



Press Release on 30 December 2006
**The Survey Results on “The Qualifications & Training of
Clinical Psychologists as Understood by the Public””**

**Appendix 2 : Benchmark Criteria for Clinical Psychology Training
Programmes**

To differentiate whether a Clinical Psychology Training Programme meets the benchmark criteria of the local professional body (DCP) or other professional bodies of developed countries, the general public are advised to consider the following guidelines:

1. **Entry Requirements**
Does the programme require applicants to demonstrate competent knowledge base in Psychology?
For instance, applicants should have acquired a Bachelor Honours Degree in Psychology, or Post-graduate Diploma / Certificate in Psychology from an accredited university. If the programme accepts applicants with a Degree in subjects other than Psychology, graduates would not be able to satisfy the criteria for membership and registration set by DCP.

2. **Recognition of the Training Programme in Clinical Psychology**
Does the training programme meet the benchmark criteria of Clinical Psychology Training Programme stipulated by DCP, or other professional bodies such as BPS (British Psychological Society), APA (American Psychological Association), or APS (Australian Psychological Society)?
Potential applicants are alerted to the fact that a Clinical Psychology Training Programme offered by a training institute accredited by a professional body in its home country may not be accredited overseas, as the resources invested to the programmes may be different. To our best knowledge, at present, in HK, only the Clinical Psychology Programmes offered by HKU (The University of Hong Kong) and CUHK (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) are recognized by DCP.

3. **Programme Structure**
 - 3.1 **Mode of Study**
Most recognized Master Degree Programmes in Clinical Psychology are 2-year full-time courses. In HK, the Doctoral Programmes in Clinical Psychology (PsyD) offered by the 2 recognized universities are only open to those who have already completed the Master Degree

Programme in Clinical Psychology. The duration of study can be 2 year full-time or 3 year part-time. PhD programmes in Clinical Psychology admit only those who have been admitted to, or have completed the Master Degree Programme in Clinical Psychology. The minimum period of post-graduate study is 4 years full-time. The Clinical Psychology Training Programmes accredited by APA should be at least 3-year full-time (or equivalent) post-graduate training, plus 1 year full-time internship to obtain the Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology.

3.2 Clinical Training

Does the training institute arrange for students clinical placement settings approved by the professional body? Or do students have to look for their own clinical placement settings?

Acceptable Clinical Psychology Training Programmes should cover a certain number of hours of supervised clinical practice as required by professional body. Training institutes offering the programme should help students arrange a variety of clinical placements in approved placement settings. These should include Clinical Psychology Unit /Department in Hospital Authority, Correctional Services Department, Social Welfare Department, Police Department, and Department of Health. Applicants are advised to ascertain with the training institute if such clinical placements have been secured.

3.3 Clinical Supervision

Do students in clinical practice receive onsite supervision, or just remote follow-up supervision?

The programme should provide students with onsite supervision by qualified and experienced clinical psychologists during their clinical practice. Remote follow-up supervision does not provide adequate professional indemnity for the students and clients under their care. Applicants should demand a list of clinical supervisors for the programme. If the training institute fails to provide the list, the availability of qualified supervisors are in doubt.

4. Qualifications and Commitment of Faculty Staff

Are the core faculty staff working full-time in the training institute, or most of them are only working part-time in the training institute? Are they qualified Clinical Psychologists?

According to the benchmark training criteria of DCP and most professional bodies in developed countries, the programme should have adequate teaching staff and clinical supervisors; the core teaching staff should be full-time staff; the core teaching staff and the clinical supervisors should be experienced Licensed /Registered Clinical Psychologists of professional body with at least certain years of post-qualifications experience.

DCP's membership list and Services provided by members in both the public and private sectors can be found in the DCP website <http://rouge.hkps.org.hk/dcp/>.

For further enquiries about Clinical Psychology and the qualifications of Clinical Psychologists, the public can write to the Honorary Secretary, Division of Clinical Psychology, The Hong Kong Psychological Society at G.P.O. Box 9828, or e-mail dcp@hkps.org.hk, or browse at <http://rouge.hkps.org.hk/dcp/>.