

*Q: I have a proposal idea for the research assignment, but would also like to apply for current research as well – can I do both?*

You don't need a research idea/proposal before you start on the course, we keep a database of studies and look to match these to a student's interests. We are also happy to discuss ideas you may already have, and if supervisors are available will try to make this work.

*Q: What do referees need to include in their references?*

References need to show academic ability and the capacity for post-graduate study – it is also helpful if they comment on relevant underpinning competencies which relate to placement work such as adult learning.

*Q: I am currently in my 3rd year at University studying a BSc Hons Counselling Psychology, I am aiming to apply for the MRes but I am unaware as to what degree classification I will be getting as of yet, am I still able to apply?*

Yes you are able to apply, and in this case your academic referee in particular will need to emphasise your academic performance to date (especially in research) and your predicted grade – any offers would then be conditional on you achieving this.

*Q: I am currently a third-year university student on track for a 1st or a 2.1 degree. I am interested in applying to your university to do my master's degree but with such a selection of degrees, I am not sure what MSc I should be applying for. What would you recommend for someone who is interested in becoming a clinical psychologist? or counselling psychologist. Any advice would be much appreciated.*

The Clinical Psychology MRes was set up to enhance students' knowledge and skills in both applied research and 'professional' competencies such as presentations, applications and interviewing – together with teaching from Clinical Psychologists. We also offer placements which involve working alongside Psychologists either in a university or health care setting - by contrast, a research only MSc focusses mainly on developing research skills. Either route is recognised as enhancing a Clinical Doctorate application, but they provide different experiences – the MRes is broader and the MSc route more focused, so we would recommend choosing based on what you feel needs strengthening in your knowledge and skill set.

*Q: I am applying to the MRes, and have almost submitted the application; however, I am unsure as to the section that says "Research Ideas". I understand that without filling mandatory fields I cannot proceed with my application. I understand that it is okay not to have a supervisor or a research idea in mind, therefore I don't necessarily know what to include in that section.*

As the University of Birmingham uses standard online application forms this can cause confusion! It is true that you are not required to name a supervisor or a study, but please feel free to mention research ideas you may have/leave blank or insert "not required for this programme".

*Q: I graduated high school from a British curriculum school but don't have English as my first language – does this meet your language requirements or do I need to take the IELTS test?*

In terms of English Language proficiency, we require either an approved qualification or evidence of a lower degree being conducted in English. For further information please see entry requirements for international students:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgt/requirements-pgt/international/index.aspx>

*Q: Does the summary document form part of the online application?*

Yes, the summary document forms part of the online application.

*Q: Apart from academic ability, what will make me stand out as a candidate?*

As the Clinical Psychology MRes is focused on developing students who wish to go on to train either as a Clinical Psychologist or work in applied psychology PhD/Research work - in addition to research and academic skills, we look for relevant experience such as in care work or working alongside a Psychologist.

*Q: What is the deadline for this course?*

The deadline for applications is the 31st of March in the calendar year in which you wish to start the course.