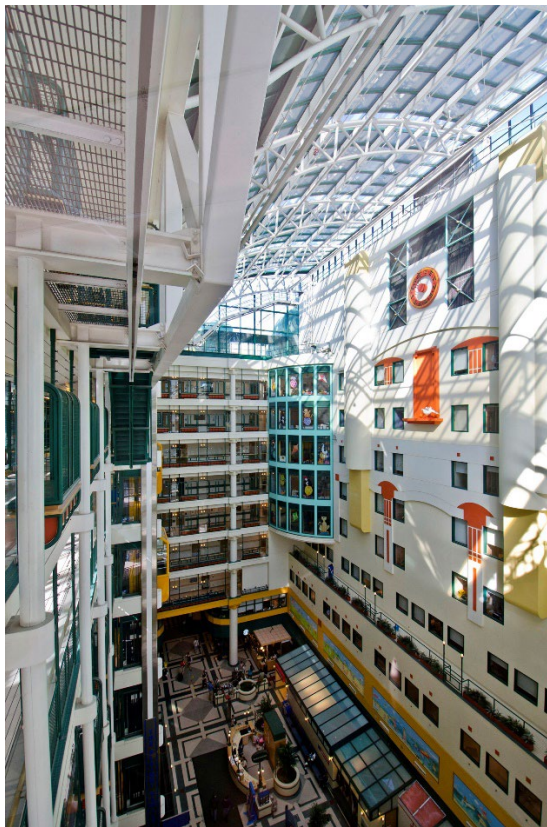




# Psychology Practicum Placements 2024 – 2025



## 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 the email below.
- 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. Responses to the global pandemic continue to evolve and, at the time of writing this brochure, a hybrid model of care (combination of in-hospital and virtual) is being provided. Should 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.

### **For more information, contact:**

Dr. Jennifer Stanga [psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca](mailto:psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca)

## Possible Practicum Rotations (O/P = outpatient; I/P = inpatient)

Neuropsychology: Assessment and Programming	Patient Populations Served	Age	O/P	I/P
<b>Epilepsy Surgery ,Epilepsy Classroom &amp; DBS</b> Dr. Elizabeth Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Epilepsy patients being considered for surgery and post-surgery</li> <li>▪ Students attending an ECPP classroom of epilepsy</li> <li>▪ Patients being followed for Deep Brain Stimulation</li> </ul>	4-18+	√	√
<b>Epilepsy Surgery, Metabolic/Genetics, &amp; Neurosurgery</b> Dr. Eva Mamak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Epilepsy patients being considered for surgery</li> <li>▪ Genetic/Metabolic disorders</li> </ul>	0-18	√	√
<b>General Neurology</b> Dr. Katia Sinopoli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-surgical epilepsy</li> <li>▪ Neuroinflammatory diseases (e.g., multiple sclerosis, CNS vasculitis)</li> <li>▪ Neurofibromatosis Type1</li> </ul>	4-18	√	
<b>Haematology/Oncology</b> Dr. Laura Janzen	Cancer ( e.g., acute lymphoblastic leukemia, brain tumours) and Hematological Conditions (e.g., Sickle Cell Disease)	3-18	√	
<b>Neonatal Neurology &amp; Neurosurgery</b> Dr. Naddley Désiré	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children with complex craniofacial conditions: syndromic and non-syndromic craniosynostosis, cleft lip and palate, encephaloceles, Binder and other congenital syndromes</li> <li>▪ Children with neonatal brain injury and associated medical conditions (e.g., prematurity, very low birthweight; hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy; neonatal arterial</li> </ul>	4-18	√	

	ischemic stroke, cavernous sinus venous thrombosis, and TBI.			
<b>Stroke</b> Dr. Robyn Westmacott	Neonatal and childhood stroke; Arterial ischemic stroke, cerebral sinovenous thrombosis or other neurovascular conditions such as moyo moyo disease	3-18+	√	
<b>Tics and Tourette's Clinic &amp; Psychiatry</b> Dr. Jennifer Stanga	Children with tics and Tourette syndrome, ADHD, learning disorders, anxiety disorders, executive functioning challenges	7-18+	√	
<b>Transplant &amp; Regenerative Medicine</b> Dr. Anna Gold	Children with congenital or acquired organ deficits (heart, lung, liver, kidney) or intestinal failure	2-18	√	√
<b>Diagnostic/Learning and Academic Interventions</b>	<b>Patient Populations Served</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>O/P</b>	<b>I/P</b>
<b>Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and related disorders</b> Dr. Jennifer Crosbie	Children with suspected attention-deficit/hyperactivity and related disorders	6-18	√	
<b>Cardiology</b> Dr. Renee Sananes Dr. Dragana Ostojic-Aitkens	Children with complex congenital and acquired heart conditions	4-18	√	
<b>Intervention: Clinical/Health Psychology</b>	<b>Patient Populations Served</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>O/P</b>	<b>I/P</b>
<b>Chronic Pain</b> Dr. Danielle Ruskin Dr. Catherine Munns	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 Dr. Brooke Halpert	The Eating Disorders Program at SickKids diagnoses and treats children and adolescents with a range of eating	Up to 18		√*

<p>Dr. Sandra Doyle-Lisek</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>* √ Advanced/Third Practica Only</p>			
<p><b>Inflammatory Bowel Diseases</b> Dr. Sara Ahola Kohut</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ Will also get exposure to broader GI presentations and co-morbid conditions (e.g., Celiac Disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis)</li> </ul> <p>*Best suited for advanced practicum student</p>	<p>6 -18 (poss. some early child-hood)</p>	<p>√</p>	
<p><b>Pediatrics/Oncology/ Cystic Fibrosis</b> Dr. Joel Tourigny</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children and adolescents experiencing mental health issues in the context of their chronic health conditions</li> <li>▪ Children presenting with somatic disorders or behaviours interfering with medical treatment</li> </ul>	<p>2-18</p>	<p>√</p>	<p>√</p>
<p><b>SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (HLC) - formerly STOMP</b> Dr. Elizabeth Dettmer Dr. Andrea Regina Dr. Jason Isaacs</p>	<p>The SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (formerly known as the SickKids Team Obesity Management Program, STOMP) provides outpatient interdisciplinary assessment and treatment to children, youth and their caregivers for complex</p>	<p>6 -18</p>	<p>√</p>	



	<p>concerns related to weight, eating, activity and related medical and psychological comorbidities. The team is comprised of enthusiastic 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 anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, bullying, 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.</p> <p>Psychology trainees contribute to all parts of the program. They contribute to group and individual therapy for children, adolescents, and parents, as well as frequent consultation to the interdisciplinary team within joint allied health appointments and weekly rounds. The HLC team is also heavily involved in ongoing program development and research. Strong candidates have a strong foundation and/or interest in CBT and Health Psychology.</p>			
<b>Tics and Tourette Clinic (Psychiatry Dept)</b>		7- 18+	√	

Dr. Jody Levenbach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• Intervention services include individual and group therapy using a cognitive behavioural approach, comprehensive behavior intervention for tics (CBIT), and parent training</li></ul>			
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