

Required knowledge and skills for Clinical Psychology

Please find below an overview of the knowledge and skills required to participate in this Master's programme. For every aspect is stated: the general criterion of what is expected from a prospective student, and the norm that is used in the assessment of a candidate's eligibility.

How does the Admissions Committee check if you have a required knowledge/skill?

- 1) The Committee will check if the subject in question was taught in your previous education.
- 2) If the Committee is familiar with your curriculum, they will use your transcript. If the Committee is *not* familiar with your curriculum, the procedure below applies:
 - a. You list the course(s) in your curriculum in which the required knowledge/skill was taught on the Checklist Entry Requirements (you can find this checklist under Required Documents).
 - b. You hand in a syllabus for every course you list on this checklist,), including information on course content, learning goals, weekly schedule. This way, the Committee can verify whether the courses you listed sufficiently address the required topic.
 - c. For students from a non-Dutch university, an online assessment will be a mandatory part of the evaluation of the methods and statistics criterion. This assessment is meant to give the Committee additional insight in your existing knowledge in methods and statistics. It is one of the factors in the decision of the Admissions Committee, in addition to the information you provide under a) and b). The Committee will decide - based on all this information - whether your existing knowledge is sufficient to participate in this programme. If applicable, you will receive detailed instruction for this assessment once we have received your complete application file.
- 3) The Committee decides if the knowledge/skill meets the required norm described below based on your transcript/syllabus. This is a yes/no decision for every norm.
- 4) If you partly lack knowledge of criteria 3 (assessment), the Committee may decide that - if selected for the programme - you will have to participate in a Summer School course taught at Utrecht University before you can be admitted to the programme. This is for the Admissions Committee to decide.

1. Psychological theories	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>You are able to analyse questions about mental health and illness with integrity in a way which is critical, constructive and in line with recent scientific psychological insights and you have basic knowledge of the key sub-areas of psychology, such as neuropsychology, developmental psychology, clinical psychology, health psychology, social psychology and organisational psychology.</i>
Norm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have acquired at least 30 EC academic courses covering general psychological knowledge in multiple domains. For example: neuropsychology, developmental psychology, clinical psychology, health psychology, social psychology and organisational psychology. Courses related to the subjects below cannot be included. You have completed academic course(s) focusing on test theory (e.g the principles, methods and psychometric indicators for the quality of psychological testing / validity and reliability estimation)

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2. Psychopathology	
Criterion	<i>You have acquired in-depth knowledge of aetiology, symptomatology and prognoses of adult psychological disorders according to recent insights as defined in the DSM and/or ICD classification system.</i>
Norm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of and insights into the characteristics, theory and treatment of mental disorders, such as personality disorders, anxiety disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders. You are able to critically evaluate these conditions. Knowledge of the DSM-5 classification system of mental disorders and the criteria for classifying these conditions by having taken academic courses about this subject of at least 5 EC.
3. Assessment	
Criterion	<i>You have the ability to understand and conduct the adult diagnostic examination process from problem to diagnosis and recommendation.</i>
Norm	An academic course worth at least 5 EC on the different steps (from intake to recommendation) of the entire diagnostic process (from initial interview, test application and interpretation to forming a diagnosis through different decision making models and the writing of a diagnostic report).
4. Methods and statistics & Research report	
Criterion	<i>You can independently prepare a quantitative empirical psychological scientific research under supervision. Furthermore, you are able to conduct, report on and evaluate the research in a critically constructive way, using up to and including multivariate statistics implemented in SPSS or other established statistical software.</i>
Norm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge about introductory statistics in social science, including: univariate descriptive statistics, correlation, univariate regression, anova and a basic course in the methodology of behavioral and/or social science research (experimentation, surveys, observational studies). Knowledge about advanced statistics, including multivariate analysis tools. For example: repeated measures manova, mancova, reliability, multiple regression, factor analysis, and the use of dummy variables. Hands-on experience with a statistical programme, e.g. SPSS, R, AMOS. A Bachelor thesis or similar research report worth at least 10 EC in the area of psychology, completing the entire empirical cycle and including quantitative analyses.
5. Communication techniques	
Criterion	<i>You communicate effectively and clearly with for example colleagues, clients/patients and others you encounter professionally. Moreover, you are able to tailor the conversation to the other discussion partner(s) and specific setting and situation. You can adequately report on this both verbally and in writing.</i>
Norm	<p>You have acquired at least 5 EC which covers communication skills, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and experience with professional conversational skills based on various conversation models used in psychological interviews (such as a clinical intake interview). You can show that you can practice professional communication skills. For example by participating in a practicum in this field which contains group discussions and role-playing or you have practically applied these professional communication skills during a clinical internship.