

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM FOR SCRUTINY UNDER DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

**PLEASE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INFORMATION NOTE ON
THE RECOGNITION OF NON-IRISH QUALIFICATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

Qualifications

The qualifications required for consideration for appointment to the *Office of Clinical Psychologist* are:

- i. a recognised university degree or diploma obtained with first or second class honours in which psychology was taken as a major subject and honours obtained in that subject.

AND

- ii. a recognised postgraduate qualification in Clinical Psychology.

Evidence of eligibility to practise as a Clinical Psychologist

Applicants must supply documentary evidence of their entitlement to work in the capacity of a Clinical Psychologist in the country in which the qualifications were obtained. If your registration or licence specifies an area of practice, for example, Clinical Psychology, please include this. You should also provide contact details (name, address, telephone number, email) of the national competent authority which should verify that your qualification meets the standard to practise in your home member state¹.

¹ if you are an EEA national, please refer if necessary to the contact point for Directive 2005/36/EC in your home Member State

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

Before completing the application form please consult the list of essential criteria below to ensure your qualifications and experience match those required.

Section 1 Recognised undergraduate qualification in Psychology with first or second class honours.

- 1.1** Course transcript confirms appropriate content, proportion of Psychology, duration of course and grades achieved.
- 1.2** Achievements that lead to the acceptance for this award cannot be recounted for further qualification.

Section 2 Recognised postgraduate qualification in Clinical Psychology.

- 2.1** Postgraduate clinical course at least of 2 full calendar years, full time.
- 2.2** Postgraduate thesis. Clinically relevant research of appropriate scope and length.
- 2.3** Applicants must show evidence of completion of 6 different clinical placements in each of the following areas:
- child and adolescent mental health services;
 - adult mental health services;
 - services for people with intellectual disability;
 - a specialist service.

A minimum of 60 days working in block should have been spent in each of these areas and involve both assessments and interventions with clients in a recognised clinical psychology setting. Each training placement should be supervised by Senior Clinical Psychologists. The total number of days on placement and under appropriate supervision must be 390 days.

***Note:** It is recognised that training structures differ across countries. Work experience gained after formal postgraduate training and supervised by a Senior Clinical Psychologist may be considered in meeting the requirements of Section 2.3, in regard to clinical placements.*

- 2.4** Placements must constitute 50-60% of course time.
- 2.5** Across placements, applicant has gained experience in interviewing, observation, psychometric assessments and use of questionnaires/checklists.

- 2.6 Across placements, applicant has gained skills in developing hypotheses and formulations about presenting problem.
- 2.7 Across placements, applicant has been supervised in the application of at least two therapeutic approaches.
- 2.8 Across placements, applicant has developed skills in written and oral communication.
- 2.9 Across placements, applicant has gained experience working with other health service professionals.
- 2.10 Broad range of frequently occurring presenting problems seen by applicant across placements.
- 2.11 It is suggested that applicants access the accreditation *Guidelines for the Assessment of Postgraduate Professional Programmes in Clinical Psychology* on the PsSI website (<https://www.psychologicalsociety.ie>) so that they are fully aware of placement requirements. A summary of these requirements is at Appendix 1.
- 2.12 For all applications, academic programme accounts for 20-30% of total course time.
- 2.13 Academic programme covers a broad range of topics, assessment and intervention with children and adolescents, assessment and intervention with adults, assessment and intervention with people with learning disabilities and a specialist population. Professional and ethical issues are also covered.

Post qualification work experience

If shortfalls in your academic qualifications are identified, post qualification professional experience of the applicant must be considered so it is important that you provide complete information on your post qualification work experience as a practising psychologist. You should also provide a referee who will verify this work experience.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

Please submit **ONE** witnessed² copy of:

1. Photographic proof of identity and of citizenship e.g. witnessed copy of passport. In the event of a name difference between your photographic ID and your certificates of qualifications please submit witnessed evidence of such change e.g. marriage certificate.
2. Documentary evidence showing that your qualification entitles you to practise as a psychologist in the country/State in which it was obtained. If your registration/ licence specifies an area of practice, e.g. Clinical Psychology, please include this.

Undergraduate Qualification in Psychology

3. Undergraduate degree/diploma.
4. Transcript of all undergraduate examination results showing subjects studied and grades obtained, duration of course - if part-time, give full-time equivalent.
5. Undergraduate thesis/research abstract.

Postgraduate Qualification in Clinical Psychology

6. Postgraduate degrees/diplomas.
7. Transcript of all examination results showing subjects studied and grades obtained, duration of course, if part-time gives full time equivalent.
8. Full syllabus from your educational institute (this may also be referred to as course handbook/course curriculum/programme of study/course of study) which sets out the complete structure of your course, including details of:
 - a) course modules;
 - b) research requirements;
 - c) type of practice placements (nature of the work, duration of each placement, client groups, ages, numbers, supervision arrangements).
9. Logbook for each practice placement (if available).
10. Postgraduate thesis abstract.

All documentation must be in English³ and all copies must be witnessed.

² by a Commissioner for Oaths (www.citizensinformation.ie/en/justice/civil_law/commissioners_for_oaths.html), member of the Garda Síochána, practising Solicitor, Justice of the Peace, your training establishment or Public Notary (www.notarypublic.ie). The signatory must not be a relative of the applicant. The signatory:

- (a) must SEE the original document and sign to that effect on the photocopy
- (b) must state that the photocopy is a true copy of the original document which has not been altered in any way, by writing "This photocopy is a true copy of the original document which has not been altered in any way" on the photocopy
- (c) must PRINT their name, position and contact address and telephone number on the photocopy
- (d) must DATE the copy
- (e) must sign the photocopy using BLUE ink

³ if not in English, an authenticated translation must accompany a copy of the document.

Appendix 1

About Placements / Periods of Adaptation in Clinical Psychology⁴

Clinical placements can be categorised into 'core placements' and 'advanced placements'.

Clinical experience in the following are considered core:

1 Child and Adolescent Services

This placement should provide experience with children from different age groups who present with a range of difficulties including developmental, emotional and behavioural problems. Assessment methods should include formal psychometric tests and include other assessment techniques e.g. behavioural and play based assessments. There should be experience of interventions both with individual children and with the child within the family.

2 Psychological services for Adults

This placement should offer experience with a range of assessment methods, interventions and evaluation techniques. There must be experience with varied problems across different age groups in a range of settings *including older adults clients* (65 years +). Experience with older adults can be gained within a core or advanced placement. This experience should include at least two older adult clinical cases with at least one an intervention and one an assessment.

3 Services for people with Intellectual Disability

This placement should offer experience with a mix of presenting problems and service settings. Trainees should gain experience with individuals from across the spectrum of intellectual disabilities including individuals with mild, moderate, severe and profound disability. Currently the majority of Intellectual disability services are structured across the lifespan in the following way: Early Intervention Services (0-6 years), School Age Services and Adult Services. Each Intellectual Disability placement should offer core supervised experiences in at least two of these three areas; one of the areas must be within adult services. In addition a minimum of *three days* observational experience should be arranged in the area not chosen for supervised experience as part of the placement. Opportunities should be available to develop skills in relation to different assessment methods including intellectual, developmental and vocational methods, together with a range of intervention strategies.

4 Specialist service

In addition to the core placements outlined above, each trainee should have at least one advanced practice placement where they develop additional competencies in a particular area or with a particular population deemed relevant to clinical psychology.

All clinical experience must be supervised by a Senior Clinical Psychologist employed by the agency in which the placement or period of adaptation is carried out.

⁴ adapted from the guidelines for the assessment of postgraduate professional programmes in Clinical Psychology on the PsSI website (<https://www.psychologicalsociety.ie>)