

Clinical Psychologist in India — Step-by-Step Checklist

A printable checklist of the 7-step career path to becoming a licensed clinical psychologist in India — degrees, RCI M.Phil, entrance exams and licensing. Tick each box as you progress.

☐	Step 1 — Class 11 & 12 (foundation) Choose any stream (Humanities / Science / Commerce). Take Psychology as an elective if available. Keep English strong for postgraduate coursework.
☐	Step 2 — Bachelor's in Psychology (3 years) BA/BSc Psychology from DU, Christ, Fergusson, Jesus & Mary, Ambedkar University or a state university. Target 55–60%+ aggregate.
☐	Step 3 — Master's in Psychology (2 years) MA/MSc with a Clinical specialisation. Top targets: TISS, Christ, Ambedkar University Delhi, DU, Jamia Millia Islamia.
☐	Step 4 — M.Phil in Clinical Psychology (2 years, RCI-approved) Licensing gate. Apply to NIMHANS, CIP Ranchi, IHBAS, RINPAS, AIIMS or an RCI-listed university. 1,000+ hours of supervised clinical work.
☐	Step 5 — RCI Registration Register with the Rehabilitation Council of India to legally diagnose, sign clinical reports and offer therapy.
☐	Step 6 — Optional PhD or specialisation PhD for academic/research roles. Or specialise in child clinical, neuropsychology, trauma, CBT/DBT via post-M.Phil fellowships.
☐	Step 7 — Practise Start in a tertiary hospital or established practice for 2–3 years of supervised work. Then independent practice, tele-therapy, corporates or academia.

Top M.Phil Clinical Psychology Institutes

Institute	Location	Seats (approx.)
NIMHANS	Bengaluru	12
Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP)	Ranchi	10
IHBAS	Delhi	8
RINPAS	Ranchi	10
AIIMS	New Delhi	5
Amity / Christ / Ambedkar University	Multiple	15–20

Salary Snapshot

Entry-level: Rs.3.5–6 LPA · Mid-career: Rs.8–15 LPA · Private practice (metros): Rs.20 LPA+

Dheya Career Mentors · Full guide: build-your-dream-472.lovable.app/guides/clinical-psychologist-india