

**Policy for provisional psychologists with  
qualifications more than 10 years old**

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This version retired on 31 May 2017



Psychology  
Board of  
Australia

### Summary

The Psychology Board of Australia's *Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program: provisional psychologists and supervisors* (the Guidelines) were developed in accordance with s35(1)(c)(iii) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory. Section 2.4 of the Guidelines sets out the prerequisites for registration as a provisional psychologist, under an internship program, which includes the requirement that the applicant has completed an accredited, four-year sequence of study (or its equivalent) in psychology within the last ten years. This policy sets out the refresher training requirements for applicants who do not meet that requirement.

### Provisional registration via higher degree

Current Australian accreditation standards for accredited postgraduate coursework degrees in psychology do not allow individuals to enrol into the Masters or Doctorate programs if there has been a gap of more than 10 years since the applicant completed the accredited 4-year sequence in psychology. The applicant is advised to seek advice and approval to enrol from the tertiary institution to which he or she is applying. It is the responsibility of the accredited tertiary institution to advise about any particular conditions or refresher training that may be required to be accepted into a postgraduate program.

### Provisional registration via the 4+2 internship program

Requirements for provisional registration for the 4+2 pathway must be consistent with the requirements for provisional registration the higher degree pathway. Applicants for provisional registration wishing to undertake the 4+2 internship program who have a four-year accredited sequence of study in psychology (or assessed equivalent qualification) that was completed more than 10 years ago must complete refresher training that is approved by the Board. This policy outlines the Board's requirements in this situation.

### Provisional registration via the 5+1 internship program

Requirements for provisional registration for the 5+1 pathway must be consistent with the requirements for provisional registration for the higher degree pathway. Applicants for provisional registration wishing to undertake the 5+1 internship program who have a five-year accredited sequence of study in psychology (or assessed equivalent qualification) that was completed more than 10 years ago must complete refresher training that is approved by the Board. This policy outlines the Board's requirements in this situation.

### Definitions

**Act** means the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory of Australia

**AHPRA** means the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

**Board** means the Psychology Board of Australia established under part 5 of the Act

**5+1 internship program** refers to the supervised practice program as outlined in the General Registration Standard and Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program (in consultation)

**5+1 pathway** refers to the pathway to general registration undertaken by provisional psychologists that is based on Board approval of the plan, supervisors, and work role(s) for the internship program

**4+2 internship program** refers to the supervised practice program as outlined in the Guidelines.

**4+2 pathway** refers to the pathway to general registration undertaken by provisional psychologists that is based on Board approval of the plan, supervisors, and work role(s) for the internship program

**Guidelines** refers to the *Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program: provisional psychologists and supervisors*

**National Law** means the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory of Australia

**Practice** refers to the practice of psychology as defined in the Guidelines

**Provisional Psychologist** means a person registered as a provisional psychologist under part 7 of the Act

**Psychologist** means a person who holds general registration as a psychologist under Part 7 of the Act

**Supervisor or Board-Approved Supervisor or Principal Supervisor** means a person who holds general registration as a psychologist and who has been approved by the Board, pursuant to section 9 of the Guidelines, to supervise provisional psychologists

### Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for formulating and approving this policy.

In accordance with the functions of the National Agency under s25 of the National Law, implementation and administration of the 4+2 and 5+1 internship programs are managed by AHPRA, which includes a responsibility for ensuring that the policy is implemented and effectively managed.

## Policy for provisional psychologists with qualifications more than 10 years old

### Scope

This policy applies to applicants for provisional registration wishing to undertake the 4+2 internship program or 5+1 internship program who have a four- or five-year accredited sequence of study in psychology (or assessed equivalent qualification) that was completed more than 10 years ago.

The completion date of the applicant's four- or five-year accredited sequence of study in psychology (or assessed equivalent qualification) is taken to be 31 December of the final year that the applicant was enrolled in the degree, rather than the graduation date, the date the degree was conferred, or any other completion date listed on the transcript.

### Legislation

Under s35(1)(c) of the National Law, the Psychology Board of Australia had developed and approved the *Psychology Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program: provisional psychologists and supervisors*. This policy supplements the Guidelines. The Psychology Board of Australia is currently consulting on the *Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program* under s35(1)(c) of the National Law.

### Requirements

Applicants wishing to undertake either the 4+2 internship program or the 5+1 internship program, whose qualifications were completed more than 10 years ago, should successfully complete refresher training before applying for provisional registration. The refresher training should comprise four semester length subjects that are offered in a 3rd or 4th year course accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) in psychology, or another course of study approved by the Board. The refresher training must extensively cover the following areas:

- assessment and diagnosis
- psychological interventions
- ethics and
- psychopathology.

Note: more than one area may be covered in each subject. For example, some assessment and diagnosis subjects provide extensive coverage of psychopathology. In such cases, an applicant may apply to complete the required subject areas in less than four subjects.

### Authorisation

Psychology Board of Australia  
Date of issue: 1 August 2011

### Review

This policy will be in effect from 1 August 2011. The Board will review this policy at least every three years.

Last reviewed: 20 August 2011

This version retired on 31 May 2017