



Sample Experience Suitability Statement

CLEARING HOUSE FOR POSTGRADUATE
COURSES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Guidance

Please submit Suitability Statements by 4 December 2026. The Experience Suitability Statement can only be provided by one person.

On our website please **click Edit** to work on a Suitability Statement. If you need a copy after editing, you can download the PDF.

We suggest that you **save your answers regularly** to avoid losing work.

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.**

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 we will contact you for your authorisation to release it. However, please **assume the applicant may be able to see the Suitability Statement.** Please [see the Data Protection & Privacy section of our website](#) for further details.

Please bear in mind the responsibility to **provide an accurate portrayal of the applicant: both their weaknesses and strengths.** This helps courses to choose the best people to train and **work with vulnerable adults and children.**

You are providing information that can play an important part in selection for doctoral level clinical psychology training. Application to these courses is highly competitive.

Please **let the applicant know**, because **this could adversely affect their application**, if:

- you **do not have direct experience of** and **are unable to comment** on their performance in a relevant role. Their role should be relevant to clinical psychology and be in a clinical context i.e. in a therapy setting (and/or research context if appropriate)
- and/or you are **unable to answer** several of the questions below
- and/or you are **only able to provide a standard reference document** which does not address the questions below

All the questions are mandatory. Most questions have a "not applicable" or similar option if absolutely necessary.

When you Submit the Suitability Statement we will email to confirm receipt. You **cannot edit the Suitability Statement after you have submitted it.**

Thank you for your help. If you have any queries please [contact us](#).

Personal details

Your details

Your name:

Your Occupation/Role:

Your email address:

Your postal address:

Applicant's details

Applicant's name:

Applicant's Occupation/Role (during their work/study with you):

Dates you worked with the applicant (month & year):

From: To:

Ratings questions

How many Suitability Statements have you ever written for Clearing House applications?

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1 to 3
- ☐ 4 to 6
- ☐ more than 6

I know the applicant

- ☐ casually
- ☐ fairly well
- ☐ very well

I have known the applicant for

- ☐ less than one year
- ☐ one to two years
- ☐ over two years

I have known the applicant as

- ☐ an undergraduate vocational worker
- ☐ a postgraduate assistant/researcher
- ☐ a salaried member of staff
- ☐ a voluntary worker
- ☐ other - please specify:

Have you regularly and directly supervised the applicant in their work?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Can't comment

Would you employ the applicant in a similar capacity again?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Can't comment

How would you rate their ability to form positive working alliances with clients and colleagues?

- ☐ 1 - poor
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 - excellent
- ☐ unable to rate

How would you rate their ability to use supervision effectively?

- ☐ 1 - poor
- ☐ 2

- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 - excellent
- ☐ unable to rate

How would you rate their ability to communicate complex/sensitive information to clients and colleagues?

- ☐ 1 - poor
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 - excellent
- ☐ unable to rate

How would you rate their ability to reflect on their own performance and on their strengths/weaknesses?

- ☐ 1 - poor
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 - excellent
- ☐ unable to rate

How would you rate their ability to organise their workload under pressure?

- ☐ 1 - poor
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 - excellent
- ☐ unable to rate

What is your overall judgement of their ability to successfully complete a clinical psychology training course?

- ☐ I have significant doubts about their ability to complete a course.
- ☐ I think they would struggle to get through a course.
- ☐ Although they have some strengths I think they would struggle in some areas.
- ☐ I think they would manage most areas of the course well.

- ☐ I think they would have no difficulty in any area of the course.
- ☐ Can't comment

Text questions

For the text questions below please bear in mind that courses receive 100s of applications: please **give brief specific examples** of the **person's ability/competence/performance**.

If you are **rating 3 or lower** for any question above please also give reasons in the text questions below.

To assist anonymisation, please **use "the applicant" or a single initial instead of their name**, use "they" or "s/he" instead of he or she, etc.

Please comment on the applicant's intellectual competence:

1. Does the applicant show evidence that they can think creatively about their work?
2. Are they able to apply their knowledge e.g. by showing ingenuity in problem-solving?
3. Is the applicant suited to a further period of intensive academic work alongside demands of a more practical kind?
4. Is the applicant's written work of an appropriate standard?

Please comment on the applicant's performance in the work situation: can the applicant meet the requirements of their post; do they appear motivated; are they capable of striking the right balance between autonomy and responsiveness to supervision?

Please comment on the applicant's interaction with colleagues and/or clients: does the applicant show a capacity to relate appropriately; to show sensitivity; to be resilient in the face of difficulties?