



Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)

Accreditation Assessment Summary Report University of Newcastle

Last updated: 25 November 2025



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University of Newcastle – 2026 to 2030 Cycle

Context

Higher education provider	University of Newcastle
Academic organisational unit (AOU)	School of Psychological Sciences
Campus	Callaghan, Online, Ourimbah
Assessment type	Cycle re-accreditation
Accreditation period	1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030
Accreditation Standards	Accreditation standards for psychology programs (effective 1 January 2019, version 1.2)



Assessment timeline

Dates	Assessment activities
19/02/2024	UoN attends information session with APAC team
24/07/2024	UoN submits NOIA
06/04/2025	UoN submits accreditation documentation
07/04/2025 – 11/06/2025	APAC conducts on-paper assessment
12/06/2025	APAC assessment team meeting 1
08/07/2025	UoN submits further information
16/07/2025	APAC assessment team meeting 2 (site-visit preparation)
22/07/2025 – 25/07/2025	UoN hosts site visit
22/09/2025	Accreditation Assessment Committee (AAC) endorses draft assessment report
22/09/2025	UoN receives draft assessment report
07/10/2025	UoN submits rejoinder to draft assessment report
27/10/2025	AAC determines assessment outcomes



Findings

APAC thanks UoN's discipline leads, academic and professional staff, supervisors, graduates and students for their cooperation.

Accreditation status

Re-accredited

The following programs are re-accredited until **31 December 2030**:

Program title	Campus	Level	Sequence	Program status
Bachelor of Criminology/Bachelor of Psychological Science	Callaghan	Level 1	1-3 year	Accredited with conditions
Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science/Bachelor of Psychological Science	Callaghan	Level 1	1-3 year	Accredited with conditions
Bachelor of Psychological Science	Callaghan, Ourimbah	Level 1	1-3 year	Accredited with conditions
Bachelor of Psychological Science (Advanced)	Callaghan, Ourimbah	Level 1	1-3 year	Accredited with conditions
Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Business	Callaghan, Ourimbah	Level 1	1-3 year	Accredited with conditions
Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Laws (Honours)	Callaghan, Ourimbah	Level 1	1 - 3 year	Accredited with conditions
Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Media and Communication	Callaghan, Ourimbah	Level 1	1 - 3 year	Accredited with conditions
Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Social Science	Callaghan, Ourimbah	Level 1	1 - 3 year	Accredited with conditions
Graduate Diploma in Psychological Science	Callaghan, Ourimbah, Online	Level 1	3-year bridging	Accredited with conditions



Program title	Campus	Level	Sequence	Program status
Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)	Callaghan, Ourimbah	Level 2	4 th year	Accredited with conditions
Master of Professional Psychology	Callaghan	Level 3	5 th year	Accredited with conditions
Master of Professional Psychology (Clinical Foundations)	Callaghan	Level 3	5 th year	Accredited with conditions
Master of Clinical Psychology	Callaghan	Level 3 - 4	5-6 year	Accredited with conditions
Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology)	Callaghan	Level 4	6 th year	Accredited with conditions

Re-accredited – teach out

The following program in teach out is re-accredited until **31 December 2030**:

Program title	Campus	Level	Sequence	Program status
Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)	Callaghan	Level 1-2	1-4 year	Accredited with conditions



Conditions

Further evidence is required to demonstrate the Accreditation Standards are met.

Program levels	Criteria	Issues identified	Shortfall	Due dates
All programs	3.8	Cultural responsiveness	Evidence demonstrating resources are in place to support the delivery of culturally safe education.	30/04/2026
Level 1	4.7	Access to effective grievance and appeals processes	Evidence demonstrating the grievance, and appeals process is clearly communicated to students and applied consistently by Unit Coordinators.	30/04/2026



Monitoring requirements

Monitoring is required to demonstrate the Accreditation Standards are met.

Program levels	Criteria	Issues identified	Shortfall	Due dates
Level 3 Level 3-4 Clinical Level 4 Clinical	1.3	Client confidentiality	An update when the proposed modifications to the Clinic are complete to ensure client confidentiality.	30/04/2026
Level 3- 4 Clinical Level 4 Clinical	1.5	Informed consent	An update on the development of the client consent template is required, including an example of the completed template.	30/04/2026
Level 1 Level 2	2.1 2.3	Governance arrangements External input into the design and management of the programs.	An update is required when the formal feedback integration process is established, and new appointments on the External Advisory Group are confirmed.	30/04/2026
Level 3 Level 3-4 Clinical Level 4 Clinical	2.5	Staff are supported in research, engagement, teaching, and professional development	A report outlining the various mechanisms and resources utilised to academic staff to support their research, teaching and professional development activities.	30/04/2026
Level 2 Level 3 Level 3-4 Clinical Level 4 Clinical	3.4	Sufficient staffing	A report detailing how the programs remain sufficiently resourced to support the student cohort in acquiring the graduate competencies, including detail where external expertise has been incorporated into the programs to support the delivery of various components.	30/04/2026

Program levels	Criteria	Issues identified	Shortfall	Due dates
Level 3 Level 3-4 Clinical Level 4 Clinical	3.9, 5.1, 5.2	Application of the principles of inter-professional learning and practice	<p>An update the implementation of a new assessment task to assess the application of the principles of inter-professional learning and practice, including evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the assessment task outline the assessment task marking rubric a range of de-identified samples of completed student assessments. 	30/04/2026
			An update on the implementation of the future planned inter-professional practice day to assess this competency.	30/04/2027
Level 1	5.1, 5.2	Assessment	Evidence of the assessment marking rubric/s used to assess Foundational Competency 1.5 (teamwork).	30/04/2026



Closed monitoring requirements

Evidence confirms that the following monitoring requirements have been met:

Program levels	Criteria	Issues identified	Information required	Outcome
All programs	2.2	External benchmarking	Progress and outcomes of external benchmarking exercise	Met



Summary of findings

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



Commendations

The assessment team commends the UoN on the following:

- The strong and clearly articulated educational philosophy, which is clearly embedded throughout programs and practices.
- The appointment of the Indigenous Scholar and the institution's commitment to cultural responsiveness. Staff and students across levels praised the engaging content including on country experiences.
- The personal and professional services provided to support student wellbeing. The food pantry, PsycCares, was noted as a particularly thoughtful initiative.
- The work integrated learning course in the undergraduate programs creates meaningful opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills in an authentic context.