

MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL (Ph.D.) PROGRAMS



The Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology welcomes applications from qualified international candidates and values the academic and intellectual diversity they bring to its academic community. This call sets out the selection process for admission to the Master's and Doctoral (Ph.D.) programs.

The Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) offers Master's and Doctoral (Ph.D.) programs in Clinical Psychology. The Program is dedicated to the study of theories and practices in Clinical Psychology and to their critical evaluation and continuous development.

Teaching is delivered in person at the Department of Psychology of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Master's program has a maximum duration of 24 months, and the Doctoral program has a maximum duration of 48 months. The academic year is divided into two semesters (March-June and August-November). Students must reside in Rio de Janeiro or its metropolitan area throughout the program, as detailed in Section V.

More information:

<https://www.psi.puc-rio.br/site/index.php/2015-02-03-14-20-01/pos-graduacao> and
<https://www.puc-rio.br/english/>

Eligibility criteria:

- Be a national of a country other than Brazil.
- Hold a completed undergraduate degree in Psychology or a cognate field in order to apply to the Master's program, or a completed Master's degree in Psychology or a cognate field in order to apply to the Doctoral program. The degree that establishes eligibility must have been awarded by a higher education institution. Applicants who expect to complete that degree before classes begin may apply by submitting an official statement of expected completion issued by their institution;
- Be able to demonstrate proficiency, before the end of the first year of the Master's program, in one language other than their first language, or, before the end of the second year of the Doctoral program, in two languages other than their first language, in accordance with the PUC-Rio Graduate Studies Regulations. Portuguese and English may both be counted for this purpose. The Program may offer proficiency examinations;
- Portuguese is the primary language of instruction, and most seminars and supervision are conducted in Portuguese. Students are expected to acquire proficiency in the language before or during the course. Applicants should therefore be aware that successful completion of the Program requires sufficient ability to engage in academic activities in both Portuguese and English.

I - Places available

For the 2027 intake, under this call, the Program offers up to 12 places for the Master's program and up to 9 places for the Doctoral program. Places are not allocated by research line; admission depends on the availability of a faculty member willing and able to supervise the proposed research. The Program is not obliged to fill all places and may leave places unfilled where no applicant reaches the minimum standard set out in Section VI (Evaluation criteria).

II - Prospective supervisors

Andrea Seixas Magalhães - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/8492570672786593>
Breno Sanvicente Vieira - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/6710912012052033>
Daniel Correa Mograbi - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/7381485367840499>
Emily Crystal Rehbein - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/4671560436693035>
Helenice Charchat Fichman - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/8822284125037565>
Jaqueline de Carvalho Rodrigues - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/1388674833557684>
J. Landeira-Fernandez - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/9330950719388986>
Luciana Fontes Pessôa - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/4067179296438965>
Monah Winograd - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/8451364774329955>
Patricia Pinheiro Bado - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/6177783038546551>
Thomas Eichenberg Krahe - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/5280805567151610>
Waldir Monteiro Sampaio - <http://lattes.cnpq.br/5251068158886706>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact prospective supervisors before applying.

Full CVs are available on the Lattes Platform and are published in Portuguese (<https://lattes.cnpq.br/>). An English-language summary of each faculty member's current research topics, institutional e-mail address, and availability to supervise new students in 2027 is available at <https://www.psi.puc-rio.br/site/index.php/2015-02-03-14-20-01/pos-graduacao>. Applications that do not align with the research interests of a faculty member available for supervision may be declined on that ground alone.

III - Fields and lines of research

LINE 1 - PSYCHOANALYSIS: CLINICAL PRACTICE AND CULTURE

The general proposal is to contribute toward creating knowledge that can be obtained through psychoanalytic theory and practice. With a central focus on the individual and its culture, we investigate the theoretical and clinical approaches of Psychoanalysis in its relationship with other fields of knowledge, such as Social Psychology, Philosophy, and Social Sciences. Based on this broadened clinical conception and considering the various transformations and power relations present in the contemporary world, it becomes possible to assess the different processes of subjectivation and their effects on current clinical practice.

LINE 2 - SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

This line aims to carry out research on topics related to the field of Social Psychology or psychosocial phenomena from different theoretical views, from individual to societal perspectives. Among the Research topics, the following could be highlighted: personality, psychometrics, love relationships, attitudes, prejudice, social identity, social inequality, social movements, human rights, and educational practices.

LINE 3 - FAMILY, COUPLE AND CHILD: THEORY AND CLINICAL PRACTICE

It is characterized by studying families, couples, and children based on a clinical and sociocultural approach. Family and couples' psychotherapy are researched, focusing on the connection between psychoanalytic and systemic approaches. Furthermore, the relevant aspects of a family and contemporary marriage are investigated while highlighting the sociocultural factors. The construction of subjectivity during childhood and adolescence is the object of study based on a psychoanalytic approach and the research of parenthood, the study of origins, and the relationship between the adolescent symptom and the social bond. Research on the following topics is being undertaken: psychic generational transmission, new marital and conjugal configurations; homo-affectivity; adoption; family health; love relationships; sexuality and gender; marriage, separation, and re-marriage; conjugality and parenthood; couples psychotherapy; family psychodiagnostics and psychotherapy; the conception of adolescence; objective relationships; psychic and

clinical constitution of origins; childhood and the child in psychoanalysis; narrative and symbolization processes.

LINE 4 - CLINICAL PRACTICE AND NEUROSCIENCE

The main aim of this research line is to integrate knowledge from different approaches in clinical psychology with neuroscience. It addresses the clinical aspects of neurological and psychiatric conditions, as well as the neural pathways underlying emotional and cognitive processes. Sociocultural factors involved in the constitution of the individual and their relationship with the development, structure, and functioning of the nervous system are also areas of interest. Within this perspective, theoretical and empirical studies may be developed using clinical, correlational, and experimental data. Topics of interest include neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation instruments and practices across healthy and pathological development and ageing; the neural systems involved in memory, emotion, and consciousness; experimental studies of mental disorders using animal models; the aetiology and expression of mental disorders; child development and the formation of affective bonds; and psychopharmacology.

LINE 5 - HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The focus is on studying human development as a process of transformation throughout the cycle of life, inserted in specific cultural contexts. Understanding biopsychosocial phenomena involved in the health/sickness process is also an aim. Integration in the interdisciplinary scope is sought in conjunction with the initiatives of evaluation, prevention, intervention, and study of practices directed towards the promotion of well-being, quality of life, and physical and mental health of the individual. From this perspective, various studies and research regarding different topics are being developed, such as trajectories of socialization and development of the self; beliefs and practices of parental care; social interaction and emotional development; construction and adaptation of psychological instruments; evaluation of emotional and behavioral problems during childhood; evaluation of mental health indicators during the life cycle.

IV - Application procedures

Applications must be submitted through the PUC-Rio graduate admissions platform, available at:

http://www.ccpa.puc-rio.br/inscricao_pos/

The platform interface is available in Portuguese. The following documents must be uploaded in PDF format:

- A valid passport showing the applicant's full name, nationality, and expiry date.
- A curriculum vitae in English, Spanish or Portuguese. Applicants with an existing record on the Lattes Platform should submit their CV in Lattes format (<https://lattes.cnpq.br/>);
- The diploma — or, where the diploma has not yet been issued, the official certificate of completion — together with the full academic transcript for the degree that establishes eligibility (undergraduate degree for the Master's program; Master's degree for the Doctoral program). Plain copies are accepted at the application stage. Legalisation and sworn translation are required for enrolment, as set out in Section V (Documentation of foreign degrees and conditions for enrolment);
- A motivation letter of no more than two pages describing the applicant's academic background and motivation for applying. The letter should address the following questions: Why are you interested in the Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology at PUC-Rio? How will training in the Program benefit your career? How can you contribute to the Program?
- A declaration signed by the applicant stating that they are aware of the full cost of attending the Program in person in Rio de Janeiro — including tuition where no fee waiver is granted, accommodation, living expenses, health insurance, and travel — and of the conditions for enrolment and entry into Brazil set out in Section V of this notice;
- A research proposal of no more than ten pages, excluding references, in English or Portuguese, indicating the research line and prospective supervisor, and containing: research question and

justification; a brief review of the literature; objectives; method; expected outcomes; timetable; and references;

- The names, institutional positions, and institutional e-mail addresses of two referees (professors, lecturers, or researchers). Referees must submit their letters directly through the platform; letters forwarded by the applicant are not accepted. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that both letters are submitted before the application deadline;

- A signed statement indicating the country in which the degree that establishes eligibility was awarded, whether that country is a party to the Hague Apostille Convention of 1961, and confirming that the applicant is aware of the legalisation and sworn translation requirements and of the deadline set out in Section V.

Candidates may be required to provide additional documentation at any stage of the selection process.

V - Documentation of foreign degrees and conditions for enrolment

Admission to the Program does not constitute enrolment. Approved applicants must also satisfy the requirements set out below, which derive from PUC-Rio regulations and Brazilian immigration law and are not within the discretion of the Program. Applicants are strongly advised to begin these procedures as soon as they submit their application, since several of them take weeks to complete and depend on third parties — foreign authorities, Brazilian consulates, and sworn translators.

1. Legalisation and sworn translation of foreign academic qualifications

- Diplomas and academic transcripts issued abroad must bear either an Apostille under the Hague Convention of 1961, where the issuing country is a party to that Convention, or the legalisation of the competent Brazilian consular authority, where it is not;

- Documents not issued in Portuguese, English or Spanish must additionally be accompanied by a sworn translation into Portuguese produced by a translator registered in Brazil;

- Under PUC-Rio rules, international students admitted to a Master's or Doctoral program must present the legalised diploma for the degree that establishes eligibility — the undergraduate degree for the Master's program and the Master's degree for the Doctoral program. This requirement must be fulfilled no later than the end of the first month of classes;

- Under this call, however, the legalised diploma and academic transcript, together with a sworn translation where required, must be presented at enrolment and, in any event, no later than the first day of classes (https://www.puc-rio.br/sobrepuc/depto/dar/calendario/#posgrad_perodo)

- Where an applicant is unable to obtain the legalised documents by this deadline for documented reasons beyond their control, the Coordination may, upon a reasoned request, grant a single extension of up to 30 days. Failure to present the documents by the extended deadline will result in cancellation of admission.

2. Entry into and residence in Brazil

- Admitted applicants must obtain a temporary student visa (ITEM IV) from the Brazilian consular authority with jurisdiction over their place of residence before travelling to Brazil. The Program will issue the letter of acceptance required for the visa application;

- Under the rules of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the visa application requires, among other documents, a passport valid for at least six months, a police clearance certificate, health insurance valid throughout Brazil and covering hospital admission, and proof of sufficient means of subsistence in Brazil;

- The ITEM IV visa is valid for up to one year and must be renewed for as long as the program lasts. Holders must register with the Brazilian Federal Police within 90 days of entering the country and obtain a National Migration Registry number (RNM);

- Admitted applicants must obtain a Brazilian taxpayer number (CPF) and, where a scholarship is awarded, a Brazilian bank account, since Brazilian funding agencies do not make payments to accounts held abroad;

- The Program is delivered in person in Rio de Janeiro. Students must reside in the city of Rio de Janeiro or its metropolitan area throughout the program. Residence in the city where the Program is delivered is also a condition of most Brazilian scholarships.

The Program does not sponsor, fund, or guarantee visa issuance and cannot intervene in consular decisions. Requests to defer admission to a subsequent intake when a visa is not obtained in time for the beginning of classes are considered by the Coordination on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed.

VI - Evaluation criteria

The selection process consists of two eliminatory stages. Marks are awarded on a scale from 0 to 10.

Stage 1: Assessment of documentation (60% of the final mark)

- Research proposal, assessed for scientific merit, feasibility within the maximum duration of the program, and alignment both with a research line of the Program and with the interests of a faculty member available for supervision — 30%;
- Academic and professional record, as evidenced by the curriculum vitae and the academic transcript — 20%;
- Motivation letter and letters of reference — 10%.

Stage 2: Interview (40% of the final mark)

- Conducted in person or by videoconference and assessed for the applicant's command of the proposed research topic and the feasibility of the proposed timetable. The interview may be conducted in Portuguese, English, or Spanish, at the applicant's choice.

Applicants scoring below 5.0 in Stage 1 will not be called for interview. Applicants scoring below 5.0 in Stage 2 will not be approved. The final mark is the weighted average of the two stages. Approved applicants are ranked in descending order of final mark and admitted up to the number of places available, subject to the availability of a supervisor. Ties are broken, in the following order, by the higher mark for the research proposal, the higher mark for the interview.

The selection committee is appointed by the Coordination of the Program and comprises at least three faculty members of the Program, at least one of whom belongs to the research line indicated by the applicant. Members must declare any conflict of interest and withdraw from the assessment of the applicants concerned.

VII - Deadlines

Applicants are responsible for following all stages of the selection process, submitting all required documents, and attending selection activities on the dates and at the times specified in this call for applications. Failure to attend any stage of the selection process will result in disqualification.

- Submission of applications through the platform: **September 01 to October 23, 2026**, until 23:59 (Brasília time, UTC-3).
- Publication of the results of the evaluation of documentation and scheduling of interviews: **November 6, 2026** (<https://www.psi.puc-rio.br/site/index.php/2015-02-03-14-20-01/pos-graduacao> and <https://www.puc-rio.br/english/>).
- Appeals against the Stage 1 result: **November 9 to 11, 2026**, by e-mail to the Coordination (psipos@puc-rio.br). Decisions are published by **November 11, 2026**.
- Interview period: **November 12 to November 26, 2026** (interviews are scheduled in advance).
- Final result: **December 1, 2026**, on the Graduate Program website (<https://www.psi.puc-rio.br/site/index.php/2015-02-03-14-20-01/pos-graduacao> and

<https://www.puc-rio.br/english/>

○ Appeals against the final result: December 2 to 4, 2026. Decisions are published by **December 9, 2026.**

○ Enrolment and presentation of the documents listed in Section V: [date in January 2027 to be confirmed], in accordance with the PUC-Rio academic calendar

(https://www.puc-rio.br/sobrepuc/depto/dar/calendario/#posgrad_periodo).

○ Beginning of classes: February 2027, in accordance with the PUC-Rio academic calendar (https://www.puc-rio.br/sobrepuc/depto/dar/calendario/#posgrad_periodo).

VIII - Scholarships

Admission to the Program does not automatically entitle applicants to financial support. Two distinct forms of support exist and should not be confused: (a) a tuition fee waiver, granted by the Office of the Academic Vice-Rector of PUC-Rio, which covers tuition only and provides no income; and (b) a maintenance scholarship, which pays a monthly stipend and is granted by Brazilian public funding agencies. Applicants should plan on the assumption that a tuition fee waiver alone will not be sufficient to meet the cost of living in Rio de Janeiro.

Where available, maintenance scholarships may be granted by CAPES (<https://www.gov.br/capes/pt-br>), CNPq (<https://www.gov.br/cnpq/pt-br>) or FAPERJ (<https://www.faperj.br/>). The number of scholarships varies from year to year according to the policies of the Brazilian funding agencies, and the Program cannot guarantee that any will be available for a given intake. Brazilian maintenance scholarships generally require the holder to reside in the city where the course is delivered, to hold a Brazilian taxpayer number and bank account, and not to hold any other scholarship or, in most cases, paid employment. Scholarship recipients will be selected after the admission process, and selection may take into account performance in the admission process.

IX - Personal data

Personal data submitted in connection with this call are processed by PUC-Rio solely for the purposes of conducting the selection process and, in the case of admitted applicants, enrolment and academic administration. Data are processed in accordance with the Brazilian General Data Protection Law (Lei nº 13.709/2018) and, where applicable to an applicant resident in the European Union, the General Data Protection Regulation. The files of applicants who are not approved are retained for 12 months and then deleted. Applicants may request access to, correction of, or deletion of their data by writing to psipos@puc-rio.br.

X - Contact and general provisions

All communications relating to this call must be addressed to psipos@puc-rio.br, with “Selection Notice 2027 — International applicants” in the subject line.

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools for language revision is permitted. The research proposal and motivation letter must be the applicant’s own work; fabricated references or content will result in disqualification at any stage of the process and, if detected after admission, cancellation of admission.

Applicants who require reasonable adjustments at any stage of the process on grounds of disability should notify the Coordination when submitting their application.

Cases not covered by this notice will be decided by the Coordination of the Program and, where appropriate, by the collegiate body of the Program.

By submitting an application, applicants declare that they agree to all the terms and conditions set out in this notice.