Trinity College Dublin
School of Psychology & Health Service Executive

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology
Applications for September 2027 Intake.

N.B: The application fee is non-refundable and candidates are advised they should make themselves available on the notified assessment date. Inability to attend the assessment on the designated date will not constitute grounds for a refund of the application fee.

Note: The criteria for selection are reviewed annually.

The Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (D. Clin. Psych.) is a three-year (36 month) postgraduate professional training course. The programme is currently accredited with the Psychological Society of Ireland. A limited number of places are available for the 2027-2030 course. The course is based in the School of Psychology at Trinity College Dublin and placements are undertaken in a variety of clinical settings throughout Leinster. It is expected that trainees on the course should take up residence in the Greater Dublin Area (i.e. no more than 30 miles from the College). The Programme is under an obligation to send trainees to all HSE locations within the following areas once supervisor availability and accommodation have been secured. Providers comprising Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County, Dublin North City and West, Dublin Southeast and Wicklow, Dublin South City and West, Dublin Southwest, Kildare and West Wicklow contribute to the funding of training. As a result, trainees are required to undertake significant journeys to some placements. Trainees are expected to make their own arrangements for all travel. This regularly necessitates the use of a car. However, it should be noted that the mode of travel used will not influence placement allocation except in exceptional circumstances, for example, where a trainee is unable to drive because of a disability. Travel expenses incurred in getting to and from the placement base and home are not reimbursable.

Please note the application is made in two stages. Each of these stages involves the completion of separate and distinct application forms. These forms are amended annually, and you may not use a saved version of either form from previous years.

Stage 1; The **D.Clin. Psych. Application** Form is available on the Clinical Psychology web page at https://www.tcd.ie/psychology/courses/postgraduate/d-clin/. Download, complete and save the Course Application form for adding/uploading to your official College application which happens in Stage 2.

Stage 2; The **College application online portal.**
You will be asked to nominate one academic referee and one clinical referee. The two nominated referees will be contacted automatically through the application system via the contact information which you supply here.

1. Visit https://www.tcd.ie/psychology/courses/postgraduate/d-clin/

2. Select 'College Application' from the 1st November to complete the College Online Application
3. Upload your already completed & saved **'D.Clin. Psych. Application form'** to your college application by the 16th November, 2026.

Please Note: The course selection committee consider only applications completed using the 2027 D.Clin. Psych. Application Form (previous years completed and saved versions are not acceptable). **Late and incomplete applications will also not be considered.**

If you indicated on the college online application that you would like assistance with the application process, you should bear in mind that this undertaking does not apply to completing the D.Clin. Psych. application form and associated documents.

Entry Requirements

- Usually at least an upper-second class Honours Bachelor degree in psychology which confers eligibility for graduate membership of the Psychological Society of Ireland **will be required.** In cases of candidates who hold a 2:2 in their named psychology qualification, applications will be deemed acceptable if the candidate has obtained a 2:1 in a taught master's degree in psychology. This master's should only be available to graduates whose primary degree is in psychology and at least 60% of the content should be clearly identifiable as psychology.

- The degree qualification must be such that the applicant is eligible for Graduate Membership of the Psychological Society of Ireland. A list of PSI accreditation of undergraduate courses is available on https://www.psychologicalsociety.ie/accredited-courses. The College cannot arbitrate on other qualifications.

- As trainees are employees of the Health Service Executive (HSE) or other approved Health Care Provider, we require that applicants have the right to work in Ireland without restriction. Non-EEA applicants are therefore not considered unless they have a pre-existing right to work in Ireland for the duration of the course and the required three years after completion.

- Willingness and an ability to travel to placement sites across the regions as outlined above is a requirement after any reasonable adjustments to compensate for disability to comply with the Equality Act.

- Applicants whose first language is not English (https://www.tcd.ie/study/english-language-requirements/ or whose previous education and examination qualifications have not been in the English language will need to provide evidence of English language competence on the college application form.

- Each applicant must demonstrate, twelve months full-time (1820 hours) or equivalent postgraduate paid or voluntary employment within mental health,

disability or related service providers **(excludes research)** in the five years prior to this application.

- At least 50% of clinical experience must be gained in a psychology assistant post involving regular supervision by a qualified psychologist employed in the same organisation. 50% of the experience must have been gained in a public service health or social care setting.

- This experience must involve direct contact and provision of care to individuals who comprise the population associated with using clinical psychology services.

  Note: Here, 'postgraduate' is defined as the period extending from the date of publication of qualifying degree results. In cases in which a person has been out of the workforce to care for a child or other dependent, this period may be extended.

- Clinical experience, module completion and research conducted in the context of a qualification that was either failed or not completed, will not be considered as contributing to the entry requirements specified above.

- If, based on a qualification obtained overseas, you are eligible to apply or are in the process of applying to the Department of Health validation process, you may not apply until this process is complete. If the outcome of that application is to confer eligibility on you to work in Ireland, you may not apply for the course.

- All applicants who possess the above minimum entry requirements will be called to first round selection. Applicants are rated on their performance at the practical assessment stage and on the following competencies based on the evidence presented in the application form and later at the interview stage.

- **Academic Ability:** this is a judgement of the applicant's ability to cope with the intellectual demands of training. Other competencies also inform this domain and these include critical reflection, ability to synthesise information succinctly, ability to draw inferences from information, psychological knowledge, ability to apply psychological theories and research to clinical scenarios, research skills, etc, and these are rated in the practical assessments and final interviews.

- **Psychological Knowledge and Skills:** this is a rating based on the applicant's knowledge and understanding of major theories and approaches relevant to clinical psychology and its practice. It is also a judgement of the applicant's ability to apply psychological knowledge and to make theory-practice links. Also relevant is the applicant's ability to understand ethical issues in practice and their awareness of current issues in the profession.

- **Personal Development Competencies:** This is based on evidence (shown through experience, and verification of referees' accounts) that suggest attributes relevant to clinical psychology and the applicant's readiness to commence clinical training. These include, for example, empathy, initiative, capacity for insight and personal awareness and reflection, efficiency, time management, resilience and capacity for growth and development.

- **Research Competencies:** this is a judgement based on the applicant's ability to cope with the research demands of clinical psychology training and beyond. Competencies rated under this heading are those such as knowledge of design and analysis, ability to critically evaluate research and awareness of ethical issues. These are rated in the practical assessments and at interview.

- **Clinical Competencies:** this is a rating based on the quality and extent of an applicant's ability to apply their experience gained from working in direct contact and provision of care to individuals who comprise the population associated with using clinical psychology services - mental health, disability or related settings. There is also an evaluation of the comments and ratings of referees.

- **Interpersonal Skills:** This involves the applicant's ability to listen and communicate effectively, as well as their ability to work in a team and the clarity and coherence of their presentation.

References

The panel reserve the right to seek additional references (e.g., from a current employer if not submitted). Such requests will be made through the applicant. In addition, verbal clarification (i.e., telephone reference) may sometimes be sought in the event of unsatisfactory or ambiguous references.

Conditions of Employment

- Successful applicants are offered a contract of employment as a Trainee Clinical Psychologist with the Health Service Executive or other approved Health Care Provider. **Applicants must agree in accepting this contract that they will undertake work in the Irish public health services for a three-year period following completion of the course.**

- If you have an existing qualification in clinical, counselling, or educational psychology (in or outside of Ireland) please let us know. Please also include details of any such courses in which you enrolled but did not pass/complete or are still enrolled. If you have an existing qualification which qualifies you to work as a clinical psychologist in the HSE, you may not apply for a position on the course associated with a contract with the HSE as a trainee clinical psychologist.

- Currently postgraduate students on this course are employed by the Health Service Executive on the Trainee Psychologist salary scale and in addition have a contribution towards fees paid on their behalf. This funding is not available to those wishing to upgrade their existing training/qualification in clinical psychology. The course does not accept self-funded applications.

Equal Opportunities

The College, along with the Health Service Executive and other employers of trainees, have equal opportunities policies and are concerned to implement fair selection procedures. The programme aims to create an accessible curriculum and foster an inclusive community that supports the engagement, representation and action of all students, including those from diverse worldviews, cultures and identities, and with different learning backgrounds, abilities and strategies.

It is not a mandatory requirement for an applicant to disclose information about any disability if they do not wish to do so. However, if the nature of the disability requires accommodations to be made during the assessment process, this can only be facilitated if a disclosure is made. If such an accommodation is necessary, please let us know in writing by contacting the course at dclinpsych@tcd.ie. Such an application should be accompanied by the Learning Educational Needs Summary from your original University. Every effort will be made to make reasonable adjustments to training requirements for those successful applicants who have a disability that may impact on training (https://www.tcd.ie/disability/). Selection policies and procedures on the Course are formally reviewed on an annual basis.

Police Clearance

We ask all applicants who are interviewed to complete a 'General Declaration Form' and declare any convictions. An enhanced police check will be carried out by the Garda Vetting Office on behalf of the Health Service Executive. Successful candidates will as part of their employment contract will be required to complete. In addition, as part of pre registration for college an additional Garda Vetting Process must be completed.
https://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/student-registration/garda-vetting/

A discrepancy between what has been declared, and the subsequent Garda check could be grounds for non-appointment. When an applicant declares a conviction, this does not automatically mean they will not be appointed. A judgement, taking into account the nature and context of the offence and our duty to protect the public, will be made by the selection panel and the employer. In general, we would not consider an applicant as suitable if they have a conviction or caution for any crime against children or a vulnerable adult. There is no exhaustive list of offences that provide grounds for non-appointment and all convictions and cautions would be carefully considered by the panel and the risks to the public considered.

Financial Aspect

Selected applicants are recommended to the National Recruitment Service of the Health Service Executive or another approved health care provider for appointment as Trainee Clinical Psychologists. The minimum salary is in accordance with HSE pay scale for Trainee Clinical Psychologist. The minimum salary is €45,872. The appointment is for three calendar years, conditional on satisfactory progress in training. Your employment site will be considered as follows - the University on academic days and placement site on clinical days within Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County, Dublin North City and West, Dublin South East and Wicklow, Dublin South City and West, Dublin South West, Kildare and West Wicklow. Trainees should, however, be prepared to move both between local psychology services and adjoining regions for some placements.

Placements are mostly drawn from the areas encompassed by our funding HSE IHA areas, which include counties Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare. Trainees are expected to make their own arrangements for all travel to and within placements and are required to have appropriate transport to adequately fulfill the responsibilities of the role.

As stated above, trainees on the course are paid a minimum salary of €45,872 from which they must pay 40% of their fee with the employer paying the remaining 60%. Currently the annual fee is €14,270 however, this is subject to an annual review.

Please note that those offered places may be required to furnish additional information at point of acceptance of a place on the course.

Selection Procedures

Screening

- The screening panel is made up of members of the Course team.
- Completed applications are assessed by members of the Selection Committee independently.

Assessment

Eligible candidates will complete a series of online academic tasks. Later in the selection process, some of the competencies evaluated in these written tasks will be re-evaluated at an interview and an in-person written test.

Round 2: Interview

- The clinical, academic and personal suitability factors used for scoring have been developed by the Course and are reviewed annually by the Selection Committee. Ratings are made of each applicant according to these factors. These include the ability to link theory and practice and the capacity to reflect on one's own experience and learn from it. The panels, comprised of course staff and clinicians from sponsoring agencies, look for confirmatory and non-confirmatory evidence to fully explore suitability for training in the context of previous educational and employment history.

Interview Domains
Research Competencies
Clinical Fluency
Reflectiveness on self, client and the relationship
Adaptability
Caring presence
Readiness for training
Congruence between verbal and nonverbal responding
Active listening within interview
Respectfulness for others

- Candidates are informed of the possibility of follow-up interviews and the possibility of telephonic references being sought of the referees listed.
- The candidates are then ranked according to their score and places are offered to the most suitable candidates according to the rankings.

- These offers are provisional and are subject to candidates satisfying the Garda Vetting procedures with the HSE or another approved health care provider and verification of claims made by candidates in the selection process.

- Numerical grades given following stage 1 and post interview written feedback is provided

Appeals Procedure

Candidates may make a request for a review of any decision on procedural grounds. However, requests should be made within two working days of communication of the relevant decision.
such requests should be made via email to the Course Administrator at DCLINPSYCH@tcd.ie.

Recruitment

- The Chair of the Selection panel writes to the Head of Service Primary Care, Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City and West HSE and to the Dean of Graduate Studies informing them of the outcome of the Selection Panel.

- The Dean of Graduate Studies then writes to successful candidates making an offer of a place, subject to satisfactory appointment and employment contract with the HSE or another approved health care provider.

- Confirmation of acceptance of the offer by the candidate is sought within one week. All candidates who have confirmed their acceptance of an offer will be referred to the HSE for recruitment and pre-employment processing.

Applying to the Course

- There are two distinct and separate processes that taken together comprise your application.

- The first of these is the completion of the online application through the Academic Registry portal. **College Online Application**

- The second process is the completion of the D.Clin. Psych. Application Form https://www.tcd.ie/psychology/courses/postgraduate/d-clin/ which must also be uploaded and submitted as a supporting document within the online college application system.

- Please do not edit or reformat the headings on the D.Clin. Psych. Application Form as this can lead to the deletion of vital information that could render your application incomplete.

- Please ensure that you complete all sections of the D.Clin. Psych. Application Form and append additional pages as necessary. Incomplete application forms will not be considered.

- Any inaccuracies in completing this form may result in rejection. Therefore, it is in your own interest to ensure that the information supplied in all sections is correct.

- Please ensure the email address you provide for your referees is correct and will remain active for the duration of selection. Referees are required to be contactable up until start date of course. The Selection Committee reserve the right to contact any named supervisors or employers that you have mentioned on your application form.

- Academic transcripts, i.e., the official outline and grades received in the degree that confers on you graduate basis for membership of the Psychological Society of

Ireland must be submitted as a supporting document within the online college application system. If you are a past student of TCD you are not required to attach course transcripts. You must provide your TCD student number and year of entry.

- The names of two referees must be provided with your application, **one academic reference and one clinical reference**. As previously referred to, referees will be contacted when you fill in your online college application.

- The academic reference must be from an academic psychologist familiar with your academic and/or research competencies. **The person should hold an academic post** and be involved in either **teaching** you on a taught undergraduate/postgraduate course or in **supervising** you as a research student **(not as employers of research assistant positions held**).

- The clinical reference should preferably be from a person involved in a supervisory role, or your line manager, in a clinical setting, ideally a psychologist, who is familiar with your clinical competencies.

Dates of Assessment and Interview

- Stage One: The online assessment will take place on the 1st **December, 2026.**
- Stage Two: Face to face interviews as described above will be scheduled within the period of **22nd, 23rd and 24th February, 2027.**

Specific guidance on completing D.Clin. Psych Form

- Start by completing the self-declaration on page 1of the D.Clin. Psych. application form.

- It is important that specific details are provided as to the number of hours per week and the overall duration of time spent in each of the clinical settings listed. For the purpose of calculating whole-time equivalence, the course requests that you calculate 1 day = 7 hours, and 1 week = 35 hours.

- In describing your clinical experience, start with your most recent experience and work backwards.

- Each applicant must demonstrate, twelve months full-time (1820 hours) or equivalent postgraduate paid or voluntary employment within mental health, disability or related service providers (excludes research) in the five years prior to this application.
  At least 50% of clinical experience must be gained in a psychology assistant post involving regular supervision by a qualified psychologist employed in the same organisation. The remaining 50% of the experience must have been gained in a public service health or social care setting.

- Only 'postgraduate' clinical experience gained in the five years up to the closing date of application to the course, may be considered in evaluating the essential minimum criterion. In cases in which a person has been out of the workforce to care for a child or other dependent, this period may be extended.

- If you are combining experience from a number of clinical settings, you must demonstrate how each individual element contributes to the overall minimum criterion (above)

- Please be advised that contact with participants as part of a research role/post does not qualify as clinical experience. Such experience should be entered in Section 6 as research experience.

- Experience via telephone support or video platform services may be considered as contributing to the required hours up to a maximum of 25% of the total experience.

- In accordance with the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) code of ethics, most early career psychologists are precluded from working & gaining experience in complex psychology practice areas unless they are working alongside & under the close supervision of a qualified psychologist (usually in either in a voluntary or paid capacity). While acknowledging the broad value of experience gained while self-employed and/or working independently, it is typically less helpful to courses in assessing readiness for training specifically as a clinical psychologist.