



Department of Psychology  
The University of Hong Kong

香港大學心理學系

Postgraduate Studies in

# Clinical Psychology

Postgraduate Prospectus 2025-2027



Department of Psychology



<https://psychology.hku.hk/>





# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

The field of psychology is dedicated to the scientific study of behaviour, including thought, feeling and action, from the social, developmental, cognitive and biological perspectives. Its teaching at the University dates back to before 1950, when it was conducted in the joint Philosophy/Psychology Department. In 1968, Psychology became a founding department of the Faculty of Social Sciences. From that time onwards, the Department has contributed to developing the discipline both locally and internationally through dedicated teaching and research work, often in collaboration with colleagues from various parts of the world. According to the 2024 QS World University Rankings by subject, Psychology at HKU ranks 34th in the world, and it is consistently ranked as one of the best psychology programmes in Asia.

Psychology at HKU is represented by over 20 faculty members with different areas of expertise, including cognitive psychology, clinical psychology and neuropsychology, educational and developmental psychology, and social psychology.

Our goal as engaged and dedicated educators is to create and transfer knowledge. To that end, the Department of Psychology offers a broad range of courses to enrich the learning experience of students.



Clinical psychology is a scientific discipline that aims to understand, prevent and alleviate psychological distress and dysfunction, as well as to promote well-being and personal development. Clinical psychologists (CPs) are employed in hospitals, government departments, counselling service units and non-governmental organisations, and there are also approximately 100 CPs in private practice in Hong Kong. The most common daily duties of CPs include conducting psychological assessments, psychological interventions and therapy and delivering health education programmes, training and consultation, as well as engaging in scientific research.

The MSocSc in Clinical Psychology Programme at HKU was the first postgraduate programme in Hong Kong designed to train professional CPs to serve the community. Covering the core competencies required to become a professional and competent CP, the programme offers the building blocks of clinical psychology training, and, since its inception in 1971, has produced over 300 qualified CPs in Hong Kong. The MSocSc programme transitioned from an alternate year intake to an annual intake in 2019.



## INTRODUCTION

The MSocSc (CP) programme is the building block of the clinical psychology training. It covers the core competencies required in being a professional and competent clinical psychologist.

The PsyD (Clinical Psychology) Programme, established in 2004, was the first of its kind in Hong Kong. Its primary aim is to provide advanced training for experienced CPs who hold a recognized MSocSc degree in clinical psychology or the equivalent, allowing them to become professional leaders in the field.

Our other doctoral level programmes, the PhD in the field of Clinical Psychological Sciences Programme and the PhD with a specialization in Clinical Psychology provide rigorous training for students seeking excellence in academic and scientific research training in addition to professional clinical psychology training.

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*I began my role as a faculty member at The Chinese University of Hong Kong after completing the MSocSc(CP) programme at The University of Hong Kong. The clinical knowledge and skills I acquired have inspired me to conduct research aimed at creating social impact. I aspire to develop public education initiatives and low-intensity interventions that benefit young people and their parents facing mental health challenges. The comprehensive training provided by the program has equipped us with the competence and confidence to become empathic listeners, effective practitioners, and future leaders in mental health services.*

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**Dr. Jennifer Yee-Man TANG**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Educational Psychology  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Graduate from the HKU CP cohort  
2019-2021



# MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY



# MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

## STRUCTURE

The curriculum extends over two years full-time including the intervening vacations between the semesters. Whereas the first year of the curriculum focuses on the theoretical foundations and basic skills training in clinical psychology, the second year includes specialized training in assessment skills, and the application of psychological theories and models to evidence-based clinical practice in a wide range of settings.

## SYLLABUS

Students are required to complete 15 taught courses, a dissertation and 5 practicum courses over the two-year full-time study.

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of clinical psychology. The programme aim is to train competent and professional CPs, and it has an emphasis on evidence-based practices.

### First year\*

- Induction programme
- Ethics and professional issues
- Individual psychotherapy I
- Individual psychotherapy II
- Psychopathology I
- Psychopathology II
- Cognitive assessment
- Assessment of personality and psychopathology
- Research methods and statistics I
- Research methods and statistics II
- Clinical seminar I
- Practicum I
- Practicum II

### Second year\*

- Community and health psychology
- Family and group therapy
- Clinical neuropsychology
- Clinical seminar II
- Ethics and professional issues
- Dissertation
- Practicum III
- Practicum IV
- Practicum V

\* The courses listed above may be offered at a different year of study.

Note: The syllabuses for MSocSc(CP) programme for 2025-26 are subject to change.

**MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY****ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall

- a) comply with the regulations for the degree of Master of Social Sciences;
- b) hold a bachelor's degree with a major in psychology or a recognized equivalent qualification;
- c) have had an empirical research dissertation completed in the bachelor's degree programme or another equivalent programme in psychology (we may consider first-authorship on a published empirical study in psychology or a related field as equivalent);
- d) pass a qualifying examination prior to admission, if required; and take other tests as may be prescribed, and have the score reports of such tests sent to the Programme Admissions Advisor;
- e) be eligible for Graduate Membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society; and
- f) preferably have relevant working experience.

**ADMISSION**

The programme admits students every year. Major considerations for admission are a candidate's level of academic development, quality of research experience, personal maturity and motivation, communication skills, basic understanding of clinical psychology, and relevant working experience. Details of the application procedure and programme information can be obtained from the admission website. Applications can be made online at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/>.



# DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)



**DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)****ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall

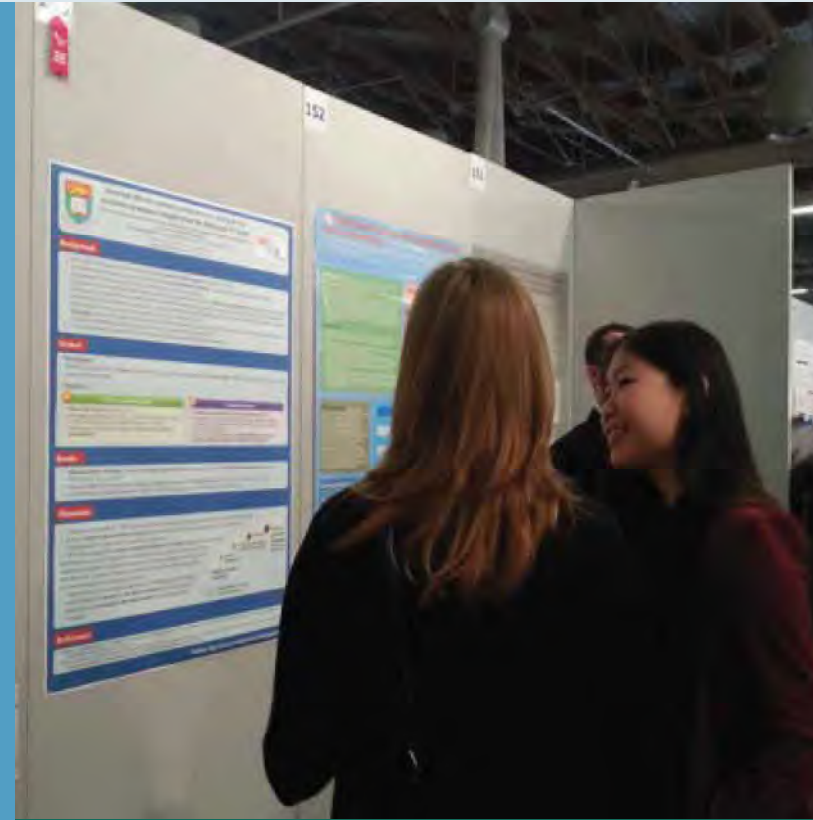
- (a) comply with the [General Regulations](#) ;
- (b) holding a Master of Social Sciences in Clinical Psychology degree of this University, as appropriate; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under the [General Regulations G2\(b\)](#) ;
- (d) be eligible for membership in the Hong Kong Psychological Society, Division of Clinical Psychology, or in the Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists;
- (e) satisfying the examiners in a qualifying examination if required; and
- (f) preferably shall have working experience in the field of Clinical Psychology, as appropriate.

Application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**ADMISSION**

The programme admits students every year. Online Application should be submitted via the website: <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/>. The closing date of application is 30 May 2025.

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) PROGRAMMES





## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) PROGRAMMES

The aim of the Department's PhD programmes is to train outstanding students and prepare them for the increasingly complex and demanding role of clinical scientist. The two PhD curricula are continually reviewed with a view to making ongoing improvements in line with societal needs. The ultimate goal of the PhD programmes is to produce clinical scientists, as well as future faculty members and leaders in clinical sciences who are highly competent in research, university-level teaching and clinical service delivery.

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) also offers a joint PhD programme with King's College London (KCL), which affords high-calibre PhD students an opportunity to spend up to half their time being trained at each institution. Upon completion of the joint HKU-KCL programme, students are awarded PhD degrees from both universities.

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) PROGRAMMES

### ADMISSIONS

The programme admits students every year. Candidates on this research track are expected to be working on a research area relevant to clinical psychology. They should search for a potential supervisor within the Department of Psychology in accordance with their research area of interest. Applicants shall indicate their field of study as "Clinical Psychology" when submitting their [online application](#).

A variety of bases for admission are adopted. The programme seeks applicants who are interested in both research and clinical practice. Successful applicants are expected to have outstanding academic credentials and demonstrate evidence of scholarly ability, exemplary interpersonal and communication skills, and a strong motivation to excel in both the clinical and research arenas.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



For the most up-to-date information about the course descriptions, please visit <https://psychology.hku.hk>



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Applied developmental psychology**

This course focuses on an integrated study of human development across the life span with implications for educational psychology. It aims at familiarizing students with current state of knowledge and major theories of human development with particular emphasis on childhood and adolescence. The interrelationship among biological, cognitive, social, and educational factors that influence human development will be examined. In particular the influence of Chinese culture and context on development during the childhood and adolescence will be discussed.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Community and health psychology**

This course provides an overview of the history, context, and development of community psychology and health psychology. Students will be exposed to key concepts and values associated with the fields. They will also explore the application of community psychology and health psychology in the local context. The course provides ample opportunities for students to collectively develop and examine community-based initiatives to tackle mental health problems. Special emphasis is given to multicultural and diversity issues.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Cognitive assessment

This course provides an introduction to the assessment of cognitive functioning. Students learn to administer, score, and interpret a number of commonly used cognitive tests. Students also learn to present test results in professional psychological reports. Related psychometric principles, professional ethics, and cultural issues will be discussed.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### Clinical neuropsychology

This course aims to provide an overview of basic functional neuroanatomy and clinical neuropathology. Literature in neuroscience and clinical neuropsychology will be reviewed and discussed. Neuropsychological assessment approaches will be introduced.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Clinical seminar I

A series of skill-training workshops will be offered to prepare students for further practical training in clinical placements. The course is composed of two arms: Assessment and Intervention. The Assessment arm covers core principles and strategies for intake interview with both adult and children populations. Intellectual assessment in the local context will be covered and commonly used tools for assessing a broad range of cognitive, behavioural, emotional, and social functions in children will also be introduced. The Treatment arm covers basic attitude and skills in counselling and forming therapeutic alliance, as well as specific skills used in cognitive and behavioural therapies.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)





## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Clinical seminar II**

The seminar provides in-depth clinical case discussions, with a focus on contemporary approaches to case conceptualization and treatment planning for a range of complex psychological problems. Emphasis is placed on integration of psychological theories and clinical practice, as well as training on therapeutic skills and treatment strategies for effective implementation. Students will get the chance to learn advanced knowledge and skills in specialist areas of psychological practice. Experienced clinicians and scholars will be invited to share their expertise on specialized topics. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Clinical seminar III**

This seminar covers recent development of theories and the related practice in clinical psychology. Special emphasis will be placed on the integration of research, clinical formulation and intervention for evidence-based clinical decisions.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Clinical specialty training

Students should complete about 250 days of clinical specialty training (e.g. forensic psychology, health psychology, neuropsychology, rehabilitation psychology, or specific intervention approaches) that includes research and clinical work, the plan of which is agreed by the students and the respective supervisors, and endorsed by the Programme Director. Students will attend regular in-house case conferences where a forum is provided for students to present, discuss and reflect on the clinical work they are undertaking during their clinical specialty training. Students will also be provided with training on supervision, consultation and leadership skills for their professional development. The work of students is under continuous assessment (e.g. submission of logbook, case reports/presentation, research reports) by supervisors of the specialty training.

(Assessment: 100% practicum)



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Assessment of personality and psychopathology**

This course focuses on the theoretical, practical, and crosscultural issues related to the assessment of psychopathology and personality. Trainees will be exposed to a variety of clinical evaluation protocols in order to evaluate the level of functioning and symptomatology of an individual. They will also be exposed to the application of these techniques to a wide range of psychiatric problems as stipulated in DSM-5-tr. These include mental state examination, test administration and interpretation, diagnostic decision making, integration of material derived from patient history and other relevant sources, and comprehensive case conceptualization.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Conceptual and methodological issues in psychological research I**

First semester course, put on especially for 1st year postgraduate students, covering the basic research techniques used in psychological research. Topics include various data collection and data analysis techniques. Students in this course will learn how to design, conduct, analyze and report psychological research; and to evaluate other people's research critically.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Conceptual and methodological issues in psychological research II**

Second semester problem-based (i.e., PBL) course put on jointly for 1st year research postgraduate students and advanced undergraduates. The course is a follow-up of "Conceptual and methodological issues in psychological research I". It adopts a problem-based approach to further students' knowledge of the techniques used in psychological research. Students will be asked to solve various problems and complete different tasks related to psychological research. They will have a chance to develop their ability to work and learn independently. The problems and tasks will also require them to learn the more advanced research designs and data analysis techniques. Prerequisite: Conceptual and methodological issues in psychological research I

(Assessment: 100% coursework)



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Developmental neuroscience

Developmental neuroscience is an interdisciplinary research topic that integrates neuroscience, cognitive science and developmental science. It aims to uncover the brain and neural mechanisms that underlie social, affective and cognitive development across the life span. Specific topics will include the introduction of theories and methods in developmental neuroscience, neuroplasticity, neural mechanisms that underlie the development of attention and perception processes, motor learning, memory, cognitive control, social-emotional processes. This course will examine these processes at different developmental stages, including infants, toddlers, adolescence and ageing population. This course will also cover the neural mechanisms underlying atypical development such as the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### Ethics and professional issues

The focus of this course is on the process of ethical decision making in the professional practice of clinical psychology. Models of ethical decision making will be introduced, discussed, and applied. In addition to the Code of Professional Conduct published by local professional bodies (e.g. the Hong Kong Psychological Society and the Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists), a number of ethical codes, guidelines, and standards of practice will be reviewed.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Family and group therapy**

This course provides an overview of the theories and practice of family and group interventions. For Family Intervention, it covers fundamental concepts, theories and frameworks in working with families and couples. Students will be able to develop basic knowledge and different theories of family therapy and how it can be applied in special populations. The course will be conducted in didactic lectures with case illustrations, videos and/or exercises. The Group Intervention component aims to familiarize the trainees with the major theories, principles and techniques of group interventions through reading, discussion, videos and role plays. Group development, dynamics and different stages in the group processes will be examined. The empirical basis for efficacy of group interventions and group interventions for different populations and different psychological disorders will be addressed. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Individual psychotherapy I**

This course introduces the common principles and skills of psychotherapies. In addition to reviewing the theoretical rationale and recent research and clinical literature, this course also focuses on the application of the empirically-supported therapeutic techniques to clinical and special populations. (Assessment: 100% coursework)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Individual psychotherapy II

The course focuses on the application of evidence-based psychotherapeutic approaches to the treatment of specific psychological disorders in both adults and children. Cultural issues in the practice of psychotherapy will be discussed when appropriate. Experienced clinicians are invited to introduce common treatment approaches applied to different populations in Hong Kong. In addition, new developments and contemporary issues in psychotherapy will be critically examined.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Induction programme

This course aims at engaging trainees in a number of orientation activities designed to provide them with a preliminary understanding of the theoretical and practical issues addressed in the programme and to prepare them for their first placement beginning in December of the year of training.  
(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### Neurobiological basis of psychological issues

Human behavior is generated by complex psychophysiological mechanisms of the brain. This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to the biological basis of stress, emotion, and regulation of cognitive-affective processes affecting psychological health. The neurobiological basis of psychopathologies e.g. depression, anxiety, will be examined as examples to demonstrate the complex relationships between brain, behavior, and psychopathology.  
(Assessment: 100% coursework)



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Postgraduate seminar in cognitive psychology**

This seminar course will cover recent developments in the field of Cognitive Psychology, concentrating particularly on theoretical debates and empirical results that are likely to have considerable impact on the field. Theoretical and empirical articles will be read each week, and discussed in class. Discussions will be led by both the instructor and students in the class.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Postgraduate seminar in developmental psychology**

This seminar course will cover recent developments in the field of Developmental Psychology, concentrating particularly on theoretical debates and empirical results that are likely to have considerable impact on the field. Theoretical and empirical articles will be read each week, and discussed in class. Discussions will be led by both the instructor and students in the class.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Postgraduate seminar in scientific writing for psychology**

This seminar course addresses writing skills in relation psychological research. Students will engage in a series of assignments designed to improve the fluency and quality of their writing. Particular efforts will be focused on improving the conceptual clarity of writing. Regular feedback will help students improve upon their writing skills.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Postgraduate seminar in social psychology**

This seminar course will cover recent developments in the field of Social Psychology, concentrating particularly on theoretical debates and empirical results that are likely to have considerable impact on the field. Theoretical and empirical articles will be read each week, and discussed in class. Discussions will be led by both the instructor and students in the class.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Psychopathology I

In this first course of Psychopathology, students will learn important theoretical concepts in the definition, aetiology, features and classification of mental disorders. Major disorders across the life span will be examined. Significant paradigms, such as biological, psychodynamic, cognitive - behavioural and relevant psychosocial theories will be discussed, together with special issues in the diagnosis and conceptualisation of specific mental disorders.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### Psychopathology II

This second course of Psychopathology uses a developmental psychopathology perspective to discuss major topics of mental health problems across the life span. It aims to enhance the conceptualisation and case formulation skills of trainees as scientist-practitioners. The topics will be examined in depth, with special emphasis on the integration of theoretical conceptualisation, research findings and clinical practice. Special attention will be given to current issues of concern in both the Eastern and Western contexts.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Research methods and statistics I**

The topics in this course include intermediate research methods and statistics. This course is designed to extend the knowledge and skills of students on research design and quantitative methods, using empirical examples in psychology to illustrate the key concepts and statistical reasoning involved. Students learn to become more intelligent consumers of research findings and more independent in conducting their own empirical studies.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Research methods and statistics II**

The topics in this course include intermediate research methods and statistics. This course is designed to extend the knowledge and skills of students on research design and quantitative methods, using empirical examples in psychology to illustrate the key concepts and statistical reasoning involved. Students learn to become more intelligent consumers of research findings and more independent in conducting their own empirical studies. At the end of this course, each student will have developed a viable research proposal in preparation for his/her thesis according to standards of the American Psychological Association.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Seminar in neuroscience**

This course surveys key topics in neuroscience research. Students will be reading, analysing, and evaluating classical and cutting-edge research studies. Throughout the course, students will be able to learn research methods in cellular and system neuroscience, and their applications in research of neurological and psychiatric syndromes. Students will be able to apply the basic concepts and technological knowledge on various experimental methods for neuroscience investigation, as well as be able to critically evaluate empirical research. In-class activities will include presentations and discussions, among other activities.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Supervised reading in research studies**

Students are required to attend, during the first year, research seminars relevant to a chosen area of specialization. A literature review and conceptual analysis of the thesis area is due at the end of the second semester.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Dissertation (for MSocSc(CP))**

While in residence, each student proposes and completes a substantive, scholarly work relevant to clinical psychology. The dissertation must represent a student's individual work. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

### **Thesis (for PsyD(CP))**

Students will complete a thesis that embodies a critical study within the field of clinical psychology, including an empirical element, and represents an original contribution to knowledge deserving publication. Candidates may commence their work early in candidature concurrently with Supervised Reading in Clinical Specialty. Candidates will also participate in research seminars commencing after confirmation of candidature which will contribute to their research programmes and will serve as forums for presenting their work in progress on a regular basis.

(Assessment: 100% coursework)

## Publications from student theses/dissertations

Alongside high-quality clinical psychology education, our faculty works closely with students, engaging in a wide range of cutting-edge research in clinical psychological sciences.

Examples of the publications by the graduates of our clinical psychology programmes: (The names of the students are bold. # indicates the corresponding thesis supervisor.)

**Cheng GLF**, Zeng H, Leung MK, Zhang HJ, Lau BWM, Liu YP, Liu GX, Sham PC, Chan CCH, So KF, Lee TMC.# Heroin abuse accelerates biological aging: A novel insight from telomerase and brain imaging interaction. *Translational Psychiatry*. 2013;3(5):e260.

**Leung CJ**, Yiend J, Trotta A, Lee TMC.# The combined cognitive bias hypothesis in anxiety: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*. 2022;89:102575.

**Leung KK**, Lee TMC,# Wong MMC, Li LSW, Yip PSF, Khong PL. Neural correlates of attention biases of people with major depressive disorder: A voxel-based morphometric study. *Psychological Medicine*. 2009;39(7):1097–1106.

**Mak AKY**, Wong MMC, Han SH, Lee TMC.# Gray matter reduction associated with emotion regulation in female outpatients with major depressive disorder: A voxel-based morphometry study. *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry*. 2009;33(7):1184–1190.

**Ng HC**, Wong WL, Chan CS.# The effectiveness of an online attention training program in improving attention and reducing boredom. *Motivation and Emotion*. 2024;48:758-775.

**Ip BYT**, Lee S, Li SX.# Telehealth-delivered parent-based sleep-focused intervention for insomnia in preschool children with autism spectrum disorder: A randomized controlled study. *Autism*. 2024;28(11):2881-2896.

**Tang JY**, Luo H, Tse M, Lum TY, Wong GH, Li SX.# The relationship between insomnia symptoms and frailty in community-dwelling older persons: A path analysis. *Sleep Medicine*. 2021;84, 237-243.

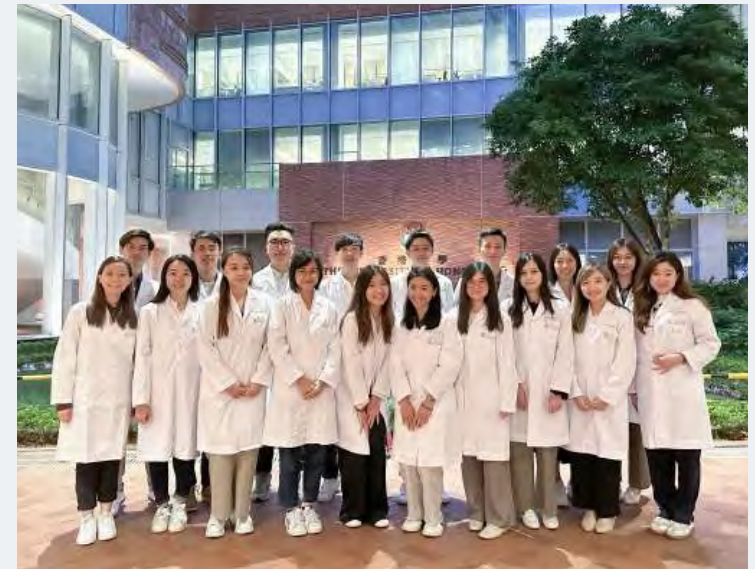
**Woo OK**, Lee AM,# Ng R., Eckhoff, D., Lo, R., & Cassinelli, A. Flourishing-Life-Of-Wish Virtual Reality Relaxation Therapy (FLOW-VRT-Relaxation) outperforms traditional relaxation therapy in palliative care: results from a randomized controlled trial. *Frontiers in Virtual Reality*, 2024;4, 1304155.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Practicum I-V

Each of the five Practicum courses consists of a minimum of 44 days of external clinical placement. In addition, over the 2-year long programme, students will be required to pass a minimum of 30 days of in-house supervised clinical activities with the Psychological Service Unit. Through the on-site clinical placements, students will have the opportunity to learn and work under the direct supervision of experienced clinical psychologists who are providing services in different settings such as public hospitals, social services agencies, and government departments. They will gain practical experience in working with a variety of client groups with different problems across the life span. The training includes supervised practice in assessment, case formulation, and various forms of intervention. Involvement in case conferences, workshops, seminars, or projects within the placement settings may also form part of the training. Students will learn the professional ethics, service contexts and rules in different settings, and acquire knowledge and skills to work effectively in different teams or organizational structures.

(Assessment: 100% practicum)





## MORE ABOUT PRACTICUM

The basic training of clinical psychologists encompasses three core competencies: clinical knowledge, clinical practice and clinical research.

Clinical practice training is undertaken via two parallel routes. The first is through the Psychology Department's own Psychological Services Unit (PSU), where trainees are supervised by clinical staff to work with actual clients. The second is through clinical placements offered by Honorary Clinical Supervisors practising in the field.

HKU currently has over 180 Honorary Clinical Supervisors offering one-on-one clinical training at over 60 sites. All of these supervisors work as clinical psychologists providing a wide variety of direct clinical psychology services on site, including at public general or psychiatric hospitals, in specialist clinics, government-run or -funded welfare service units, correctional institutions and other law enforcement offices, and at university counselling centres.

In addition, most of the practicum sites have been accredited by the Hong Kong Psychological Society's Division of Clinical Psychology, which ensures the quality of the clinical supervision (<https://hkps-dcp.org.hk>).



## PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES UNIT (PSU)

The PSU was established in 1988. It serves as both a community service clinic and a training facility for trainees in clinical psychology and educational psychology. The aim of this in-house clinic is to provide a platform for trainees to practise and to integrate and apply their knowledge and skills in a non-evaluative environment while providing psychological services to the general public. It provides valuable opportunities for trainees to: a) follow a case from inception to termination (trainees also have an opportunity to run psycho-educational or treatment groups for clients; b) handle assessment or treatment cases and conduct group sessions independently, including administrative work training; c) learn from one another through the buddy system and clinical supervision; and d) promote the psychological well-being of the public through mass media platforms. Our platforms include:



**PSU Website**



**PSU Facebook**



**PSU Instagram**

Trainees are expected to complete a minimum of 30 PSU days and to take up, as well as follow through on, both assessment and treatment cases or conduct group sessions over two years. Cases typically include service users across the life span.





# PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & MENTORING

A diverse range of programs and activities are offered to students, tailored to foster both personal growth and professional advancement within the field of clinical psychology. These initiatives are designed to support the students in their clinical training and prepare them for their professional careers as clinical psychologists.

- Faculty-student mentoring
- Sensitivity training
- Mindfulness-based training programme
- Adventure-based training



# FUNDING AND RECOGNITION STATUS OF **THE PROGRAMMES**

The MSocSc and PhD programmes are funded by public money under the advisement of the University Grants Committee. The MSocSc (CP) programme is recognized by the Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP) of the Hong Kong Psychological Society (<https://www.hkps-dcp.org.hk/en/>).

The DCP is the leading professional clinical psychology organisation in Hong Kong. Its membership comprises the majority of qualified clinical psychologists practising in the community. DCP recognition means that the programmes have passed training standards agreed by practitioners in the field. Graduates of the two programmes are automatically eligible for DCP membership.

DCP members who have accumulated at least one year of full-time professional working experience may apply to become a Registered Psychologist in the Hong Kong Psychological Society's DCP (<https://www.hkps.org.hk/en/>).

Graduates of the MSocSc (CP) programme are also eligible to register with the Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists, a clinical psychologist professional organisation accredited by the Hong Kong Department of Health under the Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions ([https://www.ars.gov.hk/en/accr\\_pro\\_bodies.html](https://www.ars.gov.hk/en/accr_pro_bodies.html)).



# CAREER PROSPECTS

In Hong Kong, most clinical psychologists enter the profession with a recognized master's degree in clinical psychology.

With the exception of those who leave Hong Kong or the profession, all graduates of our clinical psychology programmes have found employment as clinical psychologists in Hong Kong.

Our graduates are represented in a variety of professional settings, including the Hospital Authority, Social Welfare Department, Department of Health, Correctional Services Department, Hong Kong Police Force, non-governmental organisations and student counselling centres, to name just a few.

Approximately 20-25 per cent of clinical psychologists practising in Hong Kong hold or are actively pursuing a doctoral degree in clinical psychology or a related field.

Some of our graduates have immigrated to other countries. Whether they can work as clinical psychologists in those countries depends on the countries' respective laws and regulations.



Graduates from the cohort 2021-2023



Graduates from the cohort 2022-2024



# SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

Various scholarship opportunities are provided to support students studying in our clinical psychology programmes. Some of these scholarships are open for application while some are awarded through nomination. There are also exchange and overseas attachment scholarships with funding support to help candidates gain international exposure. Some examples of these scholarships and awards offered by the programmes are listed as follows:

## **1) The Thanksgiving Scholarships for Overseas Attachment**

The scholarship is awarded to students of the MSocSc in Clinical Psychology programme on the basis of outstanding performance in coursework and practicum to support them in attending a clinical attachment at a nominated prestigious overseas institution.

## **2) The Chiu-Kwan-Ying Memorial Scholarship**

The scholarship is awarded every other year to one student of the MSocSc in Clinical Psychology programme on the basis of outstanding performance in the practicum.

## **3) Dr. Geraldine Mao-Ng Prize in Psychology**

The prize is awarded to one MSocSc in Clinical Psychology student who has achieved the best overall performance and the best research dissertation in his/her final year.

## **4) HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund**

The scholarships are awarded to students of full-time publicly-funded degree or above level programmes with excellent performance in academic studies. The scholarship is tenable for the normal duration of the programme concerned and renewable annually subject to satisfactory academic performance of the awardees.







## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

Apart from the above, a substantial number of students with outstanding achievements are also honoured with prestigious awards, such as:

- Erik Kvan Postgraduate Scholarship
- Philip K. H. Wong Foundation Postgraduate Fellowships
- Hong Kong PhD Fellowship
- HKU Foundation Postgraduate Fellowship
- Reaching Out Award
- Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowships
- Swire Scholarship
- The HKAUW Thomas H.C. Cheung Postgraduate Scholarship

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our students are committed to community service through the provision of integrative, specialist psychological services to the general public at the PSU. In addition, our students are involved in an array of community service projects and, in some instances, assist in providing direct support and consultancy services to local charities and community organisations.



## STAFF INFORMATION

### FACULTY MEMBERS



**Prof. Tatia M.C. Lee**

Professor Lee is the Chair Professor of Psychological Science and Clinical Psychology and the May Endowed Professor in Neuropsychology. She is also a visiting Professor at King's College London.

Professor Lee is an elected Fellow of the Society of Clinical Psychology and Society of Clinical Neuropsychology of the American Psychological Association. She is also an elected Fellow in Clinical Psychology of the Association of Psychological Science.

Professor Lee is the Director of the State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Sciences. She is running an active empirical and translational research agenda to understand how to activate beneficial neuroplastic changes to promote brain and psychological health, especially for older people.

Professor Lee is a registered Clinical Psychologist and Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist. She serves people with neurocognitive impairments or vulnerable psychological states.

## STAFF INFORMATION

### FACULTY MEMBERS



**Prof. Frendi W.S. Li**

Professor Li completed her Master's training in clinical psychology with the University of Hong Kong, and obtained her PsyD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Surrey, UK. She is a Registered Clinical Psychologist in Hong Kong, and a Registered Practitioner Psychologist of the UK. She has worked in the mental health field for many years, both in HK and the UK, before joining HKU. She believes in integrating psychological theories and research findings with clinical practice. Her research interests include psychological treatment efficacy, child abuse treatment and prevention, trans-diagnostic vulnerability factors, as well as psychological intervention for psychotic illnesses. Professor Li has kept an active clinical practice, and has been heavily involved in the training and supervision of other mental health professionals in addition to clinical psychology trainees.

## STAFF INFORMATION

### FACULTY MEMBERS



**Prof. Shirley X. Li**

Professor Li graduated from University of Toronto where she received her Honours BSc in psychology. She obtained her MA in Trauma Psychology and PhD in Medical Sciences (Psychiatry) from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) from University College London. She is a Registered Clinical Psychologist in the UK and an Associate Fellow of British Psychological Society. Her clinical and research interests centre on sleep and sleep disorders, particularly the interplay between sleep disturbance and mental health, and psychological and behavioural treatments of sleep problems in the context of psychiatric and medical illnesses in children and adults. Professor Li has published in top medical and psychiatric journals, such as *Sleep*, *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry*, *Neurology*, and *Paediatrics*. She received the Elio Lugaresi WASM Award for Sleep Medicine from the World Association of Sleep Medicine in 2009. She was awarded the Young Investigator Award in the World Congress on Sleep Medicine in 2013 and 2015 respectively.

## STAFF INFORMATION FACULTY MEMBERS



**Prof. Wai Sze Chan**

Professor Chan Wai Sze received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington. She obtained the clinical psychology license in the USA and began her career as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth College. She joined the Department of Psychology at HKU in 2019. Professor Chan's research aims to (1) disentangle the mechanisms underlying the intertwined relationship between sleep and eating and (2) improve the implementation and dissemination of evidence-based treatments for eating disorders and insomnia. Clinically, Professor Chan is passionate about delivering evidence-based treatments to adolescents, adults, older adults, and individuals with medical illnesses such as cancer, chronic pain, and other chronic illnesses.



## STAFF INFORMATION

### FACULTY MEMBERS



**Prof. Frances J. Jin**

Professor Jin received her BS in Psychology from the University of Iowa, and MA and APA-accredited PhD in Clinical Psychology from Stony Brook University, USA. She is a New York State licensed psychologist in the USA. Her research program targets the intersection between emotion and cognition, investigating the psychological and neural mechanisms of anxiety and depression. She is the Principal Investigator of the Psychopathology, Affective Neuroscience, and Decision Making lab, which uses behavioural experiments, neuroimaging (fMRI and EEG), and computational tools to study the relevant topics. She is also a Principal Investigator of the State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at HKU.

## STAFF INFORMATION

### FACULTY MEMBERS



**Prof. Charlene L.M. Lam**

Professor Lam obtained her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and her Ph.D. in affective neuroscience and neuropsychology from The University of Hong Kong and King's College London. Prior to beginning her Ph.D., she served as a clinical psychologist at the United Christian Hospital and Kwong Wah Hospital. Professor Lam was awarded the Li Po Chun Charitable Trust Fund Scholarship, Lee Shau Kee Postgraduate Fellowship, and Erik Kvan Postgraduate Scholarship during her doctoral study. She is passionate about interweaving basic neuroscience and clinical psychology together through translational research. Her research work focuses on identifying mechanisms contributing to pathological fear and anxiety, with the goal of developing targeted interventions for affect dysregulation and enhancing psychological well-being. To answer her research questions, she uses a combination of physiological measures (e.g. pupillometry), functional neuroimaging (fMRI), and behavioural testing.

## STAFF INFORMATION

### FACULTY MEMBERS



**Dr Amanda K.S. Cheung**

Dr. Cheung received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A. She is a Licensed Psychologist in California, U.S.A., a Clinical Psychologist in Accredited Register with the Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists, a Registered Clinical Psychologist with the Hong Kong Psychological Society, a certified therapist in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), and a certified therapist in conducting Seeking Safety. Integrating her scholarly and clinical experience, Dr. Cheung's research focuses on individual differences, particularly in the development of emotional, behavioral, and cognitive vulnerabilities, and the process of change in psychological interventions. She is passionate about understanding the complex transactions among the many factors that shape personality, behavior, and mental health.

## STAFF INFORMATION FACULTY MEMBERS



**Dr. Diane H.Y. Huang**

Dr. Huang attained her doctoral and master degrees in clinical psychology at The University of Hong Kong. She is a Registered Clinical Psychologist (HKPS) and is the Clinical Supervisor in HKU's Psychological Services Unit. Dr. Huang has extensive experience in psychological assessment and psychotherapy, particularly with issues related to stress management, depression, anxiety, crisis management and interpersonal relationship for many years. She also has a special interest in group and family work.

## STAFF INFORMATION

### FACULTY MEMBERS



**Dr. Carole C.K. Li**

Dr. Li obtained her Master's training in clinical psychology and her PsyD in Clinical Psychology from The University of Hong Kong. She is a Registered Clinical Psychologist and an Associate Fellow with the Hong Kong Psychological Society. Prior to coming to HKU, she was a clinical psychologist with Hospital Authority for over 10 years. In addition, Dr. Li is a Registered Yoga Teacher in USA. She is passionate about integrating mind and body therapies.

## STAFF INFORMATION FACULTY MEMBERS



**Mr. Erich K. S. Chan**

Mr. Chan obtained his Master of Social Sciences in Clinical Psychology training from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is a "Clinical Psychologist in Accredited Register" under the AR Scheme of Department of Health. Prior to joining the faculty, he has practiced as a clinical psychologist in Hong Kong local settings for almost 15 years.



# MSocSc (Clinical Psychology)

## Advisory Panel (External Members)

Our Master of Social Sciences in Clinical Psychology Programme invites senior clinical psychologists and field experts from various major settings to serve as our advisory panel members. Advisory panel members offer professional advice to the Programme on admission policies and curriculum design, as well as future development of the programme.



### Left 1, 2

**Dr. Liu, Chak Chun Jeffrey**  
Tai Po Hospital, Hospital Authority

**Dr. Cheung, Chuen Yih Amos**  
Division of Clinical Psychology,  
Hong Kong Psychological Society

### Right, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**Dr. Mak, Kin Yin Amanda  
(Chairperson)**  
Queen Mary Hospital and MacLehose  
Medical Rehabilitation Center

**Dr. Tsang, Yee Ha Lucia**  
Child Assessment Service,  
Department of Health

**Dr. Chan, Hak Man Christine**  
Social Welfare Department

**Dr. Alison Mak**  
Hong Kong Police Force

**Dr. Mak, Wai Ming Vivian**  
Correctional Services Department



## Clinical Psychology

**Our clinical faculty are committed to walking alongside students on their exciting and fulfilling path of studying clinical psychology at HKU.**

Thank you, teacher.  
Thank you for being our sources of light.  
You are the match, igniting our passion for learning.  
You are the lighthouse, guiding our journey in a fierce ocean.  
You are the light at the end of the tunnel, giving us hope even at times of difficulties.  
You are the inner light of conscience, reminding us to resist temptations and to stay true to ourselves.  
Thank you for lighting up our paths as we continue to learn and grow.  
With our deepest gratitude, thank you.

- CP Class of 2018

“

*Studying clinical psychology allows me to understand human relationships better, to understand myself better. Looking back in the past two years, it was not easy to juggle my time between five placements, class work, and a thesis. There were times when I was stressed and there were difficult moments during which I shed tears. In the past, as well as in the future, obstacles will come in our way. But I have learnt that encountering challenges was the time that I grew the most as a person. And I am confident that this learning will follow my future, as a person, as a therapist, and in many other roles that I shall take.*

”

**Ms. Nerissa Hoi Yan PAU**

Thanksgiving Scholarship Awardee

Graduate from the CP cohort 2016-2018



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