



**Psychology Board of Australia**

**POLICY FOR HIGHER  
DEGREE STUDENTS  
APPLYING FOR GENERAL  
REGISTRATION**

2 May 2016

# POLICY FOR HIGHER DEGREE STUDENTS APPLYING FOR GENERAL REGISTRATION

## Summary

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory requires the Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) to provide for the protection of the public by ensuring that only psychologists who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered.

The Board must be certain that applicants meet the Board's registration standards before granting general registration. As such, applicants undertaking doctoral or combined degrees who seek general registration under eligibility requirement e) ii) of the *General registration standard* must demonstrate they meet the requirements.

## Who does this policy apply to?

This policy is for currently enrolled psychology higher degree candidates who have:

1. completed all fifth and sixth year-level coursework and practicum of a Board-approved postgraduate qualification that is accredited as:
  - a. a fifth, sixth and seventh year of study (such as a Doctor of Psychology), or
  - b. a fifth and sixth year of study, and includes a doctoral thesis (such as a combined Masters/PhD), and
2. have made sufficient progress in the doctoral research thesis for it to be equivalent in size and scope to a Masters level thesis

and who wish to apply for general registration as a psychologist prior to completion of the doctoral thesis in order to commence a registrar program, or for any other reason.

## Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for formulating and approving this policy. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented and effectively managed.

## Legislation

Section 52 of the National Law sets out the requirements for general registration.

The Board's *General registration standard* is approved under section 12 of the National Law; it sets out the specific general registration requirements for the psychology profession. The registration standard can be viewed at the Board's website at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au).

## Requirements

Applicants for general registration must meet all the requirements of the General registration standard.

Applicants who have not yet completed the doctoral thesis required for their postgraduate qualification may apply to have their application for general registration assessed under part e) i) or e) ii) on the basis that they have completed the equivalent of a Board-approved postgraduate qualification accredited as a fifth and sixth year of study. These applicants are required to provide the following evidence of equivalence:

1. current official academic transcript, and
2. a statement that is signed by the applicant and the Head of School (or their nominee) on a Psychology Board of Australia form (PDEC-76), which certifies:
  - a. the candidate has completed all coursework and practicum placements at the level of participating in the Masters program, and
  - b. that the thesis writing has progressed sufficiently as to be equivalent to a Masters thesis in size and scope at that institution.

These documents must be sent directly to your local office of AHPRA by your university or college.

A psychologist who obtains General registration in accordance with this policy will be permitted to apply to commence a registrar program leading to area of practice endorsement in accordance with the requirements for entry into the registrar program in the *Guidelines on area of practice endorsements*. However the

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psychologist will not be eligible to apply for the relevant endorsement until they have graduated with the relevant qualification and completed the registrar program.

## Authorisation

Psychology Board of Australia

**Date of issue:** 1 August 2011

### Review

This version of the policy will be in effect from 2 May 2016 and replaces the previous version dated 16 November 2012.

The Board will review this policy as required, this will generally be at least every five years.

**Last reviewed:** 26 February 2016