



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento
di Scienze Umane
e Sociali

Presentation of traineeship program for students of first year A.Y. 2023-2024

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

*Curriculum of Clinical Psychology for Individuals, Families
and Organizations*

October 28, 2023

Scientific Supervisors

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Tutor

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Commission for Traineeships in Psychology

Chairs

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Giuseppe Scaratti – *Chair of Bachelor's Degree Program in Psychological Sciences*

Members for the Master's Degree Program in Clinical Psychology

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Traineeship Presentation

1. The **new Italian legislative framework** and the **training model** of the traineeship program
2. The activities of the **traineeship program** for the first year
3. Upcoming **appointments and commitments**
4. **Questions and answers**



New Italian legislative framework

Law n. 163 enacted in 2021



Ministerial Decree (D.M.) n. 654 enacted July 7, 2022



Guidelines issued by

CPA (Consulta della Psicologia Accademica – Council of Academic Psychology)

AIP (Associazione Italiana di Psicologia – Italian Association of Psychology)

CNOP (Consiglio Nazionale dell'Ordine degli Psicologi – National Council of the Order of Psychologists)



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New Italian legislative framework

30 CFU (University Credits) of evaluative practical Traineeship (Tirocino Pratico Valutativo)

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY

10 CFU = 250 hours of practicum at University

MASTER'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY

20 CFU = 500 hours of which:

at least 14 CFU at external host organization

up to 6 CFU of practicum at University

Note: 1 CFU = 25 hours of which up to 5 of supervision



New Italian legislative framework

Habilitation/license (*abilitazione*) and thesis

- The final examination of the Master's Degree program in Psychology **qualifies to practice as a psychologist in Italy and so in Italian.**
- The final examination includes **a public practical assessment session (*Prova Pratica Valutativa*) that must be passed before the thesis defense session.** The practical assessment covers the professional skills acquired through the traineeship and ascertains the candidate's technical preparation for habilitation/license to practice as psychologist in Italy, and so in Italian.



New Italian legislative framework

Eligibility (*idoneità*) to final examination

- To be admitted to the final examination of the Master's Degree program **students must achieve a pass/fail grade** (eligibility/*idoneità*) at the end of the traineeship activities of each years of the master's degree program.
- In case of a judgment of ineligibility students must repeat the traineeship activities with respect to which they did not receive a passing grade.



New Italian legislative framework

The public practical assessment session

- it is a public single oral examination
- it is about:
 - (a) the activities of traineeship carried out
 - (b) the links between theories and professional practices**
 - (c) the professional deontology and codes of ethics**
- ascertains the ability to
 - (a) adopt a **professional approach based on theoretical models, empirical evidence, and ethical principles**
 - (b) be able to critically reflect** on the traineeship



Training model of the traineeship program

Ability and competencies to be achieved

➤ **Orientation ability (*capacità di orientamento*)**

Map about psychology demand forms and about institutional and professional formats/fields/contexts of psychological intervention

➤ **Tools application ability (*capacità di esercizio*)**

Knowledge of the basic operational parameters governing the implementation of a procedure or instrument, e.g., administration and coding of a test, conduction of a behavioral observation, use of the syntax of a statistical analysis software



Training model of the traineeship program

Ability and competencies to be achieved

➤ **Practice competence (*competenza all'uso*)**

It consists of the **ability to regulate the application of techniques** (procedures and/or tools) in function of the objective for which they are employed. In other words, it is the practitioner's competence to **identify the professional resources to be employed** (e.g., the choice of tools), define and manage the contingency of their use (timing, modes, levels of intensity), establish the methods of outcome verification, and manage the critical issues that may arise in the technique application.



Training model of the traineeship program

Ability and competencies to be achieved

➤ **Organizational competence (*Competenza organizzativa*)**

It consists of the ability to analyze, promote, govern and verify the relational and institutional context through which the intervention is carried out. This competence thus concerns the mutually influential relationship between professional action and the socio-organizational environment.

In other words, it is the ability to **analyze the demand, activate the committer by negotiating the goals and setting of the professional intervention**, estimate the economic value of the intervention, manage the relationship with the actors involved, collaborate with professionals from other disciplines.



Training model of the traineeship program



Training model of the traineeship program

Circular influence btw courses and traineeship

- Teachings that orient to the profession
- Teachings that activate competencies
- Teachings that guide in epistemological and theoretical positioning that justify the choice of professional goals and tools

Shared responsibility btw external tutors e professors

- Tutors become part of the training at the same level as professors
- Tutors are involved in the design and evaluation of the outcome of the internships
- Internships as possible reflective practice that can be useful for host organizations



Training model of the traineeship program



Epistemology

General theory of Knowledge and of the relationship between humans and world

Theories of mind

Theory of how the mind works (nature, rules, contents, functioning, limits, ...)



Theories of techniques/method

They regard the aims of intervention and justify the use of techniques to achieve the aims

Techniques

The practices or procedures used in the intervention to achieve the objectives



New Italian legislative framework

Requirements to be tutor in host organizations

- ✓ To be registered in the Italian Roster of Psychologists (Albo degli Psicologi) for at least three years
- ✓ to be employed as psychologist for at least 16 hours per week at the host organization
- ✓ To be accredited on the OPL internship platform
- ✓ Up to 5 interns for each tutor



New Italian legislative framework

Duties and responsibilities of the host organization tutors

- To **train** the interns on the psychologist's profession
- To **certificate** of attendance of the activities **on the traineeship booklet**
- To **evaluate** the capacities and competences achieved by the interns.
- **Make a judgment of eligibility/not eligibility** at the end of the internship



New Italian legislative framework

Where will the external internship be conducted?

- All organizations outside the university that carry out **recognizable psychological activities by psychologist tutors who have signed an agreement with the University** of Bergamo.
- The organization **must be accredited on the OPL internship platform**
- It is the Traineeship Commission that makes agreements with outside organizations, **but students may suggest contacting organizations** they are familiar with



New Italian legislative framework

What does internship at host organizations consist of?

Contextualized and supervised hands-on activities involving direct observation and performance of psychological activities:

i.e., use of knowledge and intervention tools **aimed to:**

- prevention
- diagnosis
- habilitation-rehabilitation
- psychological support
- experimentation, research and teaching

acts reserved by law to the profession of psychology



New Italian legislative framework

List of possible activities of the external training project

TOOL APPLICATION ABILITY

- a) To carry out a case evaluation and analysis;
- b) To use techniques to collect information for case and context analysis;
- c) To write a professional report;

PRACTICE COMPETENCE

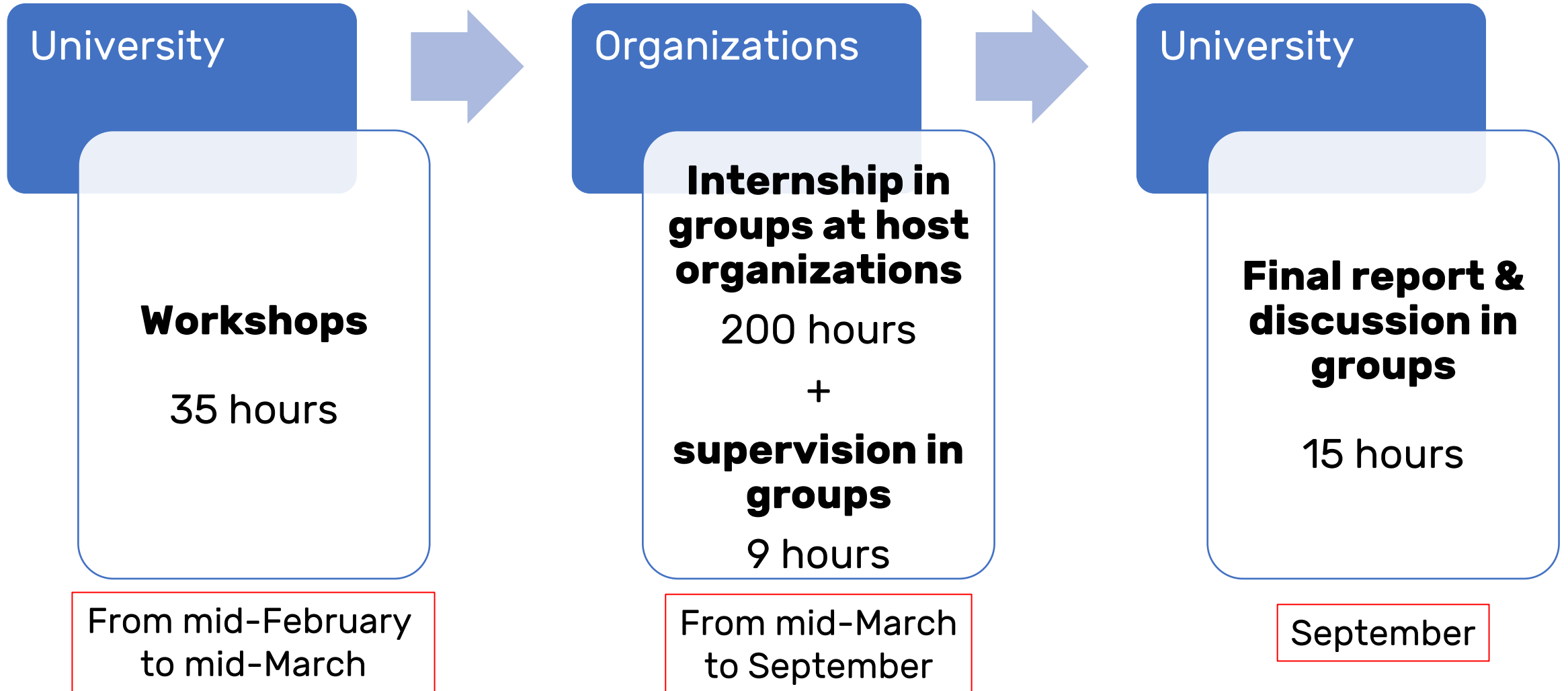
- d) To plan a theoretically grounded and evidence-based professional intervention;
- e) To evaluate the process and outcome of the intervention;
- f) To address legal/ethical/deontological issues of the profession;

ORGANIZATIONAL COMPETENCE

- g) To give an appropriate report to patients/clients/users or to institutions/organizations;
- h) To establish appropriate relations with patients/clients/users and with institutions/organizations;
- i) To establish appropriate relations with colleagues.



Activities of the traineeship program



Activities of the traineeship program

First phase at university campus

Workshops in groups (about 35 hours)

- definition of the **training contract** (expectations, objectives, observation points, etc.)
- **Grid of interpretation and observation** of the psychological interventions to apply during the internship and for the final report; **exercises and examples** of this analysis on some cases presented by professionals from different fields
- **deontology of the psychological profession, main ethical codes** and **exercises** on ethical positionings and dilemmas in specific settings and situations



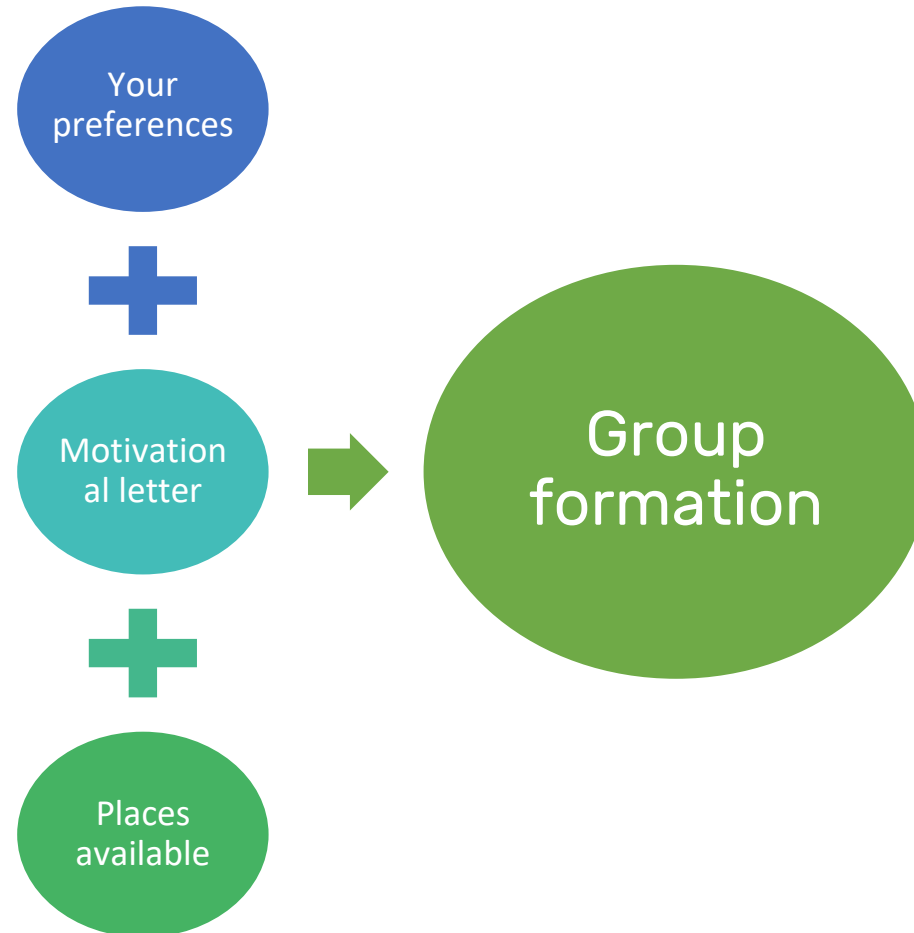
Activities of the traineeship program

Second phase at host organizations

- The traineeship commission agrees with some organizations on some internship projects (200h or more)
- Internship projects are presented to students
- Students express preferences and write a self-presentation and motivational letter
- We match available places and preferences, in agreement also with the organizations that can make their own selection
- Students formally accept the project via the internet
- Only after about 1 weeks from the acceptance, the insurance is active, and students can start the internship



Activities of the traineeship program



Activities of the traineeship program

Second phase at host organizations

- Each small group will be guided by a professional psychologist of the host organization (**host organization tutor**) that at the end will evaluate the achievements and the eligibility.
- All the activities have to be registered in the **traineeship booklet**.
- The calendar of the courses will be organized leaving **2-3 days a week free from classes; in average 16 hours** of internship per week.
- **The small group** is a training device **to be valued**.



Activities of the traineeship program

Second and third phase at university campus

- About 9 hours of **supervisions in small groups** (3 meetings at the beginning middle and ending phases of the internship) conducted by the university tutors to help the group in applying the grid of observation and interpretation of the psychological intervention observed.
- Writing of the **final report** in which the students describes their analysis and learning during the internship. This report will be part of the portfolio sent to the final public practical assessment commission.
- **Final discussions with all groups together** to shared the learned lessons with all colleagues and (possibly) host organization tutors



Missing Traineeship Credits

- **To be admitted to the final examination** of the Master's Degree program it is necessary to have earned **10 credits in the bachelor's degree** and **20 in the master's degree**.
- In the next weeks we will conduct a **recognition of the credits** the students earned **in their past academic carrier as traineeship activities** through a survey.
- If the internship carried out meets the requirements of the new law, then it will be recognized for the purpose of counting final credits (1 credit = 25 hour)
- **The missing credits/hours will be added to the internship** of the first and second year



Traineeship abroad

Students who intend to do the curricular internship abroad (whether using a dedicated grant or self-supporting the expenses) will have to do the all the traineeship **hours entirely in the host country in the same time period of the other colleague.**

For the internship to be valid, the student must be supervised by a mentor psychologist at the host country institution and respect all **other requirements established by the Italian law.**



Traineeship abroad

Find a Host Organization and supervisor abroad

Licensed for at least 3 years (formal inscription on the professional roster)

Send to your University Tutors the host supervisor and Host Organization link

- Documents need to be in English

Send to your University Tutors the traineeship project

- The University will approve it

Create an agreement between your Host Organization and the University

- Ask the agreement form to your University Tutor



Italian Language

- **Also in this transitional phase a fair level of comprehension and proficiency of the Italian language is required.**
- **From the next year the internship will be performed in Italian.**
- The University of Bergamo organizes Italian Language and Culture Courses for foreign students. During the academic year, CIS (Italian courses for foreigners) section will organize dedicated courses for all starting levels
- 5 levels (Beginner to Advanced A1-C1), of 60 hours, in both academic semesters (October to January, February to May)
- Individual lessons and Courses by request



Webpages, documents and contacts

e-learning - Moodle Page

Curricular Traineeship - First Year Clinical Psychology - A.A.23/24

<https://elearning15.unibg.it/course/view.php?id=4919>

Access key: Negri5858

Traineeship webpage with document and vademecum

<https://ls-pc.unibg.it/it/opportunita-ed-esperienze/tirocini-e-stage>

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Traineeship commission surveys

Survey already sent:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScznHBVAkeXx5HYpbtq06yLC-7kgxAzN_eCaElqKckhxDDMuA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Survey to enroll to the traineeship program and to check the number of credits to be achieved during the internship:

<https://forms.gle/nEBLxMvJA2Xhggsr7>



Upcoming appointments and commitments

1. Sign up for the e-learnig page by the end of **this week**
2. Respond to the **language proficiency survey**
3. **Respond to past internship credit reconnaissance survey and enroll in internship program**
4. From mid-January onward read Internship projects and express preferences and make short cover and motivational letter
5. Mid-February to mid-March: intensive period devoted to workshops
6. Mid-March formal acceptance of internship project and start of activities at host organizations



Questions and answers



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