

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed examination to complete registration as a psychologist, as of July 1 2013.

First, I agree that some kind of examination to ensure standards and good practise is met and maintained is important in the industry. Some may argue that persons are practising as Psychologists without sound knowledge and are tarnishing the reputation of the industry.

However, it would seem more practical to test persons who have been practising for a number of years, to ensure they have maintained and updated their knowledge and practises through continued education, rather than testing students who have recently completed their studies, and should have this knowledge fresh in their minds.

Also, students completing their Masters or PhD ought to have sound knowledge compared to those who have only completed a 4 year undergraduate degree, and perhaps could be relieved of completing further examination prior to registration.

The cost of the examination is also steep. As recent graduates, finances will already be tight, working for minimum wage, perhaps paying supervisors, or living off a government scholarship. Full registration will be due at the time of examination for registration, should the examination cost not be absorbed by the registration fee? Or a nominal increase in registration fee for all registered psychologists to cover the examination cost?

The examination sample questions appear to be heavily related to clinical psychology, with sub group content such as knowledge on childrens testing. This does not test for the many broad areas psychologists are able to practise in. If examinations for registration are introduced, there ought to be many exams to choose from, tailored to your field of practise, be it sports, child, clinical adult, organisational psychology and so forth. It is foolish to test all applicants for registration on a small sample, given the huge variety of employment fields psychology covers.

To conclude, I agree with the principle of testing ones knowledge, however I feel the target test population needs to be given more consideration. Graduates with 4 year degrees and those who have been in practise for many years would perhaps benefit more from preparing for such an exam rather than those who have continued with their education and have recently graduated with a Masters or PhD. In this vein, the exams should be tailored for each target population, testing organisational principles for industrial psychologists, testing clinical child practise principles for those working as developmental psychologists and so forth. And cost of the examination should be reconsidered. If recent graduates are sitting the examination, many will be excluded from registration simply as they cannot afford to sit the exam as well as pay for full registration.

I hope that my views have provided some insight and perhaps highlighted some issues for consideration previously not considered.

Kind regards,
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Graduating mid 2014