

From: Greer Bradbury [<mailto:G.Bradbury@exchange.curtin.edu.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 December 2010 5:05 PM
To: NationalBoards
Subject: PBA Consultation Paper 6

Dear Professor Grenyer

Although the PBA continues to state that they will “ensure disincentives do not apply to students undertaking Doctorate (DPsyc or PhD qualifications)”, the current guidelines leave combined Masters/PHD students in career limbo, out of pocket, and disadvantaged compared to fellow Masters students.

As an existing combined Masters/PHD student, I have been disappointed by the changes to registration and endorsement for higher-degree students, especially the new understanding of “completed degrees”. Compared to Masters-level research, PHD research projects take overall longer to design, to implement, to write-up and to have marked. The upshot for combined Masters/PHD students under the new guidelines of “marked and accepted” theses is we have to wait substantially longer to meet requirements for registration than Masters students. A poor reward for the additional time, effort and commitment needed to manage a combined course. For example, I am a generally registered psychologist with completed Masters coursework in the last months of PHD write-up. I have been employed as a psychologist for 2 years and accessed regular clinical supervision, attended clinical professional development events yet none of this experience goes towards clinical endorsement. In addition, my thesis completion date has been extended by 6 -12 months due the new guidelines.

So I applaud and fully support the recent Consultation Paper proposal (see below) regarding entry into registration programs for combined Masters/PHD students. I believe the proposal if accepted will remove the existing disadvantage for current combined Masters/PHD students and the disincentive for future students in such programs.

Combined Masters/PhD candidates may apply to enter the registrar program after a minimum of two years full-time enrolment in postgraduate study, upon completion of all coursework and placement requirements at the level of a Masters, and sufficient progress on the thesis has been made. The candidate must have general registration. General registration is available upon submission of an official transcript and letter from the Head of School (or their nominee) on a Psychology Board of Australia form that certifies the candidate has completed all coursework and practicum placements at the level of in the Masters program and that the thesis has progressed sufficiently as to be equivalent to a Masters thesis and would be eligible for submission as a Masters thesis at that institution.

Please let me know if there is any further action I can take to support these proposals.

Kind regards

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