

Dear colleague

I coordinate the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program at the University of Adelaide. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this consultation.

We have a number of postgraduate students currently enrolled in a combination PhD/ Master of Psychology (Clinical) program, which requires four years of full-time study. We also have some part-time Masters students, undertaking a four-year half-time program.

Our clinical psychology students in those two categories who enrolled in early 2013 are not due to complete until early 2017.

Thus, as it stands, unlike their full-time /Masters-only classmates, they would be required to sit the exam.

I request consideration of a later exam-requirement deadline for them, because like their classmates they are currently enrolled in accredited programs and from an equity perspective it would seem reasonable for them to be treated in the same way.

A third category of students whom I believe merit your consideration is currently enrolled students who as it stands are due to complete before the proposed deadline, but who may in future be advised to intermit their candidature (e.g. for maternity leave, family responsibilities, disability, serious illness).

I am concerned that in an effort to meet the exam-requirement deadline, such students may opt not to intermit - thus compromising their psychology training and also their well-being.

An alternative solution which could potentially address all three categories of student might be: to offer an exemption from the exam for all students currently undertaking accredited masters and doctoral programs leading to registration.

AHPRA could then consider making the exam a requirement for future postgraduate students enrolling AFTER a date to be specified.

This would change the exam requirement and deadline from a retrospective to a prospective requirement. To me it seems both administratively simpler and more equitable.

With thanks for considering my request,

Yours sincerely

Linley Denson

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