Ontario Correctional Institute
109 McLaughlin Rd. South
Brampton ON L6Y 2C8
Brampton

SITE DESCRIPTION

PLACEMENTS OFFERED

Setting: Residential, correctional, mental health treatment centre for men

Populations Served:
Male criminal offenders with mental health and/or addiction issues

Areas of Focus:
Correctional/Forensic Psychology
Individual and group therapy
Correctional Psychological Assessment
Crisis intervention

Primary Models of Care:
Correctional Treatment Community; OCI operates as a therapeutic community with a number of treatment approaches implemented by mental health professionals, programme facilitators, correctional staff and by volunteers. Psychological approaches utilized in core group therapy programmes include the Risk-Need-Responsivity approach to treating criminogenic needs, the ‘Good lives model’ of sex offender treatment, Cognitive-behavioural and Social Learning strategies, Narrative and relational interventions and Experiential approaches. Therapeutic approaches utilized by our psychologists in individual therapy include Cognitive-Behavioural, Experiential and Narrative and Relational strategies.

PLACEMENTS OFFERED
M.A. practicum
Ph.D. practicum

SPECIFIC TRAINING OFFERED
Individual and group therapy
Intake psychological assessment
Additional Psychological assessment on as-needed basis
Crisis intervention
Forensic Psychological risk assessment
Correctional research

PREFERENCE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WITH:

n/a

CONTACT & APPLICATION INFORMATION
Dr. Jim Cheston
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Additional Information:
The Ontario Correctional Institute is a 220-bed correctional treatment centre with a mandate to provide treatment to provincial male offenders in the areas of emotional and mental health problems, drug abuse, violence and domestic violence, sexual offending and general criminality. The institute provides dormitory style living in a therapeutic community setting where the men learn to solve conflicts, assume responsibility, build competencies and live together cooperatively.

The Psychology Department consists of a Chief Psychologist, five staff Psychologists and a psychometrist (see biographies attached). The Department offers both assessment and treatment services to men at OCI. In addition, members of the department conduct program evaluation and research on a variety of clinical and forensic issues. A variety of opportunities are available for students. Those with an interest in assessment may perform intake interviews and write a Psychological Intake Report concerning the treatment needs of offenders. They may assist with and/or perform risk assessments, as well as perform other cognitive or personality assessment on an as-needed basis. There are a myriad of intervention opportunities such as individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, consultation or crisis intervention. Also, there are a number of group programs currently offered in the areas of Substance Abuse, Sexual Offending and Domestic Violence. Students may observe, assist or take on a co-therapy role depending on their level of experience and preparation for the activity in question. Each student will develop a plan to reach their training objectives in conjunction with their supervisor. Such plans will be individually tailored to the goals and needs of the students. At present, the Department can offer two training positions. Applications and inquiries can be received via e-mail throughout the year. We would prefer a student who would attend for two days per week for four to eight months, although flexibility is possible. OCI is accessible from Highways 407 or 401, or by public transit. Please indicate your interest in these positions via Email. It would be helpful if you forward your resume. Thank you for your interest in OCI.

Site Supervisors:
Dr. Jim Cheston, Chief Psychologist – started his career in Correctional/Forensic Psychology at the Northern Treatment Centre (now the Algoma Treatment and Remand Centre) in 1991. In 1993 he came to OCI, where he worked as a staff psychologist until he entered private practice in 2001. Before he returned to OCI in 2008 as Chief Psychologist, Jim conducted Psychological Risk Assessments on inmates in federal penitentiaries and treated federal parolees on contract with CSC, as well as assessing and treating non-correctional clients in the community. Dr. Cheston has particular expertise treating men with domestic violence and with anger and emotion regulation issues.

Dr. Ainslie Heasman—has been at the Ontario Correctional Institute since Oct 2005 after completing her graduate degree at the California School of Professional Psychology. Her training in the U.S. afforded her the opportunity to work with civilly committed sexually violent predators (SVP’s) in Washington state, as well as conduct forensic assessments (including competency to stand trial, and not guilty by reason of insanity), as
well as working with adolescents in an inpatient setting using a Dialectical Behaviour Therapy model. Her research and clinical interests are centered around sexual offenders, and she is currently facilitating a sex offender treatment group based on the good lives model of sex offender treatment.

Dr. Forouzan Mobayyen—has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Concordia University in Montréal and has been working at the Ontario Correctional Institute since October 2007. She has worked in a wide variety of settings including hospital emergency departments, inpatient wards and outpatient clinics. Her research interests have focused on memory processes and cognitive deficits informed by psycholinguistics and neuropsychology. Dr. Mobayyen’s clinical interests and practice involve clinical and correctional/forensic psychology. She has an eclectic approach in treatment with a particular interest in psychodynamic psychotherapy and cognitive-behavioural therapy. She is interested in the assessment and treatment of affective, psychotic and personality disorders in adults including adult offenders. She has also developed an interest in the assessment and treatment of addiction and sexually dysregulated behaviours in adult offenders. Dr. Mobayyen is currently on extended Maternity Leave.

Dr. Brian Pauls—a graduate of the University of Toronto, joined the Department of Psychology at the Ontario Correctional Institute in December 2005. Brian is particularly interested in addictions and sexual offender treatment, and the specialized risk assessment of violent and sexual offenders. On his down time, Brian can be found either moonlighting as a bass player, or weight training at his local gym.

Dr. Candice Schroter has worked at OCI approximately 17 years, broken into three ‘bits’. She most recently returned in fall of 2004. While away from OCI, Candice has worked in private practice and at Syl Apps Youth Centre, Kinark Child & Family Services. She joined the OCI Department of Psychology directly after graduation and has enjoyed working in the model applied here combining assessment, individual treatment and group programs. Dr. Schroter has returned to the Ministry with a broader perspective that has been helpful to her work.

Dr. Smita Vir Tyagi is a clinician and trainer with over 15 years experience in domestic violence, trauma and women’s issues. She consults widely on domestic violence, diversity training, program evaluation, gender issues in therapy and program development in community and correctional settings. Her clinical and research interests are: pathways to desistance, social policy and crime, women’s offending, diversity, trauma and mental health. Dr. Tyagi teaches courses in Criminal Justice at Ryerson University and was a Junior Research Fellow at the Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto. Dr. Tyagi’s therapy is rooted in feminist, anti-oppression analysis and uses cognitive-behavioural strategies while drawing from narrative and relational therapies.