

James Cook University - APAC Accreditation assessment summary report

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| Higher education provider | James Cook University |
| Name of the Psychology AOU | Psychology Academic Group |
| Standards version | Version 1.2, 1 January 2019 |
| Purpose of assessment | Initial accreditation (out of cycle) |
| Programs and level of study assessed | Master of Professional Psychology (Level 3) |
| Campus | Townsville |
| Date of assessment | January 2023 |
| Date of APAC Board Determination | 28 August 2023 |
| Accreditation start date | 1 January 2023 |
| Accreditation end date | 31 December 2025 |

Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) initial on-paper accreditation assessment of James Cook University's (JCU) proposed Level 3 Master of Professional Psychology (MPP) program to be delivered at the Townsville campus based on the *Submission for accreditation* documentation, as well as additional information provided in the rejoinder to the draft report.

The Level 3 MPP program has been developed in response to the retirement of the 4+2 pathway and is designed to allow students to build on their knowledge, competence and skills in psychology education to enable pathways that lead to general registration as a psychologist and for further education and training.

Key findings

The proposed Level 3 MPP program comprises five units shared with the currently accredited packaged Level 3 and 4 Master of Psychology (Clinical) program and one newly designed research unit. During the program, students are required to complete one placement unit accumulating a minimum of 300 placement hours at the JCU Psychology Clinic located in Townsville.

Based on the submission documentation and supporting evidence received, the program is expected to meet the Accreditation Standards. However, additional evidence is required to be submitted once the program has commenced before these criteria can be considered as met.

APAC Board determination

That James Cook University's **Master of Professional Psychology** (Level 3) (Campus: Townsville) program is accredited from **1 January 2023** until **31 December 2025** subject to the following conditions:

By **31 December 2023**:

1. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.3 is met, the Psychology Academic Group is to provide copies of the recent External Review Committee meeting to demonstrate there is external input into the design and management of the program.
2. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.5 is met, the Psychology Academic Group is to provide evidence that staff members are supported to undertake professional development opportunities (e.g. Conference attendance).
3. To ensure Standard 4 The student experience, criterion 4.3 is met, the Psychology Academic Group is to provide evidence demonstrating that:
 - i. the details of the accreditation status of the program are published and clearly accessible on the website, and
 - ii. reference to the appropriate accreditation authority is corrected on the University's website.

By **31 January 2024**:

4. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.4 is met, the Psychology Academic Group is to provide evidence of sufficient staffing arrangements to support the student cohort in completing their studies.

By **30 September 2024**:

5. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criteria 1.4, 1.9 and 1.10 and Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.7 are met, the Psychology Academic Group is to provide a range of de-identified samples of completed student placement logbooks.

As a monitoring requirement, the Psychology Academic Group is to provide:

By **30 September 2023**:

1. an update on the planned internal and external benchmarking activities, and
2. any current tests of academic achievement available for students.

As part of the 2024 annual report:

3. updates on the progress and outcomes of external benchmarking exercises.

By **31 December 2024**:

4. a range of samples of de-identified completed student assessments, including research projects, demonstrating that the *Level 3 Professional Competencies* are appropriately assessed.

Table 1: Summary of findings regarding each criterion for each Standard

| Level 3 | |
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| Domain 1: Public safety | Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured |
| | Standard is substantially met |
| Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance | Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective |
| | Standard is substantially met |
| Domain 3: Program of study | Standard Statement 3: Program of study, design, delivery and resourcing enable students to achieve the required graduate competencies |
| | Standard is substantially met |
| Domain 4: The student experience | Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support |
| | Standard is substantially met |
| Domain 5: Assessment | Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid |
| | Standard is met |

Commendations

A commendation refers to a particularly significant achievement by the education provider with regard to the program. The Assessment Team has made the subsequent commendations following the evaluation of the program.

The Psychology Academic Group at James Cook University is commended for providing a thorough and clear submission documentation for review.