Diploma results; this score reflects their overall base score*. Points are then added to the base score, taking into consideration:

- 2nd and 3rd year Psychology topics sequence are calculated using the Flinders equivalent GPA. Applicants who have completed** a PhD will receive a full score for this section.
- Applicants Honours mark are converted to a Flinders equivalent Honours mark of First class 85 and above, Second class 75-84. Applicants who have completed a PhD or a first-named publication will receive a full score for this section. Other publications will be considered and may result in bonus points being applied.
- Clinically relevant volunteer and paid work experience.
- Referee reports are assessed to determine applicant's suitability to the course. An unfavourable report can result in an unsuccessful application even if an applicant has an otherwise high score.

**If an applicant's specific Honours percentage mark is not able to be determined, we will assign the lowest grade in the grade range as their base score. For example, if your second-class honours grade is only specified as 2A by your home university, we will assign 75 as your grade as the Flinders equivalent 2A grade range is 75-84.*

***Applicants that have submitted their PhD, but have not yet been completed, will not receive a full score for this section.*

Interviews are held in late November. It is the responsibility of applicants to be available to attend an interview during this period.

Telephone/Zoom interviews will be available for rural, overseas and interstate applicants. South Australian applicants are expected to attend in person. If you are in any doubt, please contact askflinders@flinders.edu.au prior to finalising your arrangements.

It is important that we can contact you during the application process.

As a guide, shortlisted applicants for our other postgraduate degrees (the Master of Psychology (Clinical) and Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology)) in previous years have typically had a strong academic record e.g. first-class Honours, PhD [for those applying to Masters], and experience relevant to the practice of psychology.

Applicants who are shortlisted for an interview will be provided more interview information and details on how to book an interview date and time in the email notifying them they have been shortlisted for an interview.



OFFERS

Offers for a place in the courses are made based on interview and overall application.

Note: Applicants who receive an offer to the Master of Professional Psychology will be required to secure their place by enrolling in at least one topic in the course by the deadline stated in their offer letter. Failure to enrol via the Flinders University Student System by the specified date, will mean the offer of a place in the course will be forfeited and their place may be offered to another applicant.

WAITLISTED AND UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Applicants who are not successful in receiving an offer early in the selection process will be advised of the status of their application as soon as the assessment outcome has been determined.

Offers may be made up until the commencement of the course in February 2022 to fill places available and applicants will be advised if they have been placed on a waitlist.

CONDITIONAL OFFERS

There are only two instances in which an applicant may receive a conditional offer:

- A Flinders University qualification is due to be completed in late 2021 and offer is conditional on successful completion; OR
- An approved 4-year APAC approved sequence in psychology at another institution is due to be completed and offer is conditional on evidence of successful completion through an Official Academic Transcript to be provided by the deadline stated in the offer letter.

Conditions of an offer must be met as specified in the offer letter and by the stated deadline. Failure to do so will mean the offer of a place in the course will be forfeited and their place may be offered to another applicant.

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will not be able to enrol in the Master of Professional Psychology until the condition has been met by the deadline.

Note: For the Master of Professional Psychology, once conditions are met, applicants will be required to secure their place by enrolling in at least one topic in the by the deadline stated in the communication confirming they have met the conditions of their offer. Failure to enrol via the Flinders University Student Information System by the specified date, will mean the offer of a place in the course will be forfeited and their place may be offered to another applicant. If you decline an offer for a place, you will not be considered for another place or receive another offer.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CRIMINAL AND RELEVANT HISTORY SCREENING

Successful applicants will be required to undertake a national police check and a criminal history screening which includes child-related employment screening, vulnerable person-related employment screening, aged care sector employment screening and a disability services

sector screening. This is consistent with the Psychology Board of Australia’s requirement that the criminal history check contains no offences that would result in a person being declared unfit to practice. This will be initiated by Flinders University once offers are confirmed. The Screening Checks are conducted through the DCSI screening unit and further details are available at: <https://screening.dcsi.sa.gov.au/>. Further information regarding National Police check is available at: [police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/ apply-for-a-police-record-check](https://police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/apply-for-a-police-record-check).

Note: Successful applicants will be provided with advice about how to obtain these clearances once offers have been made.

PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

The Psychology Board of Australia requires students are registered as provisional psychologists with the Board on entry into the course www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration/Provisional.aspx. A students' place in the course is conditional on being able to register as a Provisional Psychologist with AHPRA. If you are unable to obtain provisional registration, you will be unable to continue in the course. The University accepts no responsibility should you be unable to obtain provisional registration after gaining entry to the course.

IMMUNISATION AND BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES POLICY

Students will also need to comply with SA Health’s Immunisation and Blood-Borne Viruses Policy. This is a SA Health Policy Directive requirement for students prior to undertaking clinical placements.

The detailed written procedure required for provisional registration, criminal and relevant history screening and proof of immunisation status will be provided to students who are offered a place in either course. Please note that students are responsible for any costs associated with the above requirements.

CONTACTS

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ENQUIRES INCLUDING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS TO:

askflinders@flinders.edu.au

FAQs

I am having issues with the account activation process, who do I contact to get technical assistance?	If you are experiencing difficulties with the account activation process you can contact our helpdesk on 08 8201 2345.
I wasn't successful in my application, am I able to get more information on the outcome?	Flinders University is not normally able to provide individuals with detailed information or feedback about their application including overall ranking, interview performance, interview score etc.
How will I be contacted about my application?	Communication regarding all aspects of the application is via email. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure they provide a current email address, regularly check their inbox (including the junk and clutter folders) and respond to any emails they may receive requesting further information. Applicants will be able to check and update their contact email address in the Flinders University Student System by visiting the My Details tab and selecting a preferred email address. Detailed instructions are available in the Direct Application Guide .
I am a Master of Professional Psychology student, can I change	No, Master of Psychology (Clinical) students are unable to change

my application to PhD (Clinical Psychology)?	their application to PhD (Clinical Psychology).
Is application documentation audited?	Flinders may audit documentation or request further information regarding any aspect of your application.
What do I do if I don't know my honours mark yet?	Applicants due to complete their Honours year in 2021 must provide, as part of the online application, contact details of their supervisor who will be contacted to provide their honours percentage mark (s).
o I need to provide an official academic transcript?	If you are applying based on your Flinders qualification, you don't need to provide a transcript. Applicants who have qualifications from other institutions must upload a certified copy or original official academic transcript by the deadline. Applicants that are due to complete their Honours year or Graduate Diploma in Psychology in 2021 must also provide a current official academic transcript at the time of application, applicants shortlisted for interview will be contacted directly to provide a final copy of their academic transcript showing the completion of their Honours year. Refer to the Supporting Documentation section of this guide for details.
Can I submit my official academic transcript via My eEquals?	Yes, you will need to provide your URL link on the online application. If you have set a PIN you will also need to supply this, ensuring that the expiry date is after 28 February 2022. Further information can be found at myequals.edu.au/faq/ Refer to the Supporting Documentation section of this guide for details.
Can I defer my place to the next year?	Deferment of an offer is not permitted. Applicants unable to commence the course in the current admission cycle are required to reapply.
Are late offers made if places are available?	Occasionally offers are issued in January-February should any applicants decline first/second round offers.
Can I study the course externally?	All courses are delivered internally and on campus only, and it is therefore not possible to undertake the degree on an external basis.
Are there any conditions attached to the offer?	Offers may be conditional and information will be provided in the offer letter. Enrolment is conditional on the applicant successfully passing criminal and relevant history screenings, gaining provisional registration through the Psychology Board of Australia and complying with SA Health's Immunisation and Blood-Borne Viruses Policy.
Can I apply for the Master of Professional Psychology as a second preference?	Applicants that are offered an interview for Clinical Psychology but are not successful in receiving an offer to the course, may be offered the Master of Professional Psychology if they have indicated on their application that they would like to be



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