



## Master of Clinical Neuropsychology 8266

### Program Guide

### Program Summary

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**Faculty:** Science

**Campus:** Sydney

**Career:** Postgraduate

#### Minimum Entry Requirements:

- Current registration as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia with Area of Practice Endorsement in Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Educational and Developmental Psychology or equivalent.
- Successful completion of a 6-year APAC accredited sequence of study in psychology, including a major research thesis.
- Psychology qualifications from overseas must include a major research thesis/project and must be assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) as comparable to a six-year APAC-accredited sequence of psychology completed in Australia.

Applicants will be selected competitively based on interview and assessment processes.

**Fees:** The MCN is a full fee-paying program. For fees and methods of payment please refer to the [UNSW Fees website](#).

**Delivery Mode:** On-line and in person, including clinical placements.

**Typical Duration:** One-year full time/two years part time.

You have a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 10 years to complete the program.

**Award:** Master of Clinical Neuropsychology: APAC accreditation pending

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## **Program Description**

The Master of Clinical Neuropsychology (MCN) is designed to be a one year, Level 4 Post-Masters bridging program offering specialisation in Clinical Neuropsychology. The MCN is designed to meet the Area of Practice Endorsement standard (Clinical Neuropsychology) of the Psychology Board (PysBA) of the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The course aims to train clinical and professional skills with the intention that graduates will be 'job ready' to take up a variety of employed positions.

This program is designed specifically for practicing Psychologists with one Area of Practice Endorsement to upgrade their skills in neuropsychology and to provide them with a pathway to gain a second endorsement as a Clinical Neuropsychologist from the PsyBA.

This program involves supervised practice in a range of clinical settings, working with children, adults and older adults with developmental, neuropsychiatric, neurological and degenerative disorders. The focus is on both assessment and intervention with some options to conduct placements remotely.

The program takes a problem-based learning approach whereby fundamentals in ethics, brain function and its disorders, assessment approaches, interventions and professional issues are taught based on client presentations. Weekly asynchronous lectures are combined with case-based tutorials and practical demonstrations.

## **Program Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

The following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) are aligned with the Australian Qualification Framework Level 8, the University of New South Wales Graduate Attributes and the accreditation requirements of the Psychology Board (PysBA).

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this program, it is expected that graduates will be able to

1. Apply advanced knowledge of the discipline of clinical neuropsychology
2. Operate ethically, at a high level of autonomy and professionalism as a clinical neuropsychologist across settings
3. Select, administer and interpret appropriate assessment tools in order to diagnose neuropsychological conditions and inform treatment recommendations
4. Select and implement appropriate, evidence-based interventions for people with neuropsychological disorders
5. Work sensitively and effectively with people from diverse cultural backgrounds
6. Apply advanced knowledge of development and aging to work effectively with people with neuropsychological disorders across the life span

7. Critically evaluate evidence with respect to neuropsychological knowledge, assessment practices and interventions
8. Communicate effectively via oral and written mediums with a wide range of audiences, from people with cognitive impairment through to other professionals.

These PLOs align with the specific accreditation requirements of the Psychology Board (PsyBA) as follows.

### **1. Knowledge of the discipline**

Graduates will be expected to apply advanced neuropsychological knowledge of: structure and function of the central nervous system and brain–behaviour relationships, as well as recent neuroscience understandings with respect to cognition, behaviours and emotions. They will also be able to evaluate the impact on social and interpersonal functioning; explain the aetiology, course, incidence, prevalence, risk, protective and maintenance factors of neuropsychological conditions; and critique psychopharmacology as related to neuropsychological disorders.

### **2. Ethics, legal and professional matters**

Graduates will be able to work at a high level of autonomy as a clinical neuropsychologist across settings, with an ability to understand and manage the professional, ethical and legal issues relevant to practice, showing deference to individual perspectives and cultural considerations while being guided by an overarching obligation to protect the public, through reflective practice and adherence to evidence-based practice.

### **3. Assessment**

Graduates will be able to conduct competent, sensitive assessments to diagnose and treat neuropsychological disorders. They will be able to critically evaluate psychometric measures of cognition, emotion, behaviour, performance validity, personality, premorbid functioning and psychosocial functioning. They will be able to select, administer, score and interpret appropriate assessments within the clinical context to address diagnostic issues, and provide individual insights and practical recommendations.

### **4. Interventions**

Graduates will have the skills to select, adapt, implement and evaluate evidence based psychological and neuropsychological interventions according to individual needs and underlying neuropathology. They will be able to select interventions that are appropriate for clients with cognitive impairment, with sensitivity to the cultural context of the individual, family and broader community, and interdisciplinary teams.

### **5. Cultural responsiveness and working with diverse groups**

Graduates will be able to interpret the impact of cultural and cohort effects on the neuropsychological assessment context with respect to both client factors and threats to psychometric validity. They will also be able to create culturally sensitive evidence-based interventions.

## 6. Practice across the lifespan

After graduating from this program, graduates will be able to apply advanced knowledge concerning normal development and ageing regarding cognition, emotion and behaviour, and psychosocial context in order to select suitable instruments for each age group and level of ability, and deliver evidence-based interventions for different ages.

## 7. Research, critical thinking and evaluation

Graduates will also be able to critically evaluate clinical neuropsychology research, the validity of assessment measures, both old and emerging, and the evidence for interventions. They will be able to creatively use transdiagnostic evidence to expand assessment and intervention protocols, independently undertake ethical research activities, demonstrate skills in research design, and present a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences.

## 8. Communication and interpersonal skills

Finally, upon graduation, it is expected that graduates will be able to use high level oral and written skills to communicate the findings of assessment and interventions suitable for a range of recipients, in a confident, professional and sensitive manner, noting the cognitive and other challenges of clients, and the needs of a wide range of professionals. They will be able to communicate the general principles of neuropsychology in a manner that is clear, accurate and meaningful.

### Program Structure

The program encompasses six core courses (48 units of credit), two courses per term, as follows.

		UOC	Offered
PSYC7240	Neuropsychology 1: Disruptions	6	T1
PSYC7237	Neuropsychological Professional and Ethical Practice 1 (NPEP1)	6	T1
PSYC7241	Neuropsychology 2: Life span	6	T2
PSYC7238	Neuropsychological Professional and Ethical Practice 2 (NPEP2)	12	T2
PSYC7242	Neuropsychology 3: Interventions	6	T3
PSYC7239	Neuropsychology Professional and Ethical Practice 3 (NPEP 3)	12	T3
		48	

In each term there is one academic and one professional practice course. Academic courses combine asynchronous lectures with case based weekly tutorials. Some of these can be attended virtually by trainees living outside Sydney although face to face meetings are encouraged. Professional practice entails field placements and practical workshops. Remote attendance may be possible for some workshops for those living outside Sydney. At least one field placement needs to be attended in Sydney but there will be some capacity to provide remote placement supervision. Following an intensive week of workshops in O-week, all face-to-face teaching occurs on one day of the week

during terms to cater for those who are continuing to work. International students are not currently eligible for the program.

## Program Sequence

Each course is offered only once in an academic year and intake occurs once a year only. The courses are designed to be completed in a single year (full time study load) or longer (part time study load). All students are expected to commence enrolment with Neuropsychology 1 PSYC7240. Full time students are additionally required to enrol in NPEP1 PSYC7237 in T1 at the commencement of the program. In subsequent terms, students can choose which (available) course/s they wish to take. Examples of full time and part time progressions plans are provided in the tables below.

### Example Full time Progression:

Program completion in one year.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
PSYC7240	PSYC7241	PSYC7242
PSYC7237	PSYC7238	PSYC7239

### Example Part time Progression:

Program completion in two years.

Year 1:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
PSYC7240	PSYC7241	PSYC7242

Year 2:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
PSYC7237	PSYC7238	PSYC7239

## Academic Courses

### PSYC 7240: Clinical Neuropsychology I: Disruptions

**Course aims:** This course aims to provide clinical neuropsychology trainees with the information and skills to conduct assessments of cognitive function in clients with suspected brain conditions based on the latest neuroscientific evidence and most appropriate test instruments, to identify common neurological and psychiatric disorders and their consequences in terms of disorders of thought, emotion and behaviour, and to provide meaningful reports of their findings, effective management strategies, and evidence based treatment approaches. The emphasis of this course is to train clinical neuropsychologists to provide safe professional practice to members of the public who are at risk of, or who experience, cognitive and emotional impairment related to brain disorders. The approach encompasses consideration of multi-cultural

factors in assessment and remediation and how to work within a multi-disciplinary team.

**Course summary:** This course orientates psychologists to the principles of neuropsychology and how neuropsychological processes can be disrupted. It builds on assumed knowledge (basic neuropsychology, psychopharmacology, neuroanatomy, test administration) that form part of the core competencies of registered psychologists that have previously completed Level 3 and 4 post-graduate training. The course commences with refreshers concerning the assessment of major neuropsychological systems, including memory, executive function, behaviour, social cognition, language and perception and the assessment of premorbid abilities and performance validity.

The remainder of the course focuses on neuropsychological disorders that affect older adults with in-depth consideration of the genetic and medical precursors to dementia and current use of biomarkers to diagnose different dementia conditions. Issues with respect to differential diagnosis, assessing the older adult and managing cognitive decline will be addressed.

In addition, the course will focus on the major categories of neuropsychiatric disorders, including mood disorders, trauma and psychosis as well as comorbidities. The course will conclude with a focus on building mental health and resilience in these populations, as well as the importance of promoting good mental health in neuropsychological populations.

The course combines occasional full day workshops (commencing with several in O-week), asynchronous weekly lectures (1 – 2 hours) and two-hour practical tutorials. The content is designed to focus on specific cases using problem-based learning approaches. Thus, for example, when discussing a case of Alzheimer's Disease, the neuroanatomy, common neuropsychological profile (e.g., amnesia and aphasia), recent neuroscientific theories (e.g., of memory and language), psychopharmacological interventions, assessment approaches, cultural considerations, communication with other relevant professionals, report writing, and remediation implications will be considered. Students will be expected to take an active role in preparing for, presenting and discussing cases to foster opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.

### **PSYC 7241: Clinical Neuropsychology 2: Life Span**

**Course aims:** This course aims to provide clinical neuropsychology trainees with the information and skills to conduct assessments of cognitive and neuropsychological function in children through to older adults. It aims to provide trainees with knowledge concerning the latest neuroscientific evidence and most appropriate test instruments, to identify neuropsychological disorders across the lifespan, to understand their impact within the family, educational and cultural context, and to provide meaningful assessment reports, effective management strategies and evidence-based treatment approaches. As with Neuropsychology 1, the emphasis of this course is to train clinical neuropsychologists to provide safe professional practice to members of the public who are at risk of, or who experience cognitive and emotional impairment related to brain

disorders. The approach encompasses consideration of multi-cultural factors in assessment and remediation, and how to work within a inter-disciplinary team.

**Course summary:** This course builds on Neuropsychology 1: Disruptions by providing an in-depth understanding of how neuropsychological function and disorders manifest across the life span. The course focuses on normal and abnormal development of the central nervous system, a range of developmental, acquired and genetic disorders that can disrupt neural and cognitive development in childhood the impact of these disorders when acquired in adulthood. Students will participate in active problem solving of common issues that arise with respect to assessment and interventions in children and adults, as well as methods for working within the broader context of families, schools and support providers. Major categories of brain disruption will be covered including damage arising from head trauma, stroke, epilepsy, neurological disease (Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's Disease), neurosurgery, oncology, and substance use.

The course combines weekly asynchronous lectures (1 – 2 hours) with two-hour practical tutorials or, occasionally full day workshops. The content is designed to focus on specific cases using problem-based learning approaches. Thus, for example, when discussing a case of foetal alcohol syndrome, the neuroanatomy, common neuropsychological profile, assessment approaches, cultural considerations, communication with other relevant professionals, report writing, and remediation implications will be considered. Students will be expected to take an active role in preparing for, presenting and discussing cases to foster opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.

### **PSYC 7242: Clinical Neuropsychology 3: Interventions**

**Course Aims:** This course aims to provide clinical neuropsychology trainees with knowledge concerning approaches to interventions in children and adults with neuropsychological disorders. It aims to provide trainees with knowledge concerning the latest intervention evidence and available resources for interventions that are suitable across the lifespan. Additionally, it aims to equip trainees with the ability to understand how to contextualise interventions to ensure they are appropriate, acceptable, and meaningful for the individual as well as their family and their broader community where relevant. As with Neuropsychology 1 and 2, the emphasis of this course is to train clinical neuropsychologists to provide safe professional practice to members of the public who are at risk of, or who experience cognitive and emotional impairment related to brain disorders. The approach encompasses consideration of multi-cultural factors in assessment and remediation, and how to work within an interdisciplinary team.

**Course Summary:** This course focuses on interventions for children, adults and older adults who have neuropsychological disorders. The course is based around workshops that address major tenets in neuropsychological interventions, (1) clinical psychological approaches in people with neuropsychological disorders (2) cognitive remediation of neuropsychological disorders (3) behaviour management and carer support. Throughout this course, the scientist practitioner model is emphasised, specifically trainees will be trained to understand the importance of evidence-based



practice, procedures in how to evaluate evidence and how and when to use practice guidelines (information that is additionally covered in NPEP 1).

Trainees will learn to consider how cognitive behavioural and counselling approaches they are already familiar with can be adapted to facilitate functioning in people with neuropsychological disorders. They will also be introduced to how cognitive rehabilitation based on brain plasticity has been applied to a range of neuropsychological disorders (e.g., social cognition, spatial neglect, self-awareness). In addition, they will learn about behavioural approaches to improving interpersonal function and strategies for carer support. They will also appreciate how these approaches can be combined for maximum effect.

The course combines 1-day workshops with asynchronous lectures, and tutorials. The content is designed to focus on specific cases using problem-based learning approaches. Thus, for example, when discussing a case of an adult with traumatic brain injury, the common neuropsychological and behavioural difficulties will be discussed and strategies for intervention canvassed and compared in the context of cultural considerations and the role of other relevant professionals. Students will be expected to take an active role in preparing for, presenting and discussing cases.

### **Assessment for Courses: Neuropsychology 1-3.**

For specific assessment requirements and deadlines for each of these courses, please refer to the relevant course outlines. In general, each of these courses will be assessed via weekly quizzes, active participation in tutorials, reflections on workshops (where relevant), and submission of a written assignment which will be either a detailed case report or intervention plan. All courses will be assessed as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, each individual assessment will be required to be Satisfactory for the Course to be graded as Satisfactory. Specific rubrics for meeting Satisfactory criteria will be provided with each assessment.

### **Professional Practice Courses**

#### **PSYC7237: Neuropsychology Professional and Ethical Practice 1 (NPEP1)**

**Course Aims:** The aim of this course is to provide an orientation to the profession of clinical neuropsychology, an introduction to the practical components of clinical neuropsychology and a graded entry into neuropsychological work with clients with an emphasis on working with older adults. It also equips trainees with the foundation of clinical neuropsychology competencies needed to assess, diagnose and treat clients who experience cognitive, emotional and behavioural impairments reflecting neuropathology. In addition, it will hone skills in case formulation and risk assessment skills in neuropsychological populations and emphasise the need for protection of the public when practicing as a neuropsychologist.

**Course summary:** NPEP 1 provides an orientation to the profession of Clinical Neuropsychology, an introduction to the practical components of clinical neuropsychology and a graded entry into neuropsychological work with clients. The course begins to develop trainee technical and professional competencies through clinical workshops, clinical work on placement and supervisor feedback regarding

assessment, report writing and communication with clients. The aim of this course is to provide an orientation to the profession of clinical neuropsychology, an introduction to the practical components of clinical neuropsychology and a graded entry into neuropsychological work with clients with an emphasis on working with older adults. It also equips trainees with the foundation of clinical neuropsychology competencies needed to assess, diagnose and treat clients who experience cognitive, emotional and behavioural impairments reflecting neuropathology. In addition, it will hone skills in case formulation and risk assessment skills in neuropsychological populations and emphasise the need for protection of the public when practicing as a neuropsychologist.

### **PSYC7238: Neuropsychology Professional and Ethical Practice 2 (NPEP2)**

**Course aims:** The aim of this course is to further develop and strengthen trainee Clinical Neuropsychology competencies which is achieved through the active participation in client work and regular supervision at one external placement and also training through clinical workshops and personal research for their capstone/research project.

**Course Summary:** NPEP 2 provides ongoing training as part of the practical component of the clinical neuropsychology program. It is designed to further develop the neuropsychology competencies of trainees and increase clinical experience across a wide range of presentations from childhood through to older adult. In NPEP2 trainees are expected to continue with supervised placements in an external placement and attend clinical workshops. They are also expected to commence their capstone/research project and provide a progress report for this in anticipation of completion in NPEP3. The aim of this course is to further develop and strengthen trainee Clinical Neuropsychology competencies which is achieved through the active participation in client work and regular supervision at one external placement and also training through clinical workshops and personal research for their capstone/research project.

### **PSYC7239: Neuropsychology Professional and Ethical Practice 3 (NPEP3)**

**Course Aims:** The aim of this course is to further develop and strengthen trainee Clinical Neuropsychology competencies which is achieved through the active participation in client work and regular supervision at one external placement and also training through clinical workshops and personal research for their capstone/research project.

**Course summary:** NPEP 3 provides ongoing training as part of the practical component of the clinical neuropsychology program. It is designed to further develop the neuropsychology competencies of trainees and increase clinical experience across a wide range of presentations from childhood through to older adult. In NPEP3 trainees are expected to continue with supervised placements in an external placement and attend clinical workshops. They are also expected to complete their capstone/research project. The aim of this course is to further develop and strengthen trainee Clinical Neuropsychology competencies which is achieved through the active participation in client work and regular supervision at

one external placement and also training through clinical workshops and personal research for their capstone/research project.

### **Assessment for Courses: NPEP1-3.**

For specific assessment requirements and deadlines for each of these courses, please refer to the relevant course outlines. In general, each Neuropsychological Professional Practice course requires the successful completion of the placement including the required number of direct contact hours, supervisor feedback, end of placement review and completion of a logbook of placement activities. In addition, in each professional practice course, students will be required to attend more than 80% of workshops, submit reflections regarding these, and present a case at Case Presentation Day. They will also be required to submit a de-identified case report, either of an assessment or intervention, with a requirement being that at least one of each type of report is submitted across the three courses. All courses will be assessed as Pass/Fail, each individual assessment will be required to Pass for the Course to be graded as a Pass. Specific rubrics for meeting Pass criteria will be provided with each assessment.

### **Capstone/Research Project:**

Across NPEP 2 and NPEP 3, students will be expected to develop and complete a capstone/research project that enables them to demonstrate high level critical thinking, research design, implementation, analysis and communication in an area of clinical neuropsychology. There is flexibility with respect to the nature of the project. For example, it could entail an evaluation of a program using qualitative/quantitative methods, an evaluation of an intervention using single case experimental design, addressing a new research question using existing data, or the development of a podcast that provides accurate, meaningful information to the public concerning an area of neuropsychology. Satisfactory progress and completion of the project is an additional requirement for passing NPEP2 and NPEP3 respectively.

## **Textbooks and Resources**

<b>Textbooks</b>	<p>There is no single book that adequately covers Clinical Neuropsychology as taught in this program. Within each course, references to books, chapters and papers that provide excellent overviews will be provided.</p> <p>For your reference the following textbooks provide overviews of the knowledge base of clinical neuropsychology and topics covered in various courses:</p> <p>Brown, G.G., Crosson, B., Haaland, K.Y. &amp; King, T.Z. (Eds.) 2023, APA handbook of neuropsychology: Vol. 1. Neurobehavioral disorders and conditions. American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433840005</p> <p>Brown, G.G., Crosson, B., Haaland, K.Y. &amp; King, T.Z (Eds.), 2023 APA handbook of neuropsychology: Vol. 2. Neuroscience and neuromethods. American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433840005</p>
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	<p>Kolb , B. &amp; Wishaw, I (2021) <i>Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology</i> [8<sup>th</sup> Edition]</p> <p>Schoenberg, M.R. &amp; Scott, J. G. (2011) <i>The Little Black Book of Neuropsychology: A Syndrome-Based Approach</i></p> <p>Goldstein, L.H. and McNeil J.E. (2004) <i>Clinical Neuropsychology: A Practical guide to assessment and management for clinicians</i>. Chichester: John Wiley &amp; Sons.</p> <p>Andrewes D. (2001) <i>Neuropsychology: from Theory to Practice</i>. Hove: Psychology Press.</p> <p>McDonald, S. (Ed) 2021 <i>Clinical disorders of social cognition</i>. Routledge: ISBN 9780367461195</p> <p>David, A., Fleminger, S., Kopelman, M., Lovestone, S., Mellers. J., (2012) <i>Lishamn’s Organic Psychiatry: A textbook of neuropsychiatry</i> (4<sup>th</sup> Ed) Wiley</p> <p>Sherman, E.M.S., Tan, J.E. &amp; Hrabok, M. (2022) <i>A Compendium of Neuropsychological Tests: Fundamentals of Neuropsychological Assessment and Test Reviews for Clinical Practice</i>. (4th ed.) OUP</p> <p>Lezak, M.D. Howieson, D.B. &amp; Bigler, E. &amp; Tranel, D. (2012) <i>Neuropsychological Assessment</i>. [5<sup>th</sup> Edition], Oxford University Press, New York.</p> <p>Mitrushina, M, Boone, K.B., D’Elia, L.F. (2005) <i>Handbook of Normative data for Neuropsychological Assessment</i> (2nd Edition). New York: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Wilson, B.A., Winegardner, J., van Heugten, C.A., Ownsworth, T. (2017) <i>Neuropsychological rehabilitation: The international handbook</i>. Routledge</p>
<b>Course information</b>	Available on Moodle
<b>Required readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readings provided by lecturers on Moodle</li> <li>• <a href="#">School of Psychology Student Guide</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended internet sites</b>	<p><a href="#">UNSW Library</a></p> <p><a href="#">UNSW Learning Centre</a></p> <p><a href="#">ELISE</a></p> <p><a href="#">Turnitin</a></p> <p><a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a></p> <p><a href="#">Policy concerning academic honesty</a></p> <p><a href="#">Email policy</a></p>

	<a href="#">UNSW Anti-racism policy statement</a> <a href="#">UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement</a> <a href="#">UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement</a>
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## Administrative matters

The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Disability Support Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

## Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Disability Support Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-services>

UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html>

## Program Delivery

Enrolment commences at the beginning of Term 1 each year. Students may enrol in a maximum of two courses per term.

## Academic Rules

To qualify for the award of the Masters in Clinical Neuropsychology:

1. Successful completion of a 6-year APAC accredited sequence of study in psychology, including a major research thesis
2. Satisfactory completion of all 48 units of credit in the Masters Program

## Professional Recognition

This program is seeking accreditation by the [Australian Psychology Accreditation Council \(APAC\)](#) as a sixth year of study, leading to registration as a psychologist with the [Psychology Board of Australia \(PsyBA\)](#). With accreditation, when you graduate, you'll be eligible for Associate Membership with the APS College of Clinical Neuropsychologists (CCN). After completing a further 18 months of

supervised practice (the Clinical Psychology Registrar Program), you can apply to the PsyBA for full membership and endorsement as a clinical neuropsychologist.