

So, good evening, everyone. It gives me pleasure to invite you all to the school of Psychology's Postgraduate Information Session. Before I begin with the presentation, I would like to pay respect.

With respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands, Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands in Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

I would like to now continue and introduce our presenters for today. We have with us Professor Tanya Mead, who's the Dean of the School of Psychology. We also have Dr. Janet Conti, who's the Director of Academic Program Honours and Postgraduate Psychology. Finally, we have Nicholas, who is a graduate in our Masters of Clinical Psychology program and finally me Anjelica Juturu, I'm a current student here at Western. I studied the Bachelors of Information and Communication Technology, and I'm also staff here at Western.

I would like to give a disclaimer that the zoom meeting and breakout sessions are being recorded for further publishing purposes. So if you turn on your video or during the zoom meeting, it would be recorded and it is completely optional if you wanted to keep it on or off. Even participation in chats, Question and Answer our poll sections will be recorded for further learning purposes and to build a catalogue for frequently asked questions. All this material collected will be handled as for the privacy policy and privacy management plan at Western and you can get in touch with our events team if you have any further questions regarding this.

And coming to the presentation, as part of the agenda for today we will begin by talking about the postgraduate study options we have on offer at Western, our academics would be presenting this. Followed by that I will discuss some facilities provided at Western and also talk about the Higher Degree Research options you can consider. To end the presentation, I will talk about the application process and the fee particulars of these courses at Western. After the presentation you will be allowed to join breakout sessions so that you all can ask questions and get answers from

academics. Please bear in mind that your questions as during the presentation might not be answered, and we will answer all of them at the end in the breakout sessions.

I would like to now hand over to Professor Tanya Mead to proceed with the presentation.

Thank you and welcome everyone. Thank you for being here and thank you for your interest in our programs. I am going to give a brief overview of the school of psychology and the support the resources and the programs that we have and then we'll hand it over to our team to provide further information that will help you get a good picture of what we offer in terms of programs and why you might like to study with us.

Next slide please. Okay, so some of the key factors that I'd like to highlight that might be of relevance and interest to you is to start with our commitment to excellence in teaching and research and in clinical training. As a premier psychology school we are in the top 10 universities nationally, the universities and a top hundred and 50 universities internationally and in terms of excellence in research for Australia in psychology we are above the world standard. So we are proud of those achievements, because they speak to where our commitment is and it is in providing interactive, engaged respectful, employability oriented trainings for those who are looking at postgraduate programs in psychology. There is a lot that we can do with the discipline, such as psychology and the work opportunities are extensive and so we are committed to ensuring that the programs that we provide prepare you for the world of opportunities to progress your career and also make a significant difference to the well-being of communities and beyond.

In terms of our school. We are a school of 30 academic staffs and about 10 professional staff members who work closely and collectively towards supporting our students and ensuring that the programs, the research are facilitated and hopefully enjoyed by students who study with us. We have a number of programs, and there's some of the figures here indicate, there are 560 students enrolled in psychology programs. There are 4800 students, these are quite precise numbers, enrolled in psychology

subjects. We are the largest provider of honours fourth year programs with an intake of 120 students every year. And similarly, one of the largest providers of opportunities in Master of Clinical Psychology and Master of Professional Psychology. We think that those are really important programs and our commitment is to provide as many opportunities as we can possibly do without compromising on quality and attention to students.

Our programs are offered across three campuses, but as you would be aware, this year, there has been a lot of education delivery online, which has been possible to do given the range of teaching and innovative ways of the education delivery that the university has engaged in. What also might be of interest to you is the support at the broader level. The collaborations that we have at the university level that support and facilitate what we do across programs and that involves working closely and collaboratively with colleagues across the three institutes at the universities. This is where research opportunities facilitate and this is where we create opportunities to provide research projects that meet various interests, so that you do get an opportunity to research something that you really are interested in as opposed to something that happens to be available.

We also have our own very active research is that around two key research areas which is Foundational Processes of Behaviour research, a lot of experimental basic science key research and then Applied Translational research through Clinical and Health psychology research. The programs that we offer, Master Clinical Psychology specifically, is supported by our own Western Sydney psychology clinic. And this is also an opportunity where we contribute to the community through those some services. And we also have some very exciting and research supportive facilities such as Digital Research Lab and the Baby Lab that we collaborate with a number of colleagues across the university.

So that's a very quick overview of what we offer and where our focus is on this slide, you will see a number of programs that we offer specifically, and some of these will be discussing more details later on. However, I'd like to take the opportunity now to hand over to Nicholas, who has graduated from the Master of Clinical Psychology last year completed it in 2018, and he is one of the APS recipients for his performance and his excellence in this program, which is a great recognition of his work. And he has been with the university across a few programs that he's best position to speak a little bit about some of them, so Nic over to you.

Thanks, thanks, Tanya. Good afternoon, everybody how you doing. Yes I've in fact graduated from three of these programs. I've done all my study with Western and very proud of that for sure. And yes, I've graduated from the Master of Clinical psychology in 2018, I actually started doing the Graduate Diploma of Psychological Studies and that was basically covering off the undergraduate requirement. And it was really, yeah you got to meet all of the staff and the basic foundation for the theory and foundations of future practice and meet you know a lot of colleagues.

I had the opportunity to do that across multiple campuses and was sort of well supported in varying attendance patterns and things as obviously life changes and then I enrolled into, what was the fourth year at the time the Bachelor of Arts Honours and that's where you get your first taste of research really and we had to do a large piece of work and I got to work with one of the educational developmental psychologist at the time, and did a little bit of research around predictors and wellbeing for different brokers of language across generations. And that was sort of a great insight into the research process and how it might work at the sort of university level. And then I was successful in applying and being accepted into the Master of Clinical Psychology program, which is really where you get all of the training and the key sort of concepts and the basic foundation for future practice as a clinical psychologist and moving towards an endorsed area of practice and some slides on those sort of pathways later.

But again, and effectively it's the plus two pathway for the APAC accreditation and again, it was a fantastic experience in terms of actual clinical practice. I was lucky enough to be one of the first cohorts through the new clinic that's set up at the Kingswood campus and use all of the whizbang technology, recording those type of things, and was a fantastic really supported environment for the first placement in terms of clinical life and professional practice and I just can't talk highly enough about the program so very glad to be here representing Western.

That's about it for me.

Thank you very much Nick and Tanya and Angelica. I'm very pleased, my name is Janet Conti and I'm very pleased to be talking to you about our postgraduate programs in psychology at Western Sydney University.

So this evening, there's going to be breakout rooms for each of these components. However, I'm going to talk briefly about the Clinical and Professional Psychology Masters, the Higher Degree Research, the PhD is going to be talked about later as well. We also have a combined degree PhD clinical masters and we have bridging programs and these are pathways into fourth year and fourth year programs that can lead students to be ready to apply for postgraduate in Master of Clinical Psychology Professional Psychology.

So this slide is the APS progression pathway towards registration as a psychologist in Australia. And I just wanted to go through, where each of our programs, our postgraduate programs sit on that this schematic. So, the first program, which is what the one that Nick mentioned is if you already have an undergraduate degree, but it's not majoring in psychology you can enrol in a Graduate Diploma Psychological Studies which will give you the foundational psychology training to be eligible to apply for a fourth year on equivalent. So, the second postgraduate course is a Graduate Diploma in Psychology. And so, this course is for students who have come out of the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Studies and they have attained sufficient AAM or average mark to actually go into the 4th year. So the Graduate Diploma in Psychology is exactly the same as an Honours Degree in Psychology, it just has a different name, and it will give you the four years of undergraduate sequence equivalence to be able to apply for postgraduate training in psychology.

So before I go into the Master of Professional Psychology, I just wanted to mention that the four plus two internship, which is a supervised practice pathway outside of a university is to be retired, and so that particular pathway is to be retired in 2022 so from that time people who want again registration, at psychologist Australia will need to go through a postgraduate program at a university or training college. So the first one of these that we offer is the Master Professional Psychology. This program gives you the fifth year of a six-year sequence. So it's a 12 month program, and once you've completed that program, you can then apply for the 6th year internship outside of the university and under supervision with an endorsed supervisor, you can then do 12 months of practice full time practice to attain generalist registration as a psychologist.

Second program we offer is the Master of Clinical Psychology as Nicholas said, it's two years postgraduate training. At the end of this program you will be eligible for general registration as a psychologist, at which time you then enter into what is called a registrar program. Which is another two years of supervised practice, and once you've completed that you will be eligible to be a clinically endorsed psychologist, in other words, to call yourself a clinical psychologist.

And the next pathway we have is a combined degree a PhD and a Master of Clinical Psychology this degree is four and a half years. It's a very competitive degree to get into and we take just a handful of students a year into that program. You require a first class honours and a PhD scholarship to enter into that program and it's full time. Following on from that program you will need to do another one and a half years of supervised training to be a clinically endorsed supervisor.

So I guess our philosophy of our program is to be providing a context for students to further their, their knowledge in psychology practice and to scaffold this knowledge into skills. To be able to not only understand a range of mental health issues, but to also be able to provide therapeutic interventions for a range of mental health issues that are experienced within diverse contexts. With a focus on training in evidence based interventions that include but are not limited to CBT and the idea of this program is for students to learn a range of therapeutic modalities, so that they have a number of tools in their toolkit that they can then tailor to a client's needs and preferences or a family's needs and preferences or community's needs and preferences, depending on the context within which they're working.

So, in terms of applying for these programs, the Master Clinical Psychology, you'll need to get your application into us by the end of this month. The website is up here, if you are a domestic student. If you're an international student, you'll need to put in an application into the International Office of Western Sydney University again by no later than that the end of the month end of October.

Our academic requirements are that we require applicants to have at least two to one honour or to an honour or higher, with their fourth year. We assess their, years two and three GPA and those go together to form an academic assessment. If you meet the criteria for the academic assessment, you'll be offered an interview. At that interview what we're looking at is your ability to demonstrate your skills and professionalism within that context. And what's relevant to that interview is potentially having work experience that's relevant to the field work experiences really helpful to get not just demonstrate to us that you've had some work experience, but also for yourself to really work out that this is the sort of career that you are wanting to take forward.

We also ask you to submit a couple of referee reports on to the hotspot website. Again, all these details on the handbook, which will be sharing with you in the breakout rooms. The last point here is a very important one that I wanted to emphasize, there's a link here to what we call the program inherent requirements. And inherent requirements for you to be able to meet to be able to get into the program and to sustain yourself in the program. Inherent requirements range from your ability to communicate your ability to sustain your performance and various other and professionalism and ethics and they're essential competencies to meet and in order to be able to not only get into the program, as I said, but also sustain yourself in the program. And also, once you've left the program. It's very important that practicing clinicians make these inherent requirements.

So, the Master of Professional Psychology application again through us. Again, the International Office for International applicants. The academic requirements we look at 4 years and years, two to three GPA, the academic requirements are more like a credit average on those, whereas the Clinical Masters, it's more like a distinction average. Skills and professionalism demonstrated in in an interview and again work experience referee reports and meeting program inherent requirements.

So, what do we think is important in training clinical and Professional Psychologists, as I mentioned before, we seek to provide a teaching and learning context that is supportive of students to scaffold that they're learning between theory and clinical practice promoting the development of a range of different skills and therapeutic modalities. So that and we're not a one size fit all fits all program here. We really don't believe that one

therapeutic modality will suit every person that walks into a psychologist's office. So what we do is we teach a range of different modalities, so that you have tools in your toolkit to be able to pull out as needed. And as appropriate to the person that is sitting in front of you, rather than giving everybody the same therapeutic interventions. We promote the development of skills that are implemented within an individual professional's competencies and also learning to work within a multi-disciplinary team. And that's a really essential part of working as a clinical and Professional Psychologist.

We also believe that skills in self-care and reflective practice are really important skills that not only assist people during their training, but also once they have completed the program their lifelong skills that are important for professionals to continually develop over the course of their careers to sustain them in this work. Also providing a context for further development of research literacy and we believe this is important for both programs because we believe that the way the health system works is that people that professionals and organizations need to be able to demonstrate that what they are doing is actually effective and that sort of research clinically based research is an essential skill to be able to not only publish, but also to be able to write a report about how you your organization or the intervention that you're doing in your organization is an important intervention that is helpful for the community that within which you work for the clinical Master's program. This includes a research project over 12 months and we talking more about that in the in the clinical session.

So here is slide has a range of career prospects for Professional and Clinical Psychologists hospitals community health centres, legal and Correctional Centre. So forensic area working in the educational system school counsellors, working with families and within community-based services private practice non-government organizations, etc. So, what I thought I'd do rather than go through these individuals, just ask Nick, a little bit about where his Clinical Masters has led him over the last nearly two years since the program. Thanks very much. Nicholas.

Thanks, Janet. Yeah, so look at a bit of a nice and smooth trajectory, I'm happy to say that Western Sydney students have a really great reputation and there have been very, very, very significant amount of actual job

opportunities for us, which is fantastic is Clinical Psychology registers on in that phase between full endorsement as a Clinical Psychologist and post Masters, so currently working across two roles. This is a really common thing amongst their Clinical Psychology fraternity where we do multiple rows of roles.

So I'm currently working in the private practice with kids and adolescents and their families and I'm also working in one of the major public hospitals in Western Sydney in what's called consultation liaison psychiatry and so that's basically providing mental health support and advice and psychological intervention to all of the medical wards of the hospital where there aren't psychologists as part of the ongoing team and working sort of within an MTT environment as well.

That's been the experience that I've had across the two years I've done a little bit in Employee Assistance type work, which is, you know, sort of sounds like it is, but that's pretty much the sort of pathway a that I've taken us far.

Thank you very much. Nicholas and I think you're what you've just described, like you say is, is very much a career trajectory, that's flexible that's interesting that there's a lot of scope to do different things in that program and as you say we do get very, very good feedback from future employees and graduates and Nick is spot on with what he's just said then, so thank you very much for that.

Thank you so much Tanya, Janet and Nick. So, apart from talking about the Psychology courses, I think, one question, that most of you all might have had in mind is how is the university dealing with the current, Coronavirus pandemic situation or how classes are going to happen. So, I'd like to just briefly talk about that. So, the first thing is all classes have been moved online due to the pandemic, as well as the majority of the student's services.

Student Centre and wellbeing services which are mostly the services that students use they've moved to a live chat and phone call-based communication system instead of a face to face system.

In terms of study assistance, we have been committed to provide support and any learning resources. We've moved into an online learning system so that it's easier for students to submit assignments or find lecture material online.

In terms of academic support being the library and several other support services, which are being provided to the students so that they're learning online becomes a bit smoother.

We also have the coronavirus support line that was set up. It was a platform where students could seek assistance and let us know their problems or ask their questions. Our staff managed and directed the inquiries to the right department and also provided them any support in terms of financial assistance or so on. One of the most important things that Western Sydney did for its students was to put up a Student Hardship Fund. The Student Hardship Fund assisted students by providing grocery vouchers loan laptops and financial support. They use centralised application process and students got to respond within five days so that their issues were addressed immediately and they didn't have to take stress about external factors that might affect their studies.

So, we've spoken about this, I would like to just discuss about the higher degree research facilities that are offered at Western. As part of higher degree research, we have two main programs. One is the Masters of research and the other one is the both the Doctor of Philosophy and the Masters of philosophy. So as part of the Masters of research program it is like a pathway to a doctorate. It is a two-year research training degree. In the first year, you would be learning about the interdisciplinary research units and few disciplinary based subjects. In year two you will be working on a supervised research-based project. As part of the PhD and Master's philosophy program we have like three different categories in PhD courses, one being the traditional thesis-based PhD. The other one being PhD by publication, as well as Professional Doctorates like the Doctor of

Education or the Doctorate of Creative Studies. A PhD program is usually three years' full time. The Masters of Psychology program is a two years' full-time course and part from these two, we also have the Doctor of Philosophy and the Masters of Psychology program. For these programs you can speak to the school of psychology. The Doctorate of Psychology degree allows you to graduate with the training and capacity to complete research in our topic related to Clinical Psychology and you would be doing coursework and one thousand hours of supervised placement within the Masters of Clinical Psychology program.

And now moving on to the next segment, the application process. There are mainly two intakes, one is the Autumn which happens on the first of March, and the intake is the summer or 1H session that commencement date is the 11th of January. So, you might be applying either as a domestic student or an international student. If you are domestic students that is you would be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, you will be a permanent resident of Australia, or you might be holding a permanent humanitarian visa. An international student is someone who holds citizenship of a foreign country. As part of your application if you're an international student, you will apply through a portal called study link.

If your home country is one listed, you might need to apply through an agent instead of applying directly. When you visit the study link portal to apply, you will know which process you need to go ahead with. If you're a domestic student, then if you are applying for a Master of Clinical Psychology, a Master of Professional Psychology or Graduate Diploma in psychology, then you will need to apply to UAC, that is the University's Admission Centre. And when you apply through UAC, there will be an application fee as well.

There are some courses at Western which you can apply directly, which allows you to make a free of cost application. So, you can visit our website to see which application you need to make and proceed.

And next we move ahead to our fee section. By the way, one important information I wanted to sell is as part of your application process in case you have any questions related to admissions or how to apply whether you

meet any criteria or not, we have our admissions team on live chat available. My colleague would have posted a link to our chat sessions in the zoom chat box. So, you can visit that link and speak to our admission staff and get any questions about your admissions answered.

Finally, I will talk about fees. So, the domestic fees would be different compared to the international fee's majority of the post graduate courses are domestic full fee-paying places. Australian citizens may be able to defer for your fees through a FEE Help loan. All postgraduate Education courses, and some post graduate Nursing courses at Western allow Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP).

In terms of international fees, you can visit our website to find the exact fee that you would be charged for that year. In addition to the regular fees international students will also have some fees related to a student health cover and so on, which will be some additional cost.