

Clinical Student Placement Advertisement

Forensic Intervention Services, Corrections Victoria

Forensic Intervention Services offers clinical tertiary students the opportunity to gain hands on experience in forensic settings and working within a legislative framework to enable the delivery of best practice rehabilitation services.

About us

Forensic Intervention Services

Corrections Victoria (CV) is part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) and is responsible for the operation of Victoria's adult corrections system, public and privately operated prisons, and a transitional centre. Forensic Intervention Services is a specialist program area of CV that provides service users in custody and in the community with offence-specific, evidence-based screening, assessment and intervention services to support their rehabilitation. Our service is founded on the 'What Works' literature and is grounded in Risk Need Responsivity (RNR) model of rehabilitation. Our intervention programs are accredited and largely Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) based with some being influenced by Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Our mission is to reduce recidivism by delivering evidence-based group interventions founded in the risk, need and responsivity principles. As a part of this vision and mission, Forensic Intervention Services provides field placement opportunities to students in disciplines relevant to our work.


Clinical placement program

Forensic Intervention Services provides unique and exciting clinical field placement opportunities to allied health students looking to broaden their knowledge and skills within a forensic setting. These placement opportunities allow students to explore and develop skills in relation to clinical service delivery through individual work, assessment, case formulation, group-based intervention, supervision, and professional development training.

A clinical student placement is open to students completing a clinical, post-graduate degree in Psychology, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, or Mental Health Nursing. Students will be provided opportunities to engage in service delivery through forensic clinical observation, case formulation, and the delivery of group-based treatment, all while supported by expert staff through clinical supervision and professional development. Specifically, students will work within a multidisciplinary environment and have the opportunity to build knowledge and competency in:

- The delivery of effective intervention services to people convicted of sexual, violent, and/or alcohol or other drug (AOD) based offending, including treatment planning, preparation, and co-facilitation of group-based interventions.
- Case formulation, case analysis, and report writing within a forensic clinical setting.
- The administration and interpretation of psychometric instruments to assess cognitive functioning.
- Understanding the evidence base and ethical, best practice standards that underpin service delivery for people who perpetrate crime.
- Motivational interviewing techniques and skills for building therapeutic alliance.
- Professional supervision to increase self-awareness and personal reflection to evaluate clinical practice.

"My placement with FIS was by far my best placement. I was able to experience many facets of the role, including group facilitation/assessment and even attended trainings... I was well supported, challenged, and I developed a level of confidence I had not yet been able to achieve" – 2023 Clinical placement student



Clinical student placement opportunities are available across prison and community locations across the state, including Ararat, Castlemaine, Lara, Melbourne, Ravenhall and Truganina. Availability is dependent on dynamic supervision capacity so flexibility with travel is highly beneficial in our competitive process.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a clinical student placement, students should ideally have previous experience or be undertaking their final placement in a clinical, post-graduate degree in one of the following disciplines:

- Psychology
- Social Work
- Occupational Therapy
- Mental Health Nursing

Students must also be available to undertake placement on a part-time basis from two to three days per week and would ideally have capacity to travel to various locations to undertake their placement (e.g. Grampians region, Barwon South-West region, Loddon Mallee region).

Who we are looking for

Successful students will demonstrate some or all of the following:

- A strong passion for effective forensic practice, and enthusiasm about working within a correctional system.
- An openness to active learning, constructive feedback, and self-reflection.
- A capacity and willingness to therapeutically engage with a range of challenging presentations and those with different levels of cognitive and psychosocial functioning.
- Willingness to work within a team environment, with the flexibility to adapt to changing priorities and situations.
- Preparedness to talk openly and frankly about issues related to sexual and violent offending behaviours (with the support and guidance of Forensic Intervention Services staff).
- Values aligned with ethical practice, professionalism, and the departmental values of integrity, impartiality, accountability, respect, leadership human rights and responsiveness,
- A willingness to practice organisational skills, build efficiency in administration tasks, and proficiency in computer-based software.
- Attention to sound professional boundaries, self-care, self-reflection, and reflective practice.

“I walked away from this placement seeing myself as a psychologist not a student...” – 2022 clinical placement student


How to Apply

Students interested in a clinical student placement can apply via the following link:

- [Student Placement Program – Forensic Intervention Services](#)

Applications must include a cover letter, resume, and a letter of recommendation from your institution's placement coordinator. If a letter of recommendation is not included, placement coordinators must have been in contact with Forensic Intervention Services directly on the below email address endorsing your application. Students must also detail the specific requirements of their clinical placement, including:

- Total duration, client contact hours, and supervision requirements.

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- Location preferences and existing or potential barriers to travel to any of the listed placement locations. For further information, please contact FIS.StudentPlacement@justice.vic.gov.au.