

## TESTIMONIALS

“I just wanted to write and say thank you for delivering this unit - great addition to the course.....I look forward to working with you in future units. Thanks for your time and the feedback provided throughout the unit.”

Jamie

“I’ve found that the Monash Masters has a flexible structure and engaging content, and I’ve particularly enjoyed the opportunities to meet teachers and peers at weekend workshops throughout the semester. I would highly recommend it to anyone considering enrolment.”

Robbie

## FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://handbook.monash.edu/2025/courses/m6022?year=2025>

**Dr Izaak Lim** (Psychiatry Stream Coordinator)

**Andrea Peres** (Course Administrator)

Department of Psychiatry,

School of Clinical Sciences at Monash Health

### Contact details

mmhs.psych@monash.edu



# ARE YOU WORKING AS A PSYCHIATRIST-IN-TRAINING REGISTRAR?

The Monash University MASTER OF PSYCHIATRY is accredited by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' (RANZCP) and corresponds to the curriculum requirements of the Formal Education Course (FEC) as described in the college regulations for trainees in a clinical training program for psychiatrists.

## YEAR 1 (24 cpts)

Discipline Skills (Core)

Psychiatrists in Training

### PIT5001 FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHIATRY 1

#### Unit Coordinators:

Dr Ruwanthi De Alwis Seneviratne and  
Dr Graham Lai

#### This unit:

- Commences with a historical overview of psychiatry and focuses on the essential clinical practice skills required for adequate performance as a clinician in a mental health setting
- Addresses the psychiatric interview, history taking and collateral history, phenomenology, mental state examination, the use of structured instruments (e.g. MADRS, HONOS) and psychiatric risk assessment - the fundamental tools of a comprehensive psychiatric assessment
- Introduces you to the concept, *“What are the patient and their family really trying to tell me?”* via an introduction to psychodynamic concepts underlying a good psychiatric interview
- Covers aspects of professionalism that underpin your upcoming career as a psychiatrist including a review of ethics and professionalism in psychiatry, mental health law and related legislation
- Provides a primer to basic sciences in psychiatry including psychiatric genetics to enable further inquiry

### PIT5002 FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHIATRY 2

#### Unit Coordinator:

Dr Vaidy Swaminathan

#### This unit:

- Explores the individual diagnostic categories of disorders with respect to their aetiology, neurobiology, epidemiology, classification, assessment and diagnosis and management and outcomes
- Seeks to upskill you to have an In Depth Knowledge (IDK) of the individual disorders required by the RANZCP curriculum
- Expects you to develop a sophisticated understanding of the principles of recovery focussed care underpinned by a superior understanding of the role of lived experience and patient and family participation in the management of these disorders
- Reviews and introduces you to evidence-based mental health that includes the foundation skills of learning to read a research paper and developing the ability to critically appraise evidence

### PIT5003 FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHIATRY 3

#### Unit Coordinator:

Dr Cameron Ray

#### This unit:

- Explores the Mental Health Policy within an Australian and Global context, followed by an overview of mental health system and service reforms
- Addresses social aspects of psychiatry including power differential and collaborative practice as well as responses from the community in terms of stigma and attitudes and discrimination
- Explores overarching epidemiology of mental disorders in Australia with particular reference to the high prevalence disorders and the impact of psychotic illness (Survey of High Impact Psychosis – SHIP) and the measurement of disability as well as the impact of NDIS (National Disability Insurance Service) on mental health policy and practice and its impact for patients, families and carers
- Explores cultural competency, with particular reference to the mental health needs of the indigenous people as well as minorities and persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Provides an overview of the Normal Development across the life span of an individual and the mental health connotations of this
- Reviews various core psychological and personality theories in detail

### MHS5104 PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY & PHYSICAL TREATMENTS IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE

#### Unit Coordinators:

Dr Richard Bradlow and  
A/Prof Judy Hope

#### This unit:

- Provides students with a theoretical underpinning of psychopharmacology and physical treatments, such as electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), as used in contemporary psychiatric practice
- Reviews the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of psychotropic medications and the principles of safe prescribing according to the age, health and cultural background of the patient involved and critically analyses how medications affect physiological, biochemical and pathophysiological processes
- Covers antidepressants, antipsychotics, anxiolytics, hypnotics, mood stabilisers, psychostimulants and other adjunctive psychotropic medications
- Explores the indications, mechanisms of action, side-effects and interaction with pharmacotherapies with physical therapies like ECT and TMS,
- Forms one of the foundations of your training as a psychiatrist well versed in various biological treatment options for mental illnesses.

## YEAR 2 (24 cpts)

Select Core units and 2 units from Electives:

Discipline Skills (Core)

### PIT5005 - Core PSYCHIATRY OF THE MEDICALLY ILL

#### Unit Coordinator:

Dr Ling Chua  
Dr Rebecca Dang

#### This unit:

- Provides a comprehensive overview of the various aspects of consultation-liaison psychiatry from the history and evolution of the subspecialty to management of psychiatric disorders in specialist medical units. Consultation-liaison can be a challenging area to work in but the psychiatrist with their medical and psychological training can make a major contribution to patient care.
- Explores the psychological response to illness for patients and examines the major theoretical models such as existential suffering that can assist in developing a psychiatric formulation.
- Addresses the broader issues of working in a general hospital setting such as assessment and management of medically ill patients, ethical, legal and staff issues that may arise.
- Provides an introduction to psychological approaches to helping patients and their families
- Covers the common psychiatric disorders seen in specialty areas such as psycho-oncology, intensive care, renal, cardiac, respiratory, infectious diseases, women's health, gastrointestinal and neurology units.
- Outlines some of the common drug interactions in specialty areas
- Discusses domestic violence presentations in consultation-liaison psychiatry

#### Offered:

Semester 1 and Semester 2

### PIT5006 - Core CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

#### Unit Coordinator:

A/Prof Soumya Basu  
Dr Shreyus Shivanand

#### This unit:

- introduces and prepares students in essentials of the mental health care of children, adolescents and their families such as introduction to epidemiology, etiology, neurobiology, and principles of diagnostic paradigms, assessment, formulation and management of child and adolescent psychiatric disorders
- develops foundation skills in interviewing, assessment and formulation of children and adolescent mental health patients, mental status examination, working with a multi-disciplinary team, appropriate medical assessments, psychological assessments, use of collateral sources, family interviewing, developmental assessment, principles of identifying, diagnosing and managing major clinical presentations
- provides students with practical training that will assist in their work during their posting at the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and during their work in the community where they exposed to complex systems issues and family issues. Complex issues covered include childhood trauma, children living with parents with mental illness, neurodevelopment disorders as well as clinically relevant issues like self-harming behaviour, eating disorders, school refusal, internet addiction and infant mental health
- addresses management of child and adolescent psychiatry including various psychotherapies, medication management and family interventions
- provides a sound academic platform for the trainee psychiatrist's clinical training

#### Offered:

Semester 1 and Semester 2

Advanced Specialist  
Study (Elective)

### ASC5004 - Elective ADDICTION ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT: PRACTICE & INNOVATION

### CPS5001 - Elective PSYCHOANALYTIC & DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES 1

### CPS5002 - Elective NORMAL DEVELOPMENTAL OBSERVATION

### CPS5003 - Elective PSYCHOANALYTIC & DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES 2

### MHS5101 - Elective MENTAL HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY

### MHS5103 - Elective CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH & PRACTICE IN FAMILY VIOLENCE

### MHS5105 - Elective FUNDAMENTALS OF FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

### MHS5106 - Elective ETHICS OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE

## YEAR 3 (24 cpts)

Research / Capstone (Core)

Advanced Specialist  
Study (Elective)

### SRH5001 – Core RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTH

### SRH5032 – Core APPLIED RESEARCH FOR HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

### MHS5100 - Core CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND CONTROVERSIES IN MENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE

### PSYCHIATRY CAPSTONE

#### + ELECTIVE

Select 1 further unit from the  
Year 2 Advanced Specialist  
Study electives

The **Master of Psychiatry** is located within a suite of degrees represented by the **Master of Mental Health Science** program. This is a three-year, part-time online course that provides advanced training and upskilling taught by accomplished academics and clinicians within the Department of Psychiatry at Monash University and complements the entrustable clinical activities undertaken through the RANZCP training program. Assessment is by coursework and includes assignments, MCQs and work-based activities, as well as one face-to-face workshop per semester.

The Master of Psychiatry can also be completed by Research Project or Minor Thesis. Please speak to the course coordinator for further details.