

Play Therapy



Information Seminar: Master of Social Sciences in Play Therapy

19 Jan 2024 @ Hong Kong Shue Yan University

Background: Needs of Children in Hong Kong

- Educational Bureau (2021) reported that **56,640 children** with special needs were enrolled in mainstream primary and secondary schools throughout Hong Kong.
- The coronavirus-related class suspensions have a significant impact on children. Save the Children Hong Kong (a non-governmental organisation) suggests that as many as **39%** of the primary and secondary students may have developed symptoms of mental health disorders during this period (Pawlowski, Pui, Ng & Li, 2020).

Background: Play and Play Therapy

1

- Play is the language of children.

2

- Through play, children process their life experiences, express their inner world, develop their autonomy and self-esteem, and regain their mastery over life.



Background: Play and Play Therapy

3

- Play therapy is able to address the needs of a wide range of children, including children with mental health issues, special educational needs, or physical illness.

4

- Play therapy is internationally recognised as a distinct profession, which requires a distinct set of specialised skills.



Play Therapy Training at the Department of Counselling & Psychology, Hong Kong Shue Yan University

- 2013-2015 MSocSc Play Therapy (3-year part time; Hong Kong Shue Yan University in Collaboration with University of South Wales)
- Currently CP515 Psychotherapy II and CP 500 Play Therapy in Master of Social Sciences in Counselling and Psychology
- 2022, the first cohort of MSocSc Play Therapy (24 full-time/part-time students)



Master of Social Sciences in Play Therapy

- MSocSc Play Therapy at HKSYU is the only professional master's degree of its kind based in Hong Kong, and the first to be fully developed locally.
- The programme was accredited under the University's Programme Area Accreditation Status at HKQF Level 6 in Counselling and Psychology and is listed under the Qualifications Register.
- The counselling and psychology department of Hong Kong Shue Yan University is committed to train professional play therapists, play therapy researchers, future educators, and leaders in the field.



Master of Social Sciences in Play Therapy

QF Level	6	
Social Science (Counselling) Programme Area Last Accredited at QF6 by HKCAAVQ	2022	
Commencement of MSocSc Play Therapy Programme	September 2022	
Programme Length of the bi-mode study	Full-time 2 Years	Part-time 3 Years
Number of Credits	45	

Overview of the Two-Year Full-Time Mode Curriculum

- Cluster I: Theory and Knowledge in Play Therapy
- Cluster II: Practice-Based Competency
- Cluster III: Research: Evidence Based Practice

Fall Semester I

Cluster*	Title	Credits	
I	MPT501 Introduction to Play Therapy	3	
I	MPT502 Micro-Skills in Counselling	3	
I	MPT503 Professional and Ethical Issues in Play Therapy	3	
I	MPT506 Working with Parents and Families	3	

Spring Semester I

Cluster	Title	Credits	
I	MPT507 Child Psychopathology	3	
I	MPT504 Advanced Play Therapy Skills	3	
I	Electives:** PSY503 Lifespan Developmental Psychology or MPT510 Introduction to Expressive Arts Therapy	3	

Summer Semester I

Cluster	Title	Credits	
III	MPT508 Research Methods in Play Therapy Studies	3	
I	Electives:** PSY504 Personality and Individual Differences or MPT509 Filial Therapy	3	

Fall Semester II

Cluster	Title	Credits	
I	MPT505 Cultural Issues in Play Therapy	3	
II	MPT511 Play Therapy Practicum I	3	
III	MPT514 Research on Evidence-Based Practice Project I	3	

Spring Semester II

Cluster	Title	Credits	
II	MPT512 Play Therapy Practicum II	3	
II	MPT513 Play Therapy Practicum III	3	
III	MP515 Research on Evidence-Based Practice Project II	3	
	Total	45	

Overview of the Three-Year Part-Time Mode Curriculum

- Cluster I: Theory and Knowledge in Play Therapy
- Cluster II: Practice-Based Competency
- Cluster III: Research: Evidence Based Practice

Fall Semester I		
Cluster	Title	Credits
I	MPT501 Introduction to Play Therapy	3
I	MPT503 Professional and Ethical Issues in Play Therapy	3
Spring Semester I		
Cluster	Title	Credits
I	MPT504 Advanced Play Therapy Skills	3
I	Electives:**PSY503 Lifespan Developmental Psychology or MPT510 Introduction to Expressive Arts Therapy	3
Summer Semester I		
Cluster	Title	Credits
III	MPT508 Research Methods in Play Therapy Studies	3
I	Electives:** PSY504 Personality and Individual Differences or MPT509 Filial Therapy	3
Fall Semester II		
Cluster	Title	Credits
I	MPT502 Micro-Skills in Counselling	3
I	MPT505 Cultural Issues in Play Therapy	3
I	MPT506 Working with Parents and Families	3
Spring Semester II		
Cluster	Title	Credits
I	MPT507 Child Psychopathology	3
III	MPT514 Research on Evidence-Based Practice Project I	3
Fall Semester III		
Cluster	Title	Credits
II	MPT511 Play Therapy Practicum I	3
III	MPT515 Research on Evidence-Based Practice Project II	3
Spring Semester III		
Cluster	Title	Credits
II	MPT512 Play Therapy Practicum II	3
II	MPT513 Play Therapy Practicum III	3
	Total	45

Competent Teaching Faculty and Qualified Supervision Team

- . The department has a total of 30 full-time academic staff with PhD degree, 1 graduate advisor and 1 placement coordinator.
- . 9 of the existing full-time members will play different roles in the programme. 7 of them have experiences in teaching or supervising master students.
- . 2 part-time RPTS(APT), 2 part-time RPTS(APPTA), 2 adjunct professor with RPTS(APPTA,BAPT)

Personal Growth

50 hours of personal counselling or therapy

Play Therapy Practice with Clinical Supervision Arranged by HKSYU

- 3 play therapy practicums
- 100 hours of direct contact therapeutic work at sites
- 10-hour extra group intervention
- Case study presentation
- Personal reflection report
- 27 hours of individual in-person supervision in total

Practicum coordinator: Dr CONNOLLY John Patrick

Placement coordinator: Mr SING Chi Hung, Joseph

Placement arrangement: The department has signed agreements with kindergartens, primary schools, NGOs, SEN Center and private centres ready to offer placements for student practicums.

Considering Practicum Needs

- Each student needs to complete 100 hours of play therapy contact hours over practicum I, II and III.
- Students with full-time jobs may need to create the flexibility of being available during some weekday working hours for the practicum.

Children and Play Therapy Oriented Research Projects



Research concepts and techniques in play therapy studies will be introduced to students in the course **MPT 508, Research Methods in Play Therapy Studies**

Students will complete an evidence- based practice project related to play or play therapy with the help of research supervisor.

Evidence-based practice project coordinator:
Dr CHUNG Man Chi Sandrine

Play Therapy Practice and Research Facilities

Facilities	Play room (Main building)	Play Therapy Research and Practice Lab (RLG306)
Parent Consultation area	*	*
Teaching and learning area		*
Projector and projecting screen		*
Play area	*	*
Store room	*	*
Work station (With desktop)	*	*
Reference book shelves		*
Single- sided observation mirror	*	
Video cameras	*	*
Soundproof walls		*
Teaching and learning	*	*
Practice and service	*	*
Research and collaboration		*

RLG 306: Play Therapy Research and Practice Lab







Consultation area



Full angle observation system

RLG306 Play Therapy Research and Practice Lab

- To empower child participants and their families through the practice of play therapy



- To enhance professional play therapist training
- To accommodate the supervision-based practicum arrangement
- To develop and disseminate play therapy training materials and videos

- To promote intra- and inter-disciplinary dialogue and research collaboration

Special Departmental Resources

2 Playrooms (LG314, RLG 306; See Section 5.2.1)

1 Counselling Research Centre Staff Office (CRC; LG233-235)

7 Counselling Rooms (Lib105, LG211-214, LG315A, LG315C)

1 Counselling Laboratory (LG302) and Observation Room (LG301)

1 Office for Postgraduate Interns (LG315B)

1 Psychological Test Library (LG102)

1 Psychological Assessment Room (RLG308B)

1 Supervision Room (LIB102C)

1 School Counselling and Psychology Laboratory (RLG305)

1 Psychological Lab Studio of Art and Creativity (RLG309)

1 Computer-Assisted Data Analysis Laboratory (LG303)

1 Cognitive Psychology and Vision Laboratory (LG215-6)

2 Multifunctional Room (Lib101) and Seminar Rooms (Lib103)

1 Neuropsychology Laboratory (LG304)

1 Positive Psychology Lab (RLG303)

1 Positive Technology Virtual Reality Laboratory (RLG307)

1 Social and Health Psychology Laboratory (RLG304)

1 High-Density Electroencephalography (RLG308)

1 Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Lab (RLG308A)

Two Pathways

Practice: Professional Play Therapist

Further Study: PhD study in child education or doctoral psychology or counselling programme specialized in children, e.g., Counselling PhD specialized in play therapy, North Texas University

Opportunities for Graduates

- Play therapists can work with children at primary schools, kindergartens, centres for children with SEN, family centres for children suffering from domestic abuse, orphanages, paediatric healthcare departments in hospitals, children's clinics, and private agencies.
- Health/mental health services for children under the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare, and Hospital Authorities also have the potential to employ play therapists.

Admission Requirement

Candidates should:

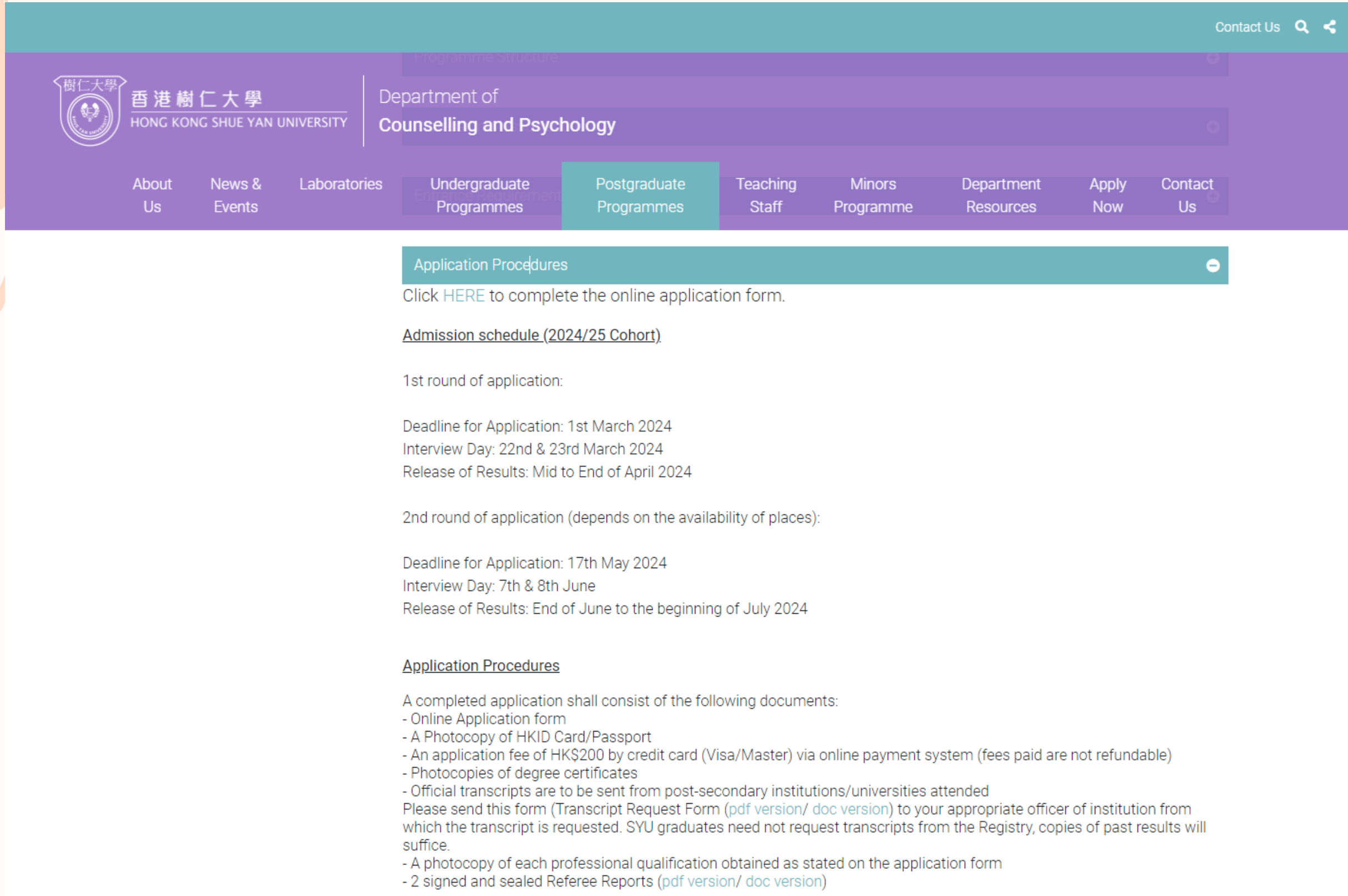
- hold a bachelor's degree or a postgraduate conversion degree in the field of **counselling, education, psychology, social work, nursing, or related fields** from a recognised local or overseas university*;
- provide documentary evidence of having completed the equivalent of at least **one year's full-time experience working primarily in a helping capacity with children** (some or all of which may be in the form of practicums undertaken during the undergraduate degree);

Alternatively, candidates should:

- Possess a bachelor's degree or a postgraduate conversion degree in any field from a recognised local or overseas university;
- Complete the equivalent of at least **two year's full-time experience working primarily in a helping capacity with children.**

* The current degree request of an APPTA RPT is "an undergraduate degree in mental health, allied health or early childhood education" according to APPTA website (retrieved date 19/1/2024). Please pay special attention if any new update in APPTA.

Online Admission



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Application Procedures

Click [HERE](#) to complete the online application form.

Admission schedule (2024/25 Cohort)

1st round of application:

Deadline for Application: 1st March 2024
Interview Day: 22nd & 23rd March 2024
Release of Results: Mid to End of April 2024

2nd round of application (depends on the availability of places):

Deadline for Application: 17th May 2024
Interview Day: 7th & 8th June
Release of Results: End of June to the beginning of July 2024

Application Procedures

A completed application shall consist of the following documents:

- Online Application form
- A Photocopy of HKID Card/Passport
- An application fee of HK\$200 by credit card (Visa/Master) via online payment system (fees paid are not refundable)
- Photocopies of degree certificates
- Official transcripts are to be sent from post-secondary institutions/universities attended

Please send this form (Transcript Request Form ([pdf version](#)/ [doc version](#))) to your appropriate officer of institution from which the transcript is requested. SYU graduates need not request transcripts from the Registry, copies of past results will suffice.

- A photocopy of each professional qualification obtained as stated on the application form
- 2 signed and sealed Referee Reports ([pdf version](#)/ [doc version](#))

<https://counpsy.hksyu.edu/PostgraduateProgrammes/MasterofSocialSciencesinPlayTherapy>

Tuition Fee

- Individual course credits are presently charged at HK\$2,600
- The entire tuition cost of the MSScPT programme is **HK\$117,000** (45 credits) in AY2024/25.
- The tuition fee is to be paid in five instalments for full-time mode and seven instalments for part-time mode (one month before the start of each semester)



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I am here. I hear you. I understand. I care.

--Garry Landreth (Landreth, 2012)

References

- Education Bureau, (March, 2021). Development of integrated education in Hong Kong and measures to support students with special educational needs (Chinese only). *Paper FC 4/2021*.
- Landreth, G. (2012). *Play therapy: The art of the relationship (3rd ed.)*. New York, NY: Routledge
- Pawlowski, V. Pui, C. Ng, E. Li, I. (2020). *Mental Health Matter- Save the Children Hong Kong 2020*.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346520015_Mental_Health_Matters_-_Save_the_Children_Hong_Kong_-_2020



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Q&A Session

Welcome your questions!