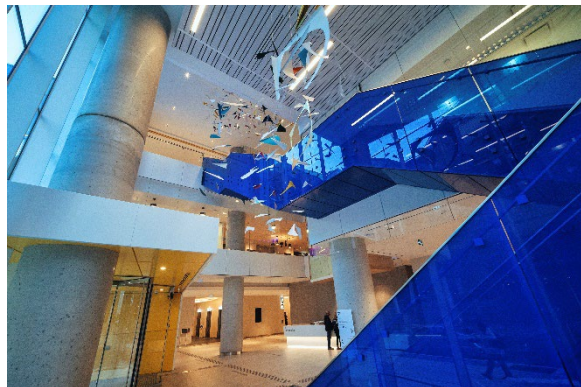
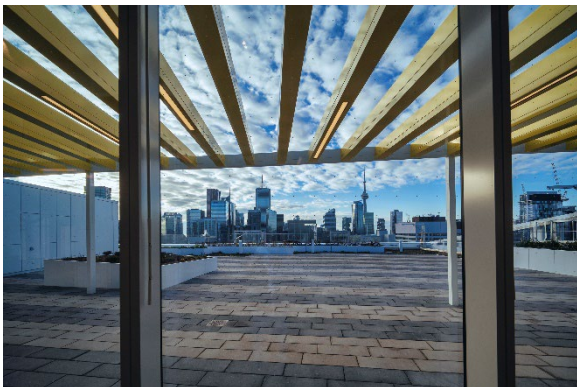
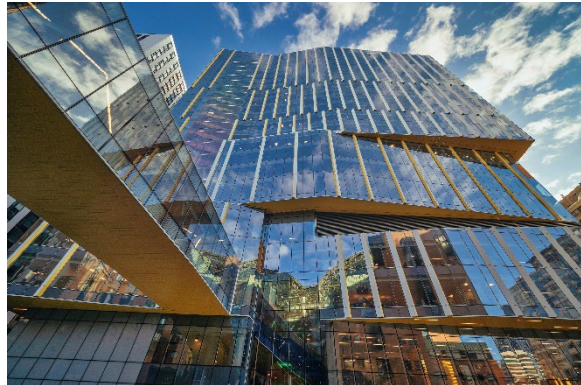
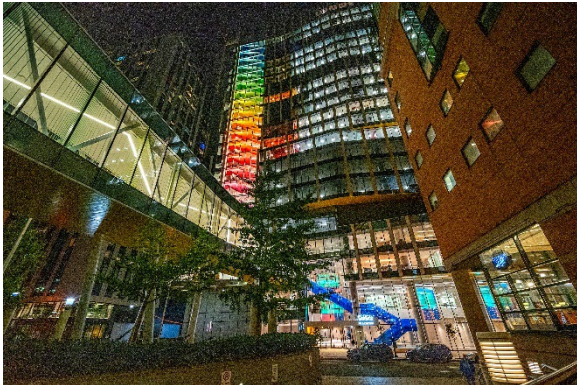




# Psychology Practicum Placements 2025 – 2026



**Department of Psychology**

The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada

## Clinical practicum placements for psychology graduate students

Procedures and requirements for MA and PhD students interested in a practicum placement in the Department of Psychology at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

### Criteria for application:

1. Applicant must be enrolled in a *CPA-accredited* graduate program in clinical psychology (MA or PhD level).
2. Students must have completed a graduate course in child or adult assessment and/or intervention.
3. Students must have completed graduate level courses in child psychopathology, child development, and learning disabilities.
4. Completion of a course in ethics is preferred.

### Deadlines for application:

For fall or summer placements, applications must be submitted by February 1 of each calendar year.

### Application process:

- Submit a PDF document containing a cover letter and CV to [psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca](mailto:psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca).
- The cover letter should contain the following information:
  - Brief description of previous training and skills.
  - Reason for applying to SickKids.
  - Desired focus: Assessment vs. intervention.
  - Number of hours and days per week requested.
  - Duration of placement (September to April or May to August).
  - Specific rotations/programs of interest.
- Submit a maximum of 3 reference letters:
  - Referees are to submit letters directly to the practicum coordinator (email below). Any file format is acceptable.
- Please **do not submit** university course transcripts.
- Receipt of application will be acknowledged by email.

***Applications received after the stated deadlines will not be considered.*** Applications will be reviewed by staff available to offer placements and you will be contacted directly if an interview is going to be scheduled. Notification of placement offers will be made in mid-March per the GTA Practicum group agreement.

- Practicum students will usually work with and under the supervision of 1 psychologist/program.
- On occasion, a placement may be offered with shared supervision between 2 staff psychologists.
- The number of placements offered may vary each year based on supervisor availability.

In addition to direct clinical work, students will have the opportunity to attend interdisciplinary rounds, case conferences and professional development offered within a specific program and within the larger Department of Psychology. This includes monthly Psychology Rounds, Psychology Education Day and didactic seminars offered in the Department of Psychology.

### COVID-19 Impact on Training

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the education program and faculty have navigated the uncertain landscape with flexibility prioritizing clinical care, training and safety. We continue to use a hybrid model of care (combination of in-hospital and virtual) in most clinics.

Should similar disruptions occur in the future, potential and current practicum students will be notified as soon as information becomes available.

Practicum students are expected to comply with any and all federal, provincial, and SickKids organization regulations including but not limited to wearing Personal Protective Equipment, maintaining appropriate physical distancing, abiding by travel restrictions, quarantining, and other Infection Prevention and Control procedures within the context of providing clinical services, or otherwise.

**If you have questions about a specific clinic, please contact one of the supervisors directly.**

**If you have questions about the process or practica at SickKids in general, please contact the practicum coordinator:**

[psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca](mailto:psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca) (January – March)

[jennifer.stanga@sickkids.ca](mailto:jennifer.stanga@sickkids.ca) (the rest of the year)

**Possible Practicum Rotations (OP = outpatient; IP = inpatient)**

Neuropsychological Assessment	Population/Description	Age	OP	IP
<b>Epilepsy Surgery, Epilepsy Classroom &amp; DBS</b> Dr. Elizabeth Kerr <i>elizabeth.kerr@sickkids.ca</i>	Epilepsy patients being considered for surgery and post-surgical follow-up  Students attending an ECPP classroom for Epilepsy  Patients being followed for Deep Brain Stimulation	4-18+	√	√
<b>Epilepsy Surgery, Metabolic/Genetics, &amp; Neurosurgery</b> Dr. Eva Mamak <i>eva.mamak@sickkids.ca</i>	Epilepsy patients being considered for surgery  Genetic/Metabolic disorders	0-18	√	√
<b>General Neurology</b> Dr. Katia Sinopoli <i>katia.sinopoli@sickkids.ca</i>	Non-surgical epilepsy  Neuroinflammatory diseases (e.g., multiple sclerosis, CNS vasculitis)	4-18	√	
<b>Haematology/Oncology</b> Dr. Laura Janzen <i>laura.janzen@sickkids.ca</i> Dr. Andrea Coppens <i>andrea.coppens@sickkids.ca</i>	Cancer ( e.g., acute lymphoblastic leukemia, brain tumours) and Hematological Conditions (e.g., Sickle Cell Disease)	3-18	√	
<b>Stroke</b> Dr. Robyn Westmacott <i>robyn.westmacott@sickkids.ca</i>	Neonatal and childhood stroke; Arterial ischemic stroke, cerebral sinovenous thrombosis or other neurovascular conditions such as moya moya disease	3-18+	√	
<b>Transplant &amp; Regenerative Medicine</b> Dr. Anna Gold <i>anna.gold@sickkids.ca</i>	Children with congenital or acquired organ deficits including heart, lung, liver or kidney, and have received or are awaiting organ transplantation  Children with intestinal failure who require intestinal rehabilitation or transplant	2-18	√	√

Psychoeducational and Neuropsychological Assessment		Age	O/P	I/P
<b>Cardiology</b> Dr. Renee Sananes <i>renee.sananes@sickkids.ca</i> Dr. Dragana Ostojic-Aitkens <i>dragana.ostojic-aitkens@sickkids.ca</i>	Children with complex congenital and acquired heart conditions	4-18	√	
<b>Tics and Tourette's Clinic &amp; Psychiatry</b> Dr. Jennifer Stanga <i>jennifer.stanga@sickkids.ca</i>	Children with tics and Tourette syndrome, ADHD, learning disorders, anxiety disorders, executive functioning challenges	7-18+	√	
Neuropsychological Assessment and Intervention		Age	O/P	I/P
<b>NeuroOutcomes Lab</b> Dr. Tricia Williams <i>tricia.williams@sickkids.ca</i>	<p>The NeuroOutcomes lab focuses on answering clinically relevant questions in families and children impacted by early brain injury and/or neurological disorders. Taking a child and family-centered approach, key discoveries have provided insight into psychological comorbidities, parent experiences, and influences of neurological factors on cognitive, academic, and mental health outcomes. The NeuroOutcomes lab works closely with other members of the inter-disciplinary team, including neonatal neurologists, nurse practitioners, social work; health psychologists, educators.</p> <p>The predominant focus is on preschool and school age children with congenital or neonatal conditions impacting brain development (i.e., HIE, neonatal stroke, extreme preterm birth, congenital heart disease) and their parents. Children present with early behaviour and/or learning concerns. Opportunities for both assessment and treatment (e.g., virtual parenting behaviour intervention) are available to trainees.</p> <p>Research opportunities include early neurocognitive and mental health outcomes, parent experiences and parenting intervention, tiered based model of neuropsychological assessment and care, stepped-care models of mental health service delivery, and patient-oriented research methodologies. Over the course of the rotation, trainees will develop neuropsychological assessment and consultation skills, clinical research skill and collaboration and grant application writing skills can be explored depending on trainee</p>		√	

	skills set and goals. Prior experience with neuropsychological assessment is an asset but not required. Experience with parenting behaviour intervention and behavioural intervention are also assets.			
	<b>Preference for advanced learners</b>			
<b>Intervention: Clinical/Health Psychology</b>		<b>Age</b>	<b>O/P</b>	<b>I/P</b>
<b>Chronic Pain</b> Dr. Danielle Ruskin <i>danielle.ruskin@sickkids.ca</i> Dr. Catherine Munns <i>catherine.munns@sickkids.ca</i>	Children and adolescents with chronic pain conditions (e.g., neuropathic pain after injury, headache, neuromuscular disease), with disability problems secondary to pain, and pain as a presenting sign of depressive, anxiety, or somatoform disorders	3-18	√	√
<b>Eating Disorders</b> Dr. Hannah Gennis <i>hannah.gennis@sickkids.ca</i> Dr. Brooke Halpert <i>brooke.halpert@sickkids.ca</i> Dr. Sandra Doyle-Lisek <i>sandra.doylelisek@sickkids.ca</i>	The Eating Disorders Program at SickKids diagnoses and treats children and adolescents with a range of eating disorders. They are the primary treatment site for the central Toronto area and are a specialty centre for the province of Ontario. The program has an interdisciplinary approach to treatment and believes family involvement is crucial for recovery from an eating disorder.	Up to 18	√	
	<b>Advanced/Third Practica Only</b>			
<b>Inflammatory Bowel Diseases</b> Dr. Sara Ahola Kohut <i>sara.aholakohut@sickkids.ca</i>	Children and adolescents with IBD (e.g., Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis) experiencing mental health issues associated with their chronic health condition (e.g., mood and anxiety, OCD, perfectionism, medical trauma). Individual, group, and caregiver treatment approaches offered.			
	Children/adolescents and caregivers may also present with difficulties including adherence to medical regime, acceptance of IBD diagnosis, coping with IBD diagnosis, symptoms and treatment, chronic pain, body image, eating habits, sleep issues, and somatic symptoms	6 -18 (poss. some early childhood)	√	
	Will also get exposure to broader GI presentations and co-morbid conditions (e.g., Celiac Disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis)			
	<b>Best suited for advanced practicum student</b>			

<p><b>SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (HLC)</b>  Dr. Elizabeth Dettmer  <i>elizabeth.dettmer@sickkids.ca</i>  Dr. Andrea Regina  <i>andrea.regina@sickkids.ca</i>  Dr. Jason Isaacs  <i>jason.isaacs@sickkids.ca</i></p>	<p>The SickKids Health Living Clinic (formerly the SickKids Team Obesity Management Program (STOMP)) provides outpatient interdisciplinary assessment and treatment to children, youth and their caregivers for complex concerns related to weight, eating, activity and related medical and psychological comorbidities. Although the clinic serves children of all ages, psychology services are typically provided to school-aged children and youth. The team is comprised of specialists from Psychology, Social Work, Nursing, Endocrinology, Adolescent Medicine, Pediatrics, Nutrition, Exercise, and Physiotherapy.</p> <p>Mental health providers on the team are integral in the assessment and treatment of complex and often severe health psychology presentations that include emotional eating, hyperphagia (secondary to hypothalamic obesity), binge eating, and adherence issues, as well as related co-morbid psychological issues such as social and/or generalized anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, bullying and/or peer relationship issues, school refusal, and body image concerns. Additional socioeconomic, genetic, and familial/interpersonal relationship factors have a particularly strong impact on treatment and prognosis. Treatment is primarily cognitive behavioural (CBT), with other approaches (e.g., MI, DBT skills, EFT, and parent management training) integrated as appropriate. Both individual and group treatments are offered for patients and their caregivers. Mental health providers also support allied health team members in the delivery of care through joint appointments to assist with treatment progress. Professional consultations and community collaborations are also key to patient care plans.</p> <p>Psychology trainees contribute to all parts of the program and will receive training and exposure in both clinical and health psychology. They conduct psychology assessments, provide group and individual therapy for children, adolescents, and caregivers, as well as</p>	<p>0 -18</p>	<p>√</p>	
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	<p>engage in frequent consultations with the community and with the interdisciplinary team via joint allied health appointments and weekly rounds. The SickKids HLC team is also heavily involved in ongoing program development and evaluation, quality improvement projects, and clinical research. Opportunities include contributing to the development and evaluation of novel treatment approaches (e.g., binge eating protocol, group treatment, etc.) and examining psychological correlates of weight related factors for children and youth (e.g., trauma, familial stress, anxiety and depressive symptoms, etc.). Trainees are encouraged and supported in joining specialized projects as interested. Competitive candidates have a strong interest in CBT, and/or DBT, and a strong interest in both Health and Clinical Psychology.</p>			
<p><b>Tics and Tourette Clinic (Psychiatry Dept)</b>  Dr. Jody Levenbach  <i>jody.levenbach@sickkids.ca</i></p>	<p>Youth with tics (primarily Tourette syndrome) and comorbid conditions such as OCD, ADHD, ASD, anxiety and mood disorders, body-focused repetitive behaviours (e.g., trichotillomania) and self-regulation challenges.</p> <p>Intervention services include individual and group therapy using a cognitive behavioural approach, comprehensive behavior intervention for tics (CBIT), and parent training.</p>	<p>7-18+</p>	<p>√</p>	