

Code of Conduct for Psychology Interns

All interns must comply with the general codes of conduct established by the University of Bologna.

Since the tutors will present the interns to users/clients as future psychologists and encourage them to become gradually independent, the interns will strive to establish positive and respectful relations with the professionals they work with, including fellow interns, and with users/clients.

Relations between interns and users/clients should be inspired by the inalienable rights of users/clients themselves, including health as a fundamental human right, but above all by the respect for the personal autonomy of users/clients that informs social ethics and the Code of Ethics of Italian Psychologists (*Codice Deontologico degli Psicologi Italiani*).

In addition to achieving the specific goal of teaching “how to work as a psychologist”, the internship will lay the foundation for learning “how to be a psychologist”, through a practice that is respectful of the inalienable rights of users/clients in terms of:

- personal dignity and acknowledgement of every person’s own values;
- respect for the person, especially in consideration of the vulnerable and delicate situations they might be experiencing and for which they seek help;
- commitment to act for the benefit of the user/client as a founding principle of the psychology profession;
- provision of accurate information to users/clients as the essential foundation of any intervention proposed to them (e.g. tests, interviews, support, etc.);
- the patient’s trust in the expertise, integrity, skills and courtesy of the intern.

As regards training, every intern will agree an internship plan with his/her tutor, carry out the activities stated in it, follow his/her tutor’s instructions and refer to him/her for any organisational needs or other circumstances. Furthermore, the intern will prepare the documents regarding training activities in accordance with the Guidelines for Practical Evaluation Internships (TPVs) in Psychology.

During the course of the internship, the intern will strive to acquire and take as reference the principles of personal and professional dignity, by conducting him/herself as instructed in the Code of Ethics of Italian Psychologists.

The intern will strive not to break the Law under any circumstances and to avoid all violent or dishonest behaviours. He/she will further strive to learn and fully comply with the regulations and procedures that apply at the host facility, with particular regard to occupational safety rules and procedures.

The intern will take care of his/her appearance, personal hygiene and behaviour, which should conform to modesty, moderation, as well as the current times, so as to retain the trust of clients/users and preserve the reputation of the host facility.

The intern will treat all users/clients with consideration, and respect their point of view, privacy and dignity. The intern will act in a non-discriminatory manner at all times, regardless of the other person’s gender identity, age, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or health conditions.

The intern will be aware of his/her own limits and of the fact that he/she is acting as an intern, rather than as a qualified professional psychologist. As such, he/she will strive to deepen his/her knowledge of and implement scientifically recognised methods and tools, and try not to overstep his/her bounds in providing information to users/clients, in order to avoid any confusion between the role of the psychologist and that of the intern, in accordance with the principle of transparency.

The intern will accept and strictly abide by the principle of confidentiality of user/client data, and will refrain from disclosing them or discussing users/clients with other interns, professionals or non-professionals outside the host facility.

Aware of the fact that the prohibition of mixing professional and private life is key to the psychology profession, the intern will inform his/her tutor of any ongoing or past relationships with users, and will refrain from participating in any activity concerning such users.

The intern will also refrain from expressing inappropriate criticism or negative opinions about his/her tutor and the host facility. Should the intern notice any inappropriate conduct, he/she will raise his/her concerns and doubts about the intervention directly and/or immediately inform the University-Professional Association Integrated Internship Committee (CTI).

The intern will immediately inform his/her tutor of any problem, be it personal or of a user/client, that may endanger his/her own health or that of the user/client. In addition, the intern may inform the University, which will take all steps to protect him/her, of any offensive behaviour or harassment experienced during the course of the internship.