Psychology Health Clearance

All Psychology courses that include work placements have health clearance requirements, depending on the type of the placement, these health clearance requirements include completion of a health declaration questionnaire and checks on vaccination status and immunity. Placements are likely to be clinical settings in either the NHS or forensic practice settings.

Clearance requirements for Clinical Psychology placements

Placements undertaken within the NHS will involve direct contact with patients. The NHS requires the following standard health checks and immunisations for all staff whose role routinely involves direct contact with patients:

TB checks – these will involve enquiry for symptoms of TB (included as part of the health declaration questionnaire) and a Mantoux test. The Mantoux test involves injecting a small amount of Tuberculin under the skin, this will be carried out by the University’s Occupational Health team during an appointment, a second appointment is required within 72 hours to confirm the result of this test. Some people will in addition be offered a blood test if these initial checks indicate they are at high risk of having had a previous exposure to TB.

MMR – evidence of having received two doses of MMR are also required. If you have not received this vaccination course, or only partially completed this, then you can request this from your GP prior to starting at the University. If you have been unable to access MMR vaccination then this will be offered to you, by Occupational Health, on starting your course.

Chicken Pox immunity – if you have not had chicken pox infection you will be offered a blood test to determine whether you have immunity to this infection. If you are not immune then you will be offered the vaccination, the course comprises two doses.

Hepatitis B – you will be offered Hepatitis B vaccination, if you have not previously received this. This involves a course of three doses and then a blood test to confirm immunity. If you have been partially vaccinated prior to starting your course then Occupational Health will offer you the outstanding vaccinations to complete the course. If you have been vaccinated, perhaps as a child, and have not had your response to the vaccine confirmed by a blood test in the past, Occupational Health will give you a booster dose of hepatitis B vaccine and then, at a second appointment, take your blood to confirm your response.

When you complete your health declaration questionnaire you will be able to attach the evidence (such as a vaccination printout from your GP) of vaccinations you have already received or blood test results (such as an immunisation record printout from a previous Occupational Health provider) which will support you achieving the necessary clearance for your work placements specifically.

For further information please see:

[HEOPS Fitness Standards for Practitioner Psychologists](https://heops.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2019/09/1521730939HEOPS_Practitioner_Psychologists_Students_fitness_standards_2016_v7.pdf)

[Department of Health – clearance for new healthcare workers](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382152/health_clearance_tuberculosis_hepatitis_hiv.pdf)

[Immunisation of healthcare and laboratory staff – Chapter 12](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/147882/Green-Book-Chapter-12.pdf)

Clearance requirements for Forensic Psychology placements (Forensic Clinical Psychology and Forensic Psychology Practice)

Whilst all courses require MMR vaccination and checks for chicken pox and Tuberculosis (a Mantoux test), the forensic courses also require BCG (when indicated by the result of the Mantoux test) and Hep B before placements can commence. Trainees who work in forensic settings are more likely to be exposed to both TB and Hepatitis B during a Forensic placement therefore the following also applies:

TB (BCG vaccine) – Prior to giving any adult a BCG a Mantoux test is required, which involves injecting a small amount of Tuberculin under the skin, this will be carried out by the University’s Occupational Health team during an appointment, a second appointment is required within 72 hours to confirm the result of this test. Some people will in addition be offered a blood test if these initial checks indicate they are at high risk of having had a previous exposure to TB. If your Mantoux test (and blood test, if this has been required) is negative, you will be offered a BCG vaccination to provide you with some protection against TB. Should you not attend for both Mantoux appointments then the School will need to be informed as your options for some Forensic placements may be restricted.

Hepatitis B – you are strongly encouraged to receive hepatitis B vaccinations, should you choose not to receive these then the School will need to be informed as your options for some Forensic placements may be restricted.

When you complete your health declaration questionnaire you will be able to attach the evidence (such as a vaccination printout from your GP) of vaccinations you have already received or blood test results (such as an immunisation record printout from a previous Occupational Health provider) which will support you achieving the necessary clearance for your work placements specifically.

For further information please see:

[HEOPS Fitness Standards for Practitioner Psychologists](https://heops.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2019/09/1521730939HEOPS_Practitioner_Psychologists_Students_fitness_standards_2016_v7.pdf)

[Department of Health – clearance for new healthcare workers](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382152/health_clearance_tuberculosis_hepatitis_hiv.pdf)

[Immunisation of healthcare and laboratory staff – Chapter 12](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/147882/Green-Book-Chapter-12.pdf)