

# Foundations of Psychological Assessment

## Brief description of course content (According to the programme's verification report)

- History of psychological assessment.
- Models, techniques and instruments for psychological assessment.
- Psychological diagnosis.
- Psychological report.
- Assessment process and diagnosis.
- Basic assessment techniques (interview, observation, self-reporting)

## Learning outcomes

1. To understand the historical, conceptual, methodological framework in the study of psychological assessment.
2. To understand the functions, characteristics and limitations of the different theoretical models of psychological assessment.
3. To understand the procedures of hypothesis formulation and comparison and how to interpret the results.
4. To know how to make a hypothesis for a clinical case and how to select the most suitable assessment technique to test it.
5. To understand the steps of the psychological process and to carry them out when asked to do so by a customer.
6. To know how to make a psychological report in response to a customer request.
7. To know how to plan and perform observation and self-observation processes.
8. To know how to do a psychological interview.
9. To understand and know how to apply self-reporting techniques.
10. To understand the applicable methodological and scientific requirements of an assessment technique with regard to the proposed objective.
11. To understand the deontological standards which regulate the profession of psychologists.

## Planned learning activities Theory Syllabus

### THEORETICAL SYLLABUS:

#### *I. CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL FACTORS*

### *1. Historical evolution of psychological assessment*

Pre-scientific background of the discipline. Scientific establishment of psychological assessment. Social history: Stages of development. Psychological assessment in Spain. Current situation.

### *2. Concepts and models of psychological assessment*

Meanings of the discipline: measurement, psychodiagnosis, assessment, functional analysis of behaviour. Influence of models of Psychology on psychological assessment: implications for the assessment. The current concept of psychological assessment. The current model of psychological assessment.

### *3. The process of psychological assessment*

The scientific method in psychological assessment. Assessment objectives and delimitation of the process. The assessment process: general issues. The end of the process: the psychological report. Organisation of the report. Requirements and criteria a psychological report should fulfil.

### *4. Scientific and ethical guarantees of the psychological assessment*

Psychometric principles in assessment techniques. Ethical and deontological aspects of psychological assessment.

## **II. PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES**

### *5. Observation and self-observation*

Methodology based on observation. Observation in artificial situations. Concept and functions of self-observation. Self-registration procedures. Scientific guarantees.

### *6. Self-reporting*

Definition and characterisation of self-reporting. Types of self-reporting. Structure of self-reporting. Advantages and limitations of using these techniques.

### *7. The interview*

The interview. Types of interview. Stages and development of the interview. Advantages and limitations of using the interview.

## **Practical Syllabus**

### **PRACTICAL SYLLABUS:**

*Practical exercise 1:* Literature search.

*Practical exercise 2:* Psychological models.

*Practical exercise 3: Assessment process.*

*Practical exercise 4: Ethical dilemmas.*

*Practical exercise 5: Creating and completing a self-observation process.*

*Practical exercise 6: Applying and correcting self-reporting and creating a psychological report.*

*Practical exercise 7: Interview and process.*