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What is clinical psychology? Clinical psychology is related to "normal" and "abnormal" behavior. The goal of research is to understand human behavior and apply this knowledge in practice. The field is based on measurment and evaluation. Clinical psychologists adopt various techniques in collecting data and help stressed people or groups who undergo psychological problems. Sometimes they also function in preventive health care. Although this situation indicates common characteristics with other specialization areas, the distinctive feature of clinical psychology is the attitude towards abnormal behaviour. Instead of learning about the nature of behaviour, the aim of the field is to decide what to do and how to deal with pscyhological problems in terms of certain skills. The important point for clinical psychologists in defining and differentiating between normal and abnormal behaviour is conducting research and measurment. The minimum standard for achieving expertise in clinical psychology is to complete a clinical psychology masters program. The master programs are established in the psychology departments of universities. Courses such as psychopathology, psychotherapy, research methods, statistics, personality and intelligence tests, cognitive processes should be included in the curriculum of clinical psychology graduate programs . In additin to the preparation of a thesis (based on research), child and adult supervision during clinical internship is the other requirement for a degree.

What degree will I hold after graduating from your program? Those who successfully complete the program will hold Master of Arts in CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (Diploma in Turkish Program with thesis/nonthesis conditions)

What are the career options for the graduates? In which areas do the clinical psychologists specialize ? The number of people specialized in clinical psychology is below the minimum expectations . Clinical psychlogists can work with psychiatrists on problems related to emotional, cognitive and behavioural issues, problems linked with adolescence, self- esteem issues in adults, life events linked to senelity problems and losses, serious problems such as depression and shizophrenia. The range of research topics extend from psychotherapy to personality characteristics; development of phobias to the determinants of shizophrenia. Clinical psychologists can work in academic contexts as well as in health care and psychological health depatments/units in private /public hospitals, psychotherapy or psychological counselling centres, rehabilitation centres and special eduation institutions, NGOs which provide psychological services, clinical research institutions, work places, schools, nursing homes, forensic fields (family courts, prisons) , public health centres.

What criteria make for a strong applicant? What are the admission requirements for the clinical program ? Evaluations are conducted on the basis of; 1) The application file, 2) The scientific examination (identified in each application period), and 3) Interviews. The weight of each step in the evaluation of the achievement level is equal. After the evaluation of each document in the application file, a score is given to each application file. Those application files that are approved are considered in the evaluation of other steps.

Is practice necessary to be accepted to the program? No special experience is required. Clinical experience is considered as a positive point.

Does experience in clinical practice such as training and /or education constitute a priority in admission to the program? Those activities that are directly or indirectly related to clinical and/or social responsibility are preferred.

How can I prepare for the interview? No special preparation is required. Interview is implemented as a clinical observation and proficiency in talk of the applicant is evaluated. Hence, honesty and self awareness are the most important factors considered during interview.

Can I still apply for the program if I cannot provide the transcripts of my undergraduate program within the announced period of application? Yes; however, if you are accepted to the program, then you should be able to provide the necessary documents till the beginning of the registration date.

Should I include the original documents of ALES and other examinations in the application file ? During the application process you can bring the photocopies of the documents, however, at the registration stage you should provide the original documents.

When is the date for application and does it change every year? Application period is announced approximately one month prior to applications. You can follow the information from the web page or the secretariat of the Social Sciences Institute. The precise dates are announced in the web page.

Can I still apply to your program if I do not have a degree in psychology ? The program accepts all the candidates who are university graduates. However, students from different back grounds should attend to one year scientific preparation for the clinical psychology program. You can seek information via the link given below:

<http://www.isikun.edu.tr/web/1076-7417-1-1/isik_universitesi/akademik/fen-edebiyat_fakultesi__bolumler_ve_programlar__psikoloji__program__klinik_psikoloji_yuksek_lisans_programi/ders_programi>

Can I apply to the program for a second time? There is no limitation for the applications. The procedure is the same for every application.

Can I work during my graduate education and practice? %70 attendance is required. Work is optional, however, priority should be given to the program. Applicants should consider the possibility of morning or evening classes and they should spare some full days for the program.

What are the opportunities and conditions for gaining scholarship? Scholarship cota is identified every year. The rank of the applicants are listed according to their achievements. Grants are distributed in line with achievement standards and needs. The applicants should also consider opportunities from official institutions like TUBİTAK or private establishments. Some institutions where the applicants work also provide grants under advanced education support programs to those who are admitted to graduate programs.

What are the differences between the thesis and the non-thesis (project) programs? Our graduate program in clinical psychology comprises both options. The applicants are placed to programs according to their achievement levels at the admission stage. If approved, those students in the non-thesis program may shift to the thesis program at the end of the first year. The theoretical and applied courses given in both programs are similar. However, those in the thesis program should attend to one hour thesis seminar session /week. The thesis program in comparison to the project option requires research that is time and labour intensive. If the students intend to have a PhD, then the thesis option is recommended. The non-thesis program may be a better option for those who prefer professional practice.

How and where does the internship take place in the second year? The internship and supervision take place in the Counselling Unit of Işık University or in other pscyhotherapy centres and psychiatry services of the hospitals. Each intern is expected to be resposible for a minimum of 3-5 therapy cases and complete 2 comprehensive psychological evaluations. During internship, 3 hours of group supervision, 2 hours of case study meetings, individual superevision (the duration is identified by the supervisor), an hour case presentation/discussion and psychological evaluation are mendatory in the program. Supervisions provided in external institutions are excluded from this schedule. During the internship period, each intern receives supervision from the clinical supervisors of the program. The students who graduate from this program should be aware that they are not fully competent as clinicians yet and that they should develop themselves continuously with extra- training .

Is there a distinction between the theoretical / clinical orientations of the program? The program is structured as a systemic- integrative adult sub-program and a child-adolescent sub-program. Besides the descriptive and analytical approaches, cognitive-behavioural and humanistic approaches are also included in the theoretical courses and supervision. All the faculty members and supervisors share the value of not being dogmatic and promote supportive attitudes. Renewal (deconstruction) of psychotherapy investigations and development of theoretical knowlege and skills are the main goals of the program. We encourage our students to develop their awarenes of the importance of therapeutic and healing factors in therapy. Other basic clinical formation skills are also taught to our students in the training process that would add to the development of their theoretical/clinical perspectives.

With whom can I communicate for more information ? If you have unanswered questions, you can mail to Munise Işık, the program secretary: munise@isikun.edu.tr or sbe@isikun.edu.tr