

The Neuropsychology and Cognitive Health Program at Baycrest offers practicum placements for students currently enrolled in accredited graduate clinical psychology training programs. We offer placements in three areas of emphasis, including Neuropsychological Assessment, Cognitive Intervention, and Behavioural Intervention.



## About Baycrest

Baycrest is a global leader in geriatric healthcare, residential living, research, innovation, and education, with a special focus on brain health and aging. As an academic health sciences centre fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, Baycrest provides an exemplary care experience for aging clients combined with an extensive clinical training program for students and one of the world's leading research institutes in cognitive neuroscience.

Baycrest is located at 3560 Bathurst Street in Toronto near the intersection of Bathurst street and Wilson street. It is easily accessible by public transit.

**Care.** Baycrest serves approximately 1200 seniors per day. It is home to a globally recognized and innovative continuum of healthcare, wellness, and prevention programs and services. Services include outpatient clinics, a hospital, long-term care home, and residential and community-based programs designed especially for people in their 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and beyond.

**Research & Innovation.** Baycrest is a leader in cognitive neuroscience and memory research, with the goal of transforming the journey of aging. The Rotman Research Institute is a preeminent international centre for the study of aging and human brain function. The Kunin-Lunenfeld Centre for Applied Research & Evaluation (KL-CARE) provides resources and expertise to support clinical, evaluative and translational research at Baycrest. The Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation (CABHI) is a solution accelerator focused on driving innovation in the aging and brain health sector. At the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health and Wellness, Baycrest experts focus on integrating research with wellness programs and lifestyle interventions, with the ultimate goal of reducing dementia risk.

**Education.** Fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, Baycrest has an extensive clinical training program in geriatric care. We have trained thousands of students and practitioners from over 50 universities and colleges to deliver high quality care alongside leading experts who are focused on the diseases of aging and care of older adults. Each year we provide students with practical on-site training in almost every healthcare discipline.

## About Neuropsychology and Cognitive Health

The Neuropsychology and Cognitive Health program provides clinical services, education and training, and clinical research related to the assessment and treatment of memory and other cognitive abilities in older adults. Our program provides neuropsychological assessment, intervention, and consultation across Baycrest services and to external organizations. Our team includes neuropsychologists, social workers, administrative staff, as well as many volunteers and trainees. The mission of our program is to provide excellence and leadership in clinical neuropsychological services.



Our services are closely integrated with research and education. Our faculty are scientist-practitioners who contribute to the development and dissemination of clinical knowledge via clinical research, program evaluation, and the development of innovation. There is a strong emphasis on training future psychologists through practicum placements and our Predoctoral Internship Program in Clinical Neuropsychology, which is accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association.

During the academic year, we offer formal didactics including:

- *Psychology Research Rounds*: Current clinical research findings are presented by staff in the Neuropsychology and Cognitive Health program, other Baycrest departments, and affiliated organizations.
- *Neuropsychology Seminars*: Presentations focus on core topics in the practice of clinical neuropsychology, including major disorders, assessment and diagnosis, neuroimaging, consultation and intervention, program evaluation, supervision, ethics, and professional practice.
- *Evidence-Based Practice in Psychology Series*: Presentations focus on using literature reviews and discussions to increase participants' ability to find and critically appraise evidence-based clinical resources and research.
- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Journal Club*: Discussion of selected articles increase awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the context of neuropsychological practice.
- Additional Baycrest-wide learning opportunities are available to students, including Behavioural Neurology Rounds, Geriatric Medicine Rounds, Behavioural Supports Ontario Rounds, Geriatric Mental Health Education Network Rounds, Rotman Research Rounds, and Psychiatry Grand Rounds.

For more information about the Neuropsychology and Cognitive Health program, including our clinical services, learning opportunities, and our staff, visit [www.baycrest.org/neuropsychology](http://www.baycrest.org/neuropsychology).

## Practicum Placement Opportunities

Neuropsychology and Cognitive Health offers practicum placements for students currently enrolled in accredited graduate clinical psychology training programs. Affiliation agreements are required between Baycrest Hospital and the student's university.

Placements are available during the summer term (May 1 to August 31) and the academic year (September 1 to April 30). Exact start and end dates are flexible, depending on the needs of the student and the availability of the supervisor. We offer both full-time placements (35 hours per week) and part-time placements (typically 14 to 21 hours per week). The number of practicum placements during any particular term is dependent on the availability of supervisors, and typically ranges from 4 to 7 per year.

We offer practicum placements in three areas of emphasis. All placements apply a developmental training model. Specific activities and expectations are tailored to the emerging competencies of the

trainee. It is possible to combine elements of more than one emphasis, for example, a primarily neuropsychological assessment practicum with exposure to cognitive intervention, a primarily cognitive intervention practicum with exposure to neuropsychological assessment, or a primary behavioural intervention practicum with exposure to cognitive intervention or neuropsychological assessment. These arrangements are typically made after the practicum placement has begun, to allow trainees time to orient to their roles and available opportunities.

Current practicum placement opportunities include:

### 1. Emphasis in Neuropsychological Assessment

Students in this practicum placement participate in neuropsychological assessment with persons presenting with a range of memory and thinking problems. Referrals come from a variety of specialist services within Baycrest (e.g., Geriatric Assessment Clinics, Ambulatory and Inpatient Mental Health services, Sam and Ida Ross Memory Clinic). Referral questions typically include delineation of cognitive strengths and weaknesses, assistance with differential diagnosis, and suitability for available intervention programs. Case conceptualizations typically include an opinion about the presence and nature of any underlying neurodegenerative illness, relevant medical, psychiatric, psychosocial, and cultural/linguistic factors, and functional implications and recommendations.

The complete assessment process involves reviewing the medical history of the client, determining appropriate tests/measures to be completed, interviewing the client and family, administering and scoring tests, formulating diagnoses and recommendations, preparing a written report, and providing verbal and written feedback to the client and family. For all clinical activities, experiences are tailored to the trainee's developmental readiness and goals. This typically includes some combination of observing the supervisor with clients, being directly observed by the supervisor, and working with clients without direct supervision. Exposure to interprofessional team meetings is available.

### 2. Emphasis in Cognitive Intervention

Students in this practicum placement engage in memory-related intervention activities ranging from mild cognitive impairment (MCI) to severe memory impairment (amnesia) secondary to neurologic dysfunction. Students will learn to implement individualized and group memory interventions and to coordinate case management.



The types of clients receiving these services include those with MCI, traumatic brain injury, dementia, encephalitis, cardiovascular accidents, and other neurologic disorders. This practicum experience combines cognitive intervention for two clinical services.

*Memory-Link* evaluates and treats clients with moderate to severe memory impairment and their families and provides training in internal memory strategies and external memory aids, including using smartphone technology.

*Learning the Ropes for Living with MCI*<sup>®</sup> provides education and training to promote brain health, well-being, and everyday memory ability in older adults with MCI and their families. The program runs for 7 sessions, with 6 weekly sessions and a 1-month follow up session.

### 3. Emphasis in Behavioural Intervention

Students in this practicum placement will gain experience in managing behavioural symptoms of dementia using non-pharmacological intervention strategies for individuals in long term care, acute care, or home settings across the greater Toronto area. Students may also acquire exposure to neuropsychological assessment to rule out normal pressure hydrocephalus.

Students will participate in and learn to (a) conduct functional behavioural assessments where factors that contribute to behaviours are identified, (b) collaborate in developing individualized behaviour care plans, (c) facilitate interviews, feedbacks and follow-up sessions with health care teams and/or family caregivers, (d) attend weekly interdisciplinary rounds, (f) co-facilitate psychotherapy sessions with health care teams and/or family caregivers experiencing burn out. Prior clinical training in behaviour management is not a pre-requisite for completing this placement.

## Practicum Application Process

Students interested in applying for a practicum placement should send the following materials by e-mail to Dr. Keera Fishman at [psychpracticum@baycrest.org](mailto:psychpracticum@baycrest.org):

- A completed Practicum Application Form, found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/BBEjNNrLLR>
- A letter of interest describing their training experiences and goals
- A current CV
- Most recent graduate transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable)
- Two letters of reference, to be sent directly from referees to [psychpracticum@baycrest.org](mailto:psychpracticum@baycrest.org)

Completed applications will be forwarded to practicum supervisors. Interested supervisors will typically contact selected applicants within two weeks of the practicum application deadline. Please note that not all placements may be available at a given time. The type and number of placements is dependent on the availability of supervisors. Additionally, applicants may be contacted by more than one interested supervisor. There is full transparency within our department about this, and we welcome candidates to interview broadly to determine the best fit.

We use the common deadline and notification procedures for Greater Toronto Area Practicum Training Programs. The application deadline for both summer and fall/winter placements is in February, and the notification day is in March. If your program is outside of the greater Toronto area and has a different notification deadline, please provide details in your application form and your letter of interest.

## Our Commitment to Accessibility

We are committed to providing a learning environment that welcomes and supports everyone. Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or require any accommodations to participate fully in our program.

## Contact Us

Phone: 416-785-2500 x2445 | Email: [psychpracticum@baycrest.org](mailto:psychpracticum@baycrest.org) | Web: [www.baycrest.org/neuropsychology](http://www.baycrest.org/neuropsychology)



3560 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6A 2E1

Baycrest is fully affiliated with  
the University of Toronto

