



PSYU3399: Psychological Science Putting Theory into Practice

SESSION 2 (AUG-NOV) - 32 HRS

PSYU3399 is a work placement which students undertake in their third year of study. Students can be placed in a variety of settings.

WHAT IS PSYU3399?

PSYU3399 is undertaken during the third year of an undergraduate degree (preferably in the final session) in preparation for leaving to find employment with a psychology degree or to prepare for further study.

In this unit, students undertake a 32 hour placement with a local, regional or international organisation in order to find out about a significant social problem and to gain first-hand understanding of professional practice as a psychologist, counsellor or another profession allied to psychology. Using this experience, students will have the opportunity to reflect on their undergraduate learning to date and on how they might use it in the real world. They will integrate and synthesise the information from the various sub-disciplines in psychology, and think critically and practically about real world problems.

STUDENT SKILLS

- Project management;
- Statistical analysis and research methods;
- Writing reports and/or other forms of documentation;
- Communication skills;
- Teamwork and interpersonal skills;

- Self-management skills (e.g. time management, problem-solving, presentation);
- More specific skills and knowledge depending on the precise nature of the placement.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify a social issue and devise practical solutions that are supported by sound psychological theories and evidence;
- Engage with a local organisation in order to learn about a significant social issue and how it is being addressed in that organisation, and to develop practical skills and knowledge;
- Critically evaluate a body of literature on a social issue in relation to relevant psychology sub-disciplines;
- Integrate and synthesise knowledge from various psychology sub-disciplines;
- Critically reflect on how the different sub-disciplines in psychology link within the whole person and apply to wider social contexts, including the placement organisation's activities;
- Reflect on their learning in psychology (including practical learning), and its application to professional and ethical practice (including at their volunteer placement);
- Demonstrate effective oral, written and visual communication skills that are appropriate to the purpose, medium and audience.

'PACE was a once in a lifetime opportunity, I am so grateful I got the opportunity to do it. I spent the month with people I otherwise wouldn't have met, learnt new skills and utilized existing ones I forgot existed. I learnt more than I could have imagined and had fun. It can be difficult at times but overall it is a totally worthwhile experience.'

STEPHANIE GOODMAN, PSYU3399 STUDENT

'I never considered social welfare as a possible career avenue. It's now opened up my eyes not only to where I can take my psychology degree in social welfare terms, but it's really opened up some career opportunities.'

JOELLE FA, PSYU3399 STUDENT

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

The types of activities that students undertake during placement are varied and very flexible but must relate to psychology. There are generally two types of placement activities:

- Taking part in the day-to-day activities of the organisation; or
- Working on a specific pre-defined project.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES

- Working with troubled or disadvantaged young people;
- Designing and facilitating a program and materials for refugee children to aid learning;
- Researching homeless populations in NSW;
- Preparing a literature review on behavioural

change and how this can be applied to dementia prevention programs;

- Analysing the role of student groups in terms of university social inclusion and student engagement;
- Participating in, and observing day-to-day activities for psychologists in private practice, or community centres;
- Participating in, and observing classes run for children with emotional and behavioural disorders;
- Developing resources to build academic resilience in tertiary students.

ASSESSMENT

Students are expected to complete a project report in one of two formats:

A standard project report in 5 parts:

- Planning for the placement;

- The development of professional skills during placement;
- Using academic skills during placement;
- Reflecting on their undergraduate experience and the placement;
- Devising practical solutions to the social issue addressed at the placement;

Or

A notable incident or analysis of a 'defining moment' during placement, in 5 parts:

- Planning for the placement;
- The defining moment/event: context, thoughts, feelings and actions;
- What was learnt from the defining moment/event?
- Reflecting on undergraduate experience and the defining moment/event;
- Devising practical solutions to the social issue addressed at placement.



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