

**Programme Completion and Failure**

It is important that all trainees and supervisors are aware of, and understand, the requirements to complete the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme and the potential routes to failure of the programme.

In order to successfully complete the programme trainees must meet the assessment standards as outlined below in the “Regulation of Assessment” section of this document.

Trainees must also meet the standards set by the Health and Care Professions Council’s guidance on conduct and ethics for students.

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/globalassets/resources/guidance/guidance-on-conduct-and-ethics-for-students.pdf>

In addition, trainees must evidence their fitness to practise throughout training. If questions are raised about their fitness to practise, they may be subject to a fitness to practise referral.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/shm/study/doctoral_study/dclinpsy/onlinehandbook/fitness_to_practice/>

**Regulation of Assessment**

Examination and assessment regulations are contained in full within the University Examinations Regulations. However, given that the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology has an unusual structure, particular details of the assessment regulations are reproduced below.

**Scheme of assessment**

From 2018 cohort onwards, to obtain the award students are required to complete all three elements of the programme. These comprise:

1. All five (for trainees in 2018-2020 cohorts) or three (for trainees in 2021 cohort onwards) clinical placements
2. Passing all seven coursework assignments.
3. A doctoral thesis.

Coursework and evaluation of clinical placements are considered at regular programme examination board meetings. The thesis is examined towards the end of the three years.

**Requirements for pass**

***Clinical placements:* Students up to the 2020 cohort undertake five clinical placements, and students in the 2021 cohort onwards undertake three (usually longer) placements.** In the event of a placement failure, the student may be required to re-take the placement (and completion of the programme may be extended accordingly). Students who fail more than one placement are deemed to have failed the programme and are not allowed to proceed. It must be noted that although supervisors make recommendations on whether a placement has been satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily completed in the Supervisors Assessment of Trainee form, it is the examination board who ultimately makes this decision and communicates the outcome to trainees.

***Coursework:[[1]](#footnote-1)*** The student is required to pass all seven distinct pieces of assessed coursework: one self-assessment exercise, one Placement Assignment (Service Evaluation) project, one Service Improvement Poster Presentation, one Thesis Preparation Assignment and three Placement Assignments (Live Skills) – one each at levels on two and three.

If a student fails all allowed submission attempts of a given assignment, then they are deemed to have failed the programme and is not allowed to proceed.

***Thesis****:* This is examined in accordance with the University regulations for doctoral theses.

1. Please note that the details of coursework requirements below only apply to trainees beginning training in 2018 onwards. In earlier cohorts a different assessment scheme was in place for coursework. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)