

Clinical interview

Practical Internship (TPV) Classes – 4 CFUs

Learning Objectives

Knowledge and Understanding

Introducing the students to the clinical interview as a tool to understand the patient, guide the diagnosis and initiate the therapeutic process. The first sessions require particular attention to various practical aspects, like setting, duration, and language, as well as a multifaceted assessment of the patient across different 'vertices' (emotional, relational, identity-related, cognitive). Reflecting on the emotional impact the patient generates, as an integral part of the understanding process. Finally, the interview is also the place where clinical reasoning develops, which may follow descriptive or theoretical-explanatory models, each with its own steps and interpretative approaches.

Ability to Apply Knowledge and Understanding

Implementing theoretical knowledge through dialogue and group reflection using clinical vignettes: analyzing clinical material to identify key areas of psychological functioning; formulating initial diagnostic hypotheses and exploratory questions for subsequent sessions; recognizing differences between various types of interviews and adapting the clinical approach to different phases of treatment; developing clinical reasoning through the integration of observations, hypotheses, and group discussion.

Summary of Contents

Knowledge of the main characteristics of the clinical interview and interviewing techniques.

Extended Programme

- Introductory overview of the clinical interview in clinical psychology:
 - o The different types of clinical interview (e.g. first interview, diagnostic interview, consultation interview, and so on);
 - o Examples of interviewing techniques (with brief references to "classic" handbooks)
- The role of the clinical interview in the diagnostic process.
- The first interviews:
 - o Practical guidelines (e.g. internal and external setting, time, duration, frequency, vocabulary, etc.);
 - o Observation vertices of the patient (e.g. emotional, identity-related, relational, cognitive);
 - o The effect of the patient's psychopathology on the clinician (working on the emotional impact the patient evokes).
- Clinical reasoning within the interview and the stages of clinical reasoning, according to different reference models (overview, with references to descriptive models vs. theoretical-explanatory models)