



Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology

RESEARCH

Teaching and opportunities for clinical psychology research at UEA

Research is very highly valued at UEA and we aim to provide a research environment which is encouraging and testing. Therefore accepting a place at UEA means that you must be willing to commit yourself to undertake research at a high standard and expect to publish the research that you complete.

We value research for its own sake and also because it is a core competence of clinical psychology training and practice. Practising clinical psychologists are consumers and producers of research. Adopting the "scientist-practitioner" model involves a continuous process of integrating research findings into clinical practice, adopting a hypothesis testing approach to therapy and engaging in clinically relevant research. Our aim amongst the clinical psychology group (staff and trainees) is to conduct research which complements clinical work, which informs and enhances clinical skills, which is theoretically based, and which contributes to the development of health service practice and/or policy. In addition we aim to train clinical psychologists in critical evaluation of research, in summarising and integrating research findings, and in drawing out the clinical implications of research. We particularly welcome applicants with a strong interest in research and those who want to develop a clinical research career.

The research training at UEA provides you with the skills to conduct ecologically valid, high quality and generalisable research of direct clinical relevance to the NHS. Trainees benefit from being part of an active research community and are encouraged to contribute to the programmes of research described below.

The Research Training Programme

Trainees entering the course from October 2016 join the programme after an exciting time of development. As part of a number of changes, the programme adopted a "portfolio" thesis model of up to 40,000 words comprising; a systematic review and an empirical paper written up in the format of a peer review journal paper. This format develops research competencies such as; writing concisely, focusing on key findings, ensuring that findings are accessible to target audiences and appropriately disseminating findings in the form of journal articles. The portfolio model has been adopted by the majority of Clinical Psychology programmes in the UK and affords you the opportunity to exit the Programme with publications.

Research Thesis

The research process starts as soon as you enter the Programme. During the first term at UEA staff members provide you with information on their research interests (see the following link for further details: <https://www.uea.ac.uk/medicine/doctorate-in-clinical-psychology/research1/research-programmes-in-the-department-of-clinical-psychology>) and trainees are encouraged to start discussing possible shared interests and to develop their plans for research.

First Year: In January of the first year there is a Research Fair at which staff present poster outlines of empirical projects they will offer to supervise. Projects may be done in partnership with clinicians and colleagues within the schools of Medicine or Psychology.

Trainees are expected to actively contribute to shaping and developing these empirical projects. Quantitative and qualitative methodologies are equally valued and encouraged and the staff team have expertise in both approaches.

Second Year: We expect you to begin data collection in the second year of training and continues this throughout the year.

Final Year: We anticipate you will complete data analysis and write up your empirical paper in the last year of training and this is submitted in March of the final year. Oral examination of the portfolio takes place in May. Finally, the results of the research are disseminated in a Trainee conference in September to which the following year's intake of trainees is invited.

The teaching programme facilitates and supports the development of research competencies in trainees, and regular supervision sessions are scheduled with the UEA research supervisor(s) for the empirical project. The programme Research Tutors are also available to offer additional advice and input as necessary. Dates are arranged and published at the start of the programme so that trainees know when they will submit and be examined on their portfolio. See Table 1 below for further details on timelines.

Thesis Timeline

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
October – Staff research interests presentations	October – December – start data collection following ethical approval	October – End data collection
January – Research Fair Poster presentations by staff, discussions around ideas, etc. February – Submit project choices (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd) Informed about project/supervisor allocation by March and participate in Pecha Kucha sessions.	Write methods and results section alongside data collection.	March – submit thesis
April – Trainee Research Presentations & Research Panel	Data collection	May – Viva examination completed
June – submit thesis proposal	Data collection	Complete thesis corrections
Over summer – discuss thesis proposal feedback with supervisor, begin applying for research approvals.	Data collection	September – Trainee Research Conference – present your research to the incoming trainees!

There are also other opportunities for trainees to present their research during their training e.g. the Faculty Annual Postgraduate Research Conference, which is held annually, as well as local and national conferences.

Service Related Project

During your time on the ClinPsyD Programme you will also carry out a Service Related Project (SRP) which encompasses health services evaluation or clinical audit in service settings. SRPs are driven by a clear research or evaluation question based in psychological literature, they arise from actual clinical or service issues and they are relevant to clinical and health services. Therefore, SRPs focus on work that has been commissioned by an NHS or social service organisation and are often linked to the services in which trainees complete practice placements.

We have a dedicated SRP Tutor who holds a large database of potential service related-projects. The SRP is also written up in the form of a research article, practitioner report or NHS audit.

Clinical Psychology in East Anglia offers an excellent professional training environment, and an outstanding quality of life. UEA has a strong research culture and we are ranked in the top 200 universities in the World for research output across nine subjects including medicine and health (Times Higher Education World University Rankings, 2019). We are fortunate that a large majority of our graduates choose to remain in East Anglia to build their careers after successfully securing positions. In a cycle that is valued by all, we welcome back our graduates who actively contribute to all aspects of the ClinPsyD Programme.