

Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology

A tip sheet provided by the Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) of the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (American Psychological Association - Division 40) in collaboration with the Association for Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology (AITCN) and Association of Neuropsychology Students in Training (ANST)



What happens after graduate school?

As defined by the Houston Conference in 1997, "a clinical neuropsychologist is a professional psychologist trained in the science of brain-behavior relationships". Part of this training process includes a one-year internship in clinical psychology that is consistent with the Houston Guidelines. The Houston Guidelines was the product of an inter-organizational conference on specialty education and training in Clinical Neuropsychology. It produced a policy statement which guides doctoral, internship, fellowship, and eligibility for board certification in clinical neuropsychology. You can read the guidelines at: http://www.theaacn.org/position_papers/houston_conference.pdf.

What are reviewers looking for in my internship application??

First, read this article:

Ritchie, D., Odland, A.P., Ritchie, A.S., & Mittengerg, W. (2012). Selection criteria for internships in clinical neuropsychology. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 26(8), 1245-1254.

While there is tremendous variability across sites and supervisors, this 2000 survey asked supervisors to rank order critical factors that consider in their ranking of applicants including letters of recommendation, number of clinical hours, training sites, GPA, and so on.

While consideration of the finding of this survey may be useful, remember to seek guidance from supervisors, current interns and past trainees. Workshops for improving chances of matching including interview process and tips are held at yearly APA, INS, ABCN and NAN conferences. These conferences also offer opportunities to meet current supervisors to learn more directly about their sites. Ultimately, you must decide which site will advance your personal training objectives.

Next, purchase and read this book:

Internships in Psychology: The APAGS Workbook for Writing Successful Applications and Finding the Right Fit, by Williams-Nickelson, C, Prinstein, M. J., and Keilin, W. G.

You will find invaluable information in this step-by-step guide to navigating the predoctoral internship application and interviewing process.

Are there places where I can find that specialized information and support?

In a word: yes! **The Association for Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology (AITCN; www.aitcn.org)** is one such place. AITCN's mission is to advocate for and promote the concerns of internship training in clinical Neuropsychology. The AITCN website provides a list of APA approved internship programs which abide by the Houston Conference Guidelines and prepare you for ABCN Fellowships. This site provides links to internship program profiles with detailed information about the type of training offered as well as links to external resources.

There is also **The Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN; www.div40.org)** and **The Association for Neuropsychology Students in Training (ANST; www.div40-anst.com)**. ANST is the student organization for SCN, which is Division 40 of The American Psychological Association. SCN features a searchable database of graduate, internship, and fellowship programs. In addition to SCN, students will find that valuable information and opportunities are routinely sent out over the ANST listserv. The ANST website also has downloadable materials to help you through the application and interview process. Finally, ANST regularly sponsors convention programs and workshops to increase your chances of successfully matching to a neuropsychology

Places to find internship programs with training in neuropsychology:

Society for Clinical Neuropsychology, APA Division 40
www.div40.org/training

Association for Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology
www.aitcn.org

Association of Psychology and Postdoctoral and Internship Centers
www.appic.org

Organizations that provide information and support:

Society for Clinical Neuropsychology, APA Division 40
www.div40.org

Association of Neuropsychology Students in Training (ANST),
www.div40-anst.com

APA Graduate and Postdoctoral Education Resources
www.apa.org/education/grad

American Psychological Association for Graduate Students
www.apa.org/apags

Important Conference Events:

American Psychological Association: APAGS and ANST/SCN both host Internship Workshop events

Int'l Neuropsychological Society: ANST/SCN hosts a training seminar covering internship

Suggested Application Timeline

Now!	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Round out your CV; get advice on internship	Assess readiness for applying for internship: talk to mentors, faculty, training director, and peers; work on getting your dissertation done!			Explore personal and professional goals and values		Begin exploring potential sites		Finalize site list; CV; essays	Letters of rec; cover letters	Applications due Schedule interviews		
								Request letters of Rec		Practice interviews		