

Guidelines for employers who offer NUS undergraduate Psychology major students a clinical internship/practicum

Note: Clinical work is defined as any work that is undertaken directly with clients, such as assessment, behavioural observation or support, interviewing or discussing with clients or/and their family members, and any forms of intervention.

1. Code of Ethics

Do encourage student to be familiar with the Singapore Psychology's Code of Ethics¹ which articulates the professional conduct of Psychologists practicing in Singapore.

2. Work Plan

Do review the student's work plan before the commencement of the placement.

3. Self-Introduction

Ensure that the student does not misrepresent him/herself as "Psychologist or Therapist or Counsellor", and instead as "NUS student on internship/practicum".

4. Supervision & Direct Clinical Work

- Identify an on-site supervisor and a back-up supervisor in the event that the on-site supervisor is away.
- Do provide the relevant knowledge, skills, and adequate training before the student engages in any direct clinical work, especially if the work is unfamiliar to the student.
- All direct clinical work should be supervised.
- Provide student with preliminary information on the clients that they will be working with, e.g., presenting problems, medical problems, and formulation.
- Where possible, educate student on evidence-based practices.

5. Other matters: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Documentation, Confidentiality, & Contract of Service

Provide student with:

- Orientation on SOPs for emergencies at the work site.
- Relevant templates for documentation.
- Information about confidentiality practices.
- Contract of Service.

¹ <https://singaporepsychologicalsociety.org/singapore-register-of-psychologists/>

Note:

The above guidelines do not entail the endorsement of any internship/practicum by the Department of Psychology, NUS.

6. Contact

If you have any questions or feedback about the internship/practicum, please contact Ms Regina Siew from the Dean's Office at reginasiew@nus.edu.sg.

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