



Postgraduate Student/Staff Research Profile

## **Claire Hitchings**

School of Psychology, Griffith University

---

### ***What is your role within the School of Psychology?***

I am completing a Doctor of Psychology (Clinical). I will be commencing my third year of the program in 2009.

### ***What research activities are you currently undertaking here at the university?***

I am looking at how employees adjust to international job relocations (IJR). Specifically, for employees who relocate with their marital or de facto partner, I am hypothesizing that the couple-level coping strategies used by relocating couples will influence the extent to which employees adjust to IJRs.

### ***What influenced your decision to undertake psychological research?***

I am completing a thesis (as part of the DPsych (Clin) requirements) – the thesis is mandatory!

### ***Why is your area of study so important?***

Within Australia, there is a chronic labour shortage across a number of occupational areas. As such, Australian businesses need to ensure they can recruit and retain foreign workers. Successful IJRs carry significant benefits for business, relocating employees and their families. In contrast, there can be significant financial, personal and family costs associated with maladjustment to IJRs. Thus, it is important for employers and relocating couples to be able to identify the factors most likely to predict adjustment to the IJR.