

Master of Psychology Research Project Supervisor Information

Course Requirements

There are 3 hurdle requirements for this subject.

1. A Research Proposal Presentation. This will comprise a 15 - 20 minute oral Powerpoint presentation of the research proposal to an academic staff audience, consisting of the Supervisor(s) (if available) and two invited members of academic staff. Other students are welcome to attend these presentations. The purpose of this presentation is to provide an avenue for constructive discussion of the proposal, including suggestions for recommended changes. This oral feedback will occur at the completion of each presentation; written feedback will not be provided. The presentation must include: a) a review of relevant background literature, b) aims and hypotheses, c) method section d) anticipated method of analyses. **The due date for the presentation and the presentation schedule will typically be determined by academic staff** and circulated to students. The presentation will occur within the context of a mini-conference that will be scheduled during Semester 2. In certain circumstances, students may be required to organise their own presentation time and arrange the attendance of two independent academic members of staff to attend their presentation; this must occur by the end of the second semester in which they are enrolled in this subject. A Research Thesis Proposal Feedback Form, available on LMS, must be completed by each student and taken to the presentation by each student for the panel members to sign. Once this form is completed (see point 3 below), it should be submitted to Academic Programs Coordinator, Professional Programs, at the 12th floor. An ethics application must be submitted to the relevant ethics committee by the time of the proposal presentation.
2. A written Research Proposal of no more than 1500 words. This is due to the

student's supervisor(s) and the mini-conference panel **2 weeks prior to the student's Proposal Presentation.**

3. A written Literature Review of no more than 3000 words. This is **due to the student's supervisor(s) by Friday 5pm of Week 1 of Semester 2** of the first year of the MPsych. Once submitted to their supervisor, the student must ensure that the Literature Review Submitted box is endorsed and signed by their supervisor on the Research Thesis Proposal Feedback Form, available on LMS. This must be done before the Research Thesis Proposal Feedback Form is submitted to the Academic Programs Coordinator, Professional Programs at the 12th floor.

Note: For combined degree (MPsych/PhD) students, the Proposal should portray an intended study, but would not constitute the final PhD proposal.

Subject Assessment

As these are hurdle requirements, no mark will be allocated for these pieces of work. Completion of all pieces of work, with submission by the relevant due date, is required to receive a Pass grade for this subject.

Types of Research Projects

A number of research types are permissible. These include empirical research based on data collection, meta-analysis of a cutting edge and clinically relevant topic, single case designs, and analyses of previously unanalyzed archival data. Whatever the methodology, the topic should inform a clinical issue, either at a basic or applied scientific level.

Research Supervision and Research Topics

All student research must be supervised by one or more research supervisors. It is the student's responsibility to seek out a supervisor and determine whether they are able to provide supervision. Due to fluctuating supervision loads not all

supervisors will take on students every year.

Many supervisors have projects that they can offer to students, but a student may also approach a researcher with their own idea(s). It is expected that students approach potential supervisors from the beginning of Semester 1 of their 1st year of the course (or earlier). Once a supervisor-student relationship has been agreed to by both parties, the student must complete **the Supervisor & Thesis Registration form** (available on the Research Proposal (PSYC90003) LMS website in the Documents tab) and **submit** it at the 12th floor of the Redmond Barry Building to the Academic Programs Coordinator, Professional Programs (Marianne Langa) **by the end of Week 7, Semester 1** of the first year of the course. The student's internal supervisor must also sign this form.

During Orientation Week of the first year of the MPsych, students will attend a session that provides information regarding the MPsych research process. At this session, a number of internal and external supervisors will present some of the available projects to students. A list of these research topics is provided on the Research Proposal (PSYC90003) LMS website. Students are also encouraged to identify other potential supervisors and projects by examining staff and lab profiles on the School website and approaching members of staff within the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, (MSPS). A staff member can be approached even if that staff member does not have a project listed in the available topics document. All MSPS academic staff can supervise an MPsych research project, as long as the research topic informs a clinical issue at either a basic or applied scientific level. Researchers at affiliated or external institutions may also be approached by students to supervise their research, but all students must have at least one internal MSPS academic supervisor for their project. It is the student's responsibility to obtain an internal supervisor if they wish to have an external supervisor.

Time commitment for research projects

Students are expected to undertake up to approximately 120 hours of data

collection activities across the course of their MPsych research project. Many different types of research projects can be completed to fulfil the requirements of the MPsych thesis, some of which may not formally include direct data collection. Consequently, the student may need to clarify with their supervisor what this time commitment will mean in the context of their particular project.

Marking of theses

MPsych (Clinical) - Allocation of markers is undertaken by Lisa Phillips in a central allocation process that is somewhat similar to the Honours allocation process. All MPsych (Clin) research supervisors are expected to mark theses of MPsych (Clin) students.

MPsych (Clin Neuro) – There is no central marking allocation system for the Clinical Neuropsychology student theses. Each supervisor is expected to organise their student's thesis to be marked by two independent markers from academic staff within MSPS (an internal School version of what occurs with PhD marking) or by external researchers.

It is expected that marking occurs within a 3-week timeframe from receipt of the thesis unless other arrangements have been specifically made (e.g. if staff members are on leave etc.).

Once examination is complete, students will be notified of their final mark and receive feedback from their examiners. A mark of at least 70% is required to pass the Thesis (PSYC90005) subject.

If, on examination, the thesis is awarded a mark that is 70% or greater, the student will receive this as their final mark for Thesis (PSYC90005); in this instance amendments and/or comments from the examiners should be considered as constructive feedback to facilitate publication of the thesis.

If, on examination, the thesis is awarded a mark that is less than 70% the student will be required to undertake the amendments outlined by the examiners. To ensure that these amendments satisfy the requirements of the examiners, the amended thesis together with a document that outlines in detail how the student has addressed each amendment, must be submitted to the student's supervisor. Once amendments are completed to the satisfaction of the student's supervisor the amended thesis, and the document describing the amendments undertaken, must be submitted to the Master's Thesis (PSYC90005) Chair of Examiners for ratification. Once ratified, the student will receive a final mark of 70% for their Thesis (PSYC90005) subject.

Final submission after marking is complete

Students are required to send a copy of their finalized thesis, including any amendments (if required), to their supervisor together with a full copy of their research project database. The student may provide either an electronic 'soft' copy or a bound 'hard' copy of their thesis to their supervisor.

Extension requests

Students may request an extension to the Thesis (PSYC90005) submission deadline by submitting a Thesis Extension Request form to the Academic Programs Coordinator, Professional Programs at the 12th floor of the Redmond Barry Building. This form is available in the Documents tab in the Thesis (PSYC90005) page of LMS. Extensions are granted by the Thesis (PSYC90005) Chair of Examiners and will be granted on a case by case basis.