



Factsheet for Suitability Statements

CLEARING HOUSE FOR POSTGRADUATE
COURSES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Thank you for providing a Suitability Statement for someone applying for clinical psychology training. When writing the Suitability Statement, please bear in mind that **application to these courses is highly competitive** and Suitability Statements play an important part in the selection process. Please also bear in mind the responsibility to **provide an accurate portrayal** of the person applying.

These Suitability Statements are used in a variety of ways by different clinical psychology courses within their selection processes, so **both the text questions and the ratings questions are important**.

Rating Questions

All Suitability Statements include questions using a rating scheme of 1 to 5. Please remember that:

1 is a LOW rating and 5 is a HIGH rating

If you are **rating someone 3 or lower** for any question, can you **please give details** of the reasons in the text questions at the end of the Suitability Statement.

Text Questions

For the text questions, please give enough detail for it to be meaningful but bear in mind that clinical psychology courses receive hundreds of applications each year. In order for courses to be able to see evidence of knowledge or competence, please **give brief specific examples to demonstrate the person's ability/competence/performance**.

Who should provide a Suitability Statement

Each Suitability Statement should be written by only one person. Applicants are asked to nominate one person to write their Academic Suitability Statement and a different person to write their Experience Suitability Statement.

If you are unable to comment on the areas covered by the type of Suitability Statement you are being asked to write, we would encourage you to discuss this with the person applying. **If you are only able to provide a standardised document which does not address the questions in the Suitability Statement**, or you are unable to answer several of the questions asked in the Suitability Statement, please let the person know as this could adversely affect their application. You can find sample copies of both types of Suitability Statement at our website, for information:

www.clearing-house.org.uk/applications/references-suitability-statements/choosing-who-nominate

Academic Suitability Statements should, where possible, be from an academic institution where the person applying has studied and, as their nominee, **you should have direct experience of their academic performance** (i.e. competence in academic performance, academic study/scholarship, and research experience/performance).

If you are providing an **Experience Suitability Statement** you should have **direct experience of**, and be able to comment on, **the applicant's performance in a relevant clinical and professional context** i.e. you should have worked with the applicant in a therapy setting (and/or research context if appropriate). The applicant should nominate their current employer to provide their Experience Suitability Statement, where possible. However, applicants may request a Suitability Statement from a previous employer if there is a good reason e.g. they are not currently working in a relevant role, or they have only worked in their current role for a few months, or their current employer can only provide a standard HR reference. They will be asked in their application to explain why they are not nominating the current employer to provide their Experience Suitability Statement.

Please note that you should not normally provide a Suitability Statement for your close relations, members of your immediate household or your business partner. In other words, **the applicant should not have personal connections with you**.

What is the person applying for?

The applicant is applying for clinical psychology training. The qualification is a three-year full-time doctoral level degree which integrates research, academic

and clinical practice throughout all aspects of the training in order to prepare students for practice as professional Clinical Psychologists, eligible to apply for registration with the Health & Care Professions Council and for Chartered Clinical status with the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Once qualified, Clinical Psychologists provide face-to-face therapy for individuals, families and groups. They also supervise and teach other professions to provide psychological treatments. Clinical Psychologists apply the science of Psychology to a range of clinical healthcare services. Clinical Psychologists use this knowledge to design, implement and evaluate healthcare services that enhance wellbeing and minimise ill-health and impairment. They are trained to apply their knowledge in systematic methods and practice which are scientifically evaluated, and to test clinical practice for its effectiveness. Clinical Psychologists are committed to research, both drawing on the evidence base and contributing to it. Clinical Psychologists offer leadership in organisational development, audit, service redesign and development.

Data Protection

Whilst it is Clearing House policy to keep Suitability Statements confidential, due to data protection law this cannot be guaranteed. If an applicant requests a copy of a Suitability Statement we will contact you for your authorisation to release it. However, please assume that applicants may be able to see the Suitability Statement. For more information on data protection and privacy, please see our website:

www.clearing-house.org.uk/about-us/data-protection-privacy