



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
*Where leaders learn*

**Psychology Department**  
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February 2024

Dear Applicant,

### **Application Process for the Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology**

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the 2025 Masters Course in Counselling Psychology at Rhodes University. This letter provides information about the application procedure and selection process.

The course is a professional training that leads to registration as a counselling psychologist with the Professional Board for Psychology of the Health Professions Council of SA (HPCSA). Further information about the course is available on our website:

<https://www.ru.ac.za/psychology/courses/mastersincounsellingpsychology/>

### **Application**

Applicants must already have or be currently registered in a NQF level-8 qualification in psychology (either an honours degree in Psychology or final year of a Bachelor of Psychology).

Your application must include **all 6 items** listed here. If any item is missing, incorrectly presented or incomplete we will not be able to process your application.

#### **1. Application Form**

The link to the online application form can be found on the Department's Counselling Psychology webpage:

<https://www.ru.ac.za/psychology/courses/mastersincounsellingpsychology/>

It is not necessary at this stage to complete the Official University Application Form. For initial screening purposes, the online application is all that you are required to complete.

There is a R150 administration fee. If you are unable to pay this fee, then please let us know by emailing the Coordinator of Training at [m.campbell@ru.ac.za](mailto:m.campbell@ru.ac.za) to ensure that your application is processed without it.

This administration fee covers the costs incurred by the psychology department during the selections process. The fee should be paid by EFT:

First National Bank  
Branch: Grahamstown  
Branch code: 210717  
Account: 62145503076

Alternatively, this fee can also be paid by cash in person at the Psychology Clinic.

The initial application form is divided into the following sections:

### **a      Personal Information**

In this section you will be asked and should provide the necessary biographical information. Included is an item asking you about your racial identification. The racial categories are defined in accordance with the Employment Equity Act of South Africa, No. 55 of 1998. This information is necessarily collected for purposes of redress; however, we do not subscribe to racial ideology that underpins them.

Another item asks you for your additional language ability. We assume that you can speak, read and write in English.

One item asks you whether you have had your own personal experience of counselling / psychotherapy. Such experience is usually advantageous, but you are under no obligation to provide details.

### **b      Academic Information**

Here you will be required to provide details about your third-year course in psychology and, if already complete, your honours course in psychology.

Additionally, you will be asked to upload your academic record. Provide us with the official records of all marks achieved in university courses. This should include not only courses in Psychology but any other courses, diplomas or degrees you have studied for at a university. Students currently completing their Psychology Honours programme should provide an indication of results to date. Do not include degree or diploma certificates. This file cannot be larger than 1GB. If you cannot upload the file, then please send a copy by email to the Clinic Administrator at [psychologyclinic@ru.ac.za](mailto:psychologyclinic@ru.ac.za).

### **c      Motivation and Relevant Experience**

First you will be asked to provide details of your relevant work or voluntary experience. Use this opportunity to draw our attention to all the relevant experience that you have obtained so far.

You will also be asked to write a statement of motivation (approximately 300 words) indicating *why you wish to train as a counselling psychologist* (as opposed to some other category of psychologist or another helping career). We are interested to see whether you understand what a career as a professional counselling psychologist involves in practice and why you think you are suited to this kind of career. Please consult the recommended readings listed below for additional information:

- Packard, T. (2009). The 2008 Leona Tyler award address: Core values that distinguish counseling Psychology: Personal and professional perspectives. *Counseling Psychologist*, 37, 610–624.
- Young, C. (2013). South African Counselling Psychology at the crossroads: Lessons to be learned from around the world. *South African Journal of Psychology*, 43(4), 422-433.
- Bantjes, J., Kagee, A., & Young, C. (2016). Counselling Psychology in South Africa. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 29(2), 171-183.
- Young, C., Bantjes, J., Kagee, A. (2016). Professional boundaries and the identity of Counselling Psychology in SA. *South African Journal of Psychology*, 41(1), 3-8.
- Lee, D. G. (2019). A global portrait of counselling psychologists' characteristics, perspectives, and professional behaviors. In *A global portrait of counselling psychology* (pp. 1-22). Routledge.

- Haine, P., Young, C., & Booysen, D. D. (2023). Looking back to move forward: a scoping review of counselling psychology in South Africa. *South African Journal of Psychology*, 53(1), 32-43.
- Haine, P., Booysen, D. D., & Young, C. (2023). 'Crushed all over again': the professional experiences of early career counselling psychologists in South Africa. *South African Journal of Psychology*, 00812463231218002.

You will also be asked to write a personal account of your life. This important account should give us an indication of your family of origin, important life events, formative influences and your current circumstances. We are interested in how you can provide a psychologically insightful account of your personal development and an honest self-appraisal of your suitability for a career in Counselling Psychology.

## d Referee Reports

Please provide the names and email address of at least two but preferably three referees who have already agreed to write a reference report for you. At least one should ideally be an academic who is familiar with your academic performance, and a second should be able to speak to your work experience and counselling skills. Referees should be able to provide recent accurate information about the following: your academic ability, your ability to work in a self-motivated and sustained manner, and your ability to relate to others in an empathic manner in a counselling and or other service setting. Family members, friends and personal therapists are not appropriate referees.

Please write to your referees and ask them to complete the referee's report in this google document:

<https://forms.gle/e8CmpMplZdnYcUJX8>

A minimum of two reports are required in order to be considered for the next phase of the selection process.

## The Selection Process

The selection process has three stages:

**Stage 1:** The initial application form will be available from **Thursday 1 February** on the website. Applications will close on **Sunday 31 March at 12:00pm**. ***Please ensure that your referees have submitted their reports by this deadline.*** Applications are reviewed by a committee of staff members of the Rhodes Psychology Department. We receive many applications and can only shortlist around 24 applicants for Stage 2 based on the information provided in the initial application form. The remaining applicants will be informed that their applications have been unsuccessful. We endeavour to inform applicants by **1 May 2024**.

**Stage 2:** Applicants who are invited to Stage 2 must attend a selection procedure at Rhodes University from **10-14 June 2024**. Stage 2 will include interviews and role-plays. The information gathered from these is evaluated by a committee of staff members and approximately 12 applicants are selected to go forward to Stage 3. The remaining applicants will be informed that their applications have been unsuccessful.

**Stage 3:** Applicants who are accepted into Stage 3 attend an interview (which will take place on either **13 or 14 June**) with a Panel of Staff members from the Department of Psychology and the Rhodes University

Student Counselling Centre. After interviewing all the Stage 3 candidates, the Panel offers places to six students in Counselling Psychology. Some of those not offered places at this stage may be put on a waiting list and could be offered places if those to whom places have been offered do not take them up. The remaining applicants will be informed that their applications have been unsuccessful.

### **Further Information and Feedback**

If you would like further information or clarification about the application process, please contact the Clinic Administrator of the Rhodes Psychology Clinic at [psychologyclinic@ru.ac.za](mailto:psychologyclinic@ru.ac.za), Monday to Friday .

Please note that, because we deal with a large number of applications, we cannot provide feedback to those applicants who are unsuccessful at Stage 1. However, we do provide feedback to those applicants who were invited to Stage 2 and/or 3 and were not successful. We look forward to receiving your application.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M Campbell', is shown on a light-colored background.

**Prof. Megan Campbell**

**Programme Coordinator: Masters in Counselling Psychology Professional Programme**