SECTION 20: EXAMINATIONS

Unseen examinations are used to assess both the academic course component, and competence in research methods and statistics. Examinations are held in June of the first and second year.

Papers 1 and 3 assess trainees’ understanding and knowledge of facts and issues that are important for practitioners.

Paper 2 tests candidates’ knowledge of research methods and Paper 4 their knowledge of statistics.

Although the topics of the exams will be taken from the academic curriculum, learning during clinical placements will also be relevant, and through this the candidates’ capacity to think as a practising clinical psychologist. Academic revision will need to be supplemented by an engagement in placement practice (the experience gained in clinical contexts during the training), engagement in discussion and debate during the academic programme, broad reading in clinical psychology and related areas and extended periods of reflection on clinical experience.

OUTLINE OF PAPERS

Year 1
There will be two examination papers.

Paper 1: Theory and application of clinical psychology methods (3 hours)
The paper requires candidates to write short answers on 10 out of 16 topics, under four sections representing the main topics and therapeutic approaches taught during year 1 (up to late May).

Paper 2: Research Methods in Clinical Psychology (2 hours)
This paper requires candidates to write short answers on 8 out of 12 topics, which will reflect the teaching on the Research Methods sub-unit.

Year 2
There will be two examination papers.

Paper 3: Theory and application of clinical psychology methods (advanced level) (3 hours)
The paper requires candidates to write short answers on 8 out of 12 topics and one essay from a choice of 4 topics. The topics will be selected on the basis that they represent fundamental areas of knowledge, and that they have been introduced between mid-May of the first year and during the second year of training (again up to mid-May).

Paper 4: Statistics (3 hours)
The statistics exam will consist of a three-hour invigilated examination in the computer room. Candidates will be given a data set and written details regarding the background of the data, including a description of the population, the measures used and the primary hypotheses of the investigation. Candidates will be expected to use the statistical and computer skills they have gained from the course to answer a series of structured questions about the data set, questions that will be closely linked to the aims and objectives of the source study. Over and above providing numerical and statistical results candidates will also be expected to provide brief narrative answers regarding issues of interpretation. In addition to data analysis that must be completed during the exam, candidates will also have to give brief answers to a series of conceptual questions regarding certain core concepts in statistics, such as basic probability theory, type I and type II error or sampling distributions. Candidates will be allowed to bring textbooks and lecture notes into the examination.
Timing of exams
Year 1, Paper 1       June of Year 1 (for date see timetable)
Year 1, Paper 2       June of Year 1 (for date see timetable)
Year 2, Paper 3       June of Year 2 (for date see timetable)
Year 2, Paper 4       June of Year 2 (for date see timetable)

Marking
Marking procedures are outlined in section 24 of the handbook.

Re-sits
Any re-sits will take place in August or September of the year of the exam. It will be timetabled before the Examination Board meeting which usually takes place in the 2nd or 3rd week of September.

Examination Arrangements for Students with Disabilities or medical conditions
UCL makes provision for students who have a disability or medical condition that would make it difficult to undertake an examination under standard examination conditions.

Initially you may wish to discuss your needs with your course tutor, who will be aware of the procedure.

You should submit a request for alternative arrangements well in advance of the exam if you wish to be considered, as it is UCL Examinations Section (not the Course) that grants permission for any special arrangements. Applications should be submitted as early in the academic year as possible, and not later than six weeks before the start of your first examination.

Specific information about arrangements for students with disabilities can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/disability/special-examination-arrangements

Specific instructions on how to apply can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/disability/special-examination-arrangements/how-to-apply

Contact details for the Disability office are:
Room G16, South Wing
UCL
Gower Street
Telephone: + 44 (0)207 679 0100
Internal telephone extension: 30100
E-mail address: disability@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/disability/contact-us