

## Research Projects on the DClin Course

Research is the investigation of clearly defined questions using systematic and rigorous methods, in order to create new knowledge or solve a practical problem.

In NHS settings, clinical psychologists are one of the professions with the most training in and experience of research. DClin trainees receive teaching in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. They may use different research approaches for the projects described below.

**Quantitative** methods often involve larger samples of people, using standardised measures and statistical analysis.

**Qualitative** studies focus on individuals or small groups, using interviews or focus groups and qualitative analysis methods.

The type of approach used will reflect the question that the research is designed to answer.

Trainees are required to demonstrate their competence in research in a number of ways.

**Year 1:** In the first year of the Programme they submit a Systematic Case Study (SCS) report (5,000 words), which is a demonstration of how well the trainee has evaluated the impact of a particular intervention with a service user.

**Year 2:** In the second year they submit both a service evaluation project (SEP; 5,000 words) and a thesis transfer report for the transfer viva (10,000 words). The SEP is a piece of work the trainee does for a “commissioner” (often a local clinical psychologist) which evaluates how well an aspect of service delivery is going. The thesis transfer report outlines their plans for the piece of research they do for their thesis. This is examined in the transfer viva, so called because at that point the trainee becomes officially registered for the doctoral qualification.

**Year 3:** In the final year a substantial piece of research is completed and presented as a thesis (40,000 words). This thesis must make an original, critical contribution to the field of clinical psychology and should be publishable.

See [Guidance for Research Panels](#) to read about service user and carer involvement in research panels. In addition, service users and carers can be involved in consultation and supervision of theses to varying degrees dependent on what is agreed between all parties. Payment for these roles is from the trainees’ research budget.