

Internship Offer – Clinical Psychology Department

1. Name:

Clinical Psychology Department (SPC), Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Mons

Academic manager: Sarah Galdiolo

Internship supervisor: Lisa De Noose

2. Description of the internships:

We offer two unpaid **research internships in which** students will participate in a research project conducted at the SPC by Prof. Lisa De Noose. Students will also be required to write an individual research project (in the form of a scientific article project) during the internship.

2.1. Current research project:

Thematic Research : High potential and intrapsychic hypersensitivity

First internship (400 hours):

This project involves participating in a study focused on the intrapsychic functioning of patients (children-adolescents) with high potential, and in particular on whether or not “hypersensitivity” is identified and/or a propensity to experience difficult events from a traumatic perspective.

The starting point is based on a clinical observation: high-potential individuals who are suffering regularly present similarities with the profiles of patients who have experienced trauma (emotional dysregulation, hyperpermeability to stimuli, dissociative reactions, etc.). The scientific literature has so far been little explored this dimension of the functioning of high-potential individuals. Weismann- Arcache (2006), however, mentioned several years ago a certain " traumatophilia " in these profiles. Despite this, little research has since thoroughly explored this understanding.

The study of the intrapsychic specificities linked to this vulnerability would, however, allow for better progress in therapeutic perspectives.

Furthermore, recent literature on the hypersensitivity of high-potential subjects provides a fair nuance and calls into question many preconceptions on the subject (Duriez, 2024). However, this work reveals a deficiency in intrapsychic aspects. The research project of which this internship is a part therefore aims to address this by means of projective exploration (Rorschach tests) of the psychological functioning of many high-potential subjects.

Around a hundred patient files from Lisa De Noose's clinical practice have been collected and will be used as a dataset for analysis.

Second internship (400 hours):

This project involves participating in this same study focused on the intrapsychic functioning of patients (children-adolescents) with high potential, but this time targeting more specifically the way in which we identify signs of resilience.

Not only does current literature return to the assumption of vulnerability/fragility regularly associated with the psychological profile of high-potential subjects (Duriez, 2024), but recent work even suggests a resilient capacity that is quite unique to these profiles (Daubechies, Desmet & Pourtois, 2022).

The study of the intrapsychic characteristics of high-potential subjects would allow a better understanding of resilience in these specific profiles. A psychodynamic understanding of resilience allows the examination of the links with defense mechanisms, mentalization capacities and the subject's capacity for identification, including with substitute care figures (Lighezzolo and de Tychev, 2004).

The research project of which this internship is a part plans to explore these aspects through a projective methodology (Rorschach test). Around one hundred HP patient files, taken from Lisa De Noose's clinical practice, have been collected and will serve as a database to be processed.

2.2. Activities that can be carried out during the internships:

As part of each of these two internships, the student concerned will be required to:

- Develop and write a scientific article project;
- Participate in research seminars;
- Write an updated literature review on the topic targeted in your internship;
- Continue encoding the data using processing software;
- Transcribe projective protocols (e.g., Rorschach tests);
- Analyze clinical vignette(s).

3. Desired Profile(s):

- Enrolment in the second year of a Master's degree in Psychological Sciences;
- Good knowledge of statistical software and qualitative data processing;
- Fluency in French and English (for collaboration in co-authoring academic articles);
- Show a keen interest in the intrapsychic aspects of functioning;
- Have completed and passed the Projective Methods course: Rorschach in Master 1;
- Proactivity, flexibility and autonomy are expected qualities!

4. Internship period:

The internship will take place on the department's premises, during the first quarter of the 2025-2026 academic year, approximately three days per week (precise schedule to be defined).

5. Practical details for applying:

To apply, please send a cover letter and CV by email with the subject line “Research Internship 2025-2026” before August 11, 2025 to lisa.denoose@umons.ac.be and copy to spc@umons.ac.be