

Fact sheet for 4+2 provisional psychologists

October 2017

Transitioning to the revised 4+2 internship guidelines

Summary

The Psychology Board of Australia's (the Board) revised Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program (the guidelines) came into effect on 1 June 2017. The guidelines support and expand on the 4+2 internship requirements set out in General registration standard and in the revised the Provisional registration standard that will also take effect from 1 June 2017.

This fact sheet explains how 4+2 pathway provisional psychologists who started their internship under the old (interim) guidelines will be affected by the new 4+2 internship guidelines and provides transitional information.

Who does this information apply to?

This information is for provisional psychologists who started a 4+2 internship program under the interim guidelines and will complete after the revised guideline came into effect.

When do the new 4+2 guidelines start?

The revised guideline are effective from **1 June 2017**.

The Board approved a three month transition period (1 June to 1 September 2017) during which time general registration applications and case studies/reports meeting the old (interim) guidelines were accepted. This has now ended and all 4+2 pathway provisional psychologists applying for general registration **after 1 September 2017** must meet the requirements of the revised guideline.

Case report exemption for 4+2 pathway provisional psychologists

4+2 provisional psychologists who had their internship program plan approved under the interim guidelines (i.e. before 1 June 2017) have a special exemption regarding case reports. To successfully complete the internship, this group only needs to complete six case studies/reports and submit three of those to the Board:

- For interns who have one or two remaining case reports to submit to the Board after 1 June 2017, your supervisor should determine whether your outstanding reports need to be assessment or intervention focused.
- For interns who have three remaining case reports to submit to the Board after 1 June 2017, you must submit at least one assessment and one intervention case report to the Board.

For 4+2 internship programs approved under the revised guideline (i.e. on or after 1 June 2017), interns must submit four of their eight case reports to the Board.

What do I need to do?

Review the revised guideline for the 4+2 internship program, published on the [4+2 webpage](#), together with other information and resources available on that page. There are also updated FAQ available at www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/FAQ/4-2-internship-FAQ.

Adapt your current internship plan (SPPR-76) to ensure you will meet the requirements of the new internship program.

Step 1: begin at the end – what do you need to complete by the end of your internship to be eligible for general registration?

- refer to the revised [PPAC-76](#) – final assessment of competence, and the transition checklist on the [4+2 webpage](#)

Step 2: use the checklist to check off everything you have already achieved and see what is still left to complete by the end of the internship

- refer to the **resources** on the [4+2 webpage](#) for guidance on how assessment tasks you have already completed count towards the new requirements, and about meeting the new requirements for psychological tests and instruments

Step 3: review your current internship plan and together with your principal supervisor make any necessary adjustments to the plan to ensure successful completion of the internship under the revised guideline

Step 4: make any optional adjustments to take advantage of new flexibilities in the 4+2 internship

Step 5: finish your internship under the revised guidelines and apply for general registration.

Your principal supervisor can approve most revisions to the internship plan without Board approval. However, you must seek Board approval if you are proposing significant changes such as a new or substantially revised work role (as is currently required). You will also need Board approval for special arrangements due to exceptional circumstances (such as permission for more than 40 hours of phone supervision or more than 10 hours of indirect supervision due to remote location).

Any special arrangements that are already part of your internship remain in place and do not need to be reapproved.

What optional changes can I make?

There are a range of new flexibilities in the 4+2 internship program that you can now incorporate into your internship plan.

The revised guidelines promote simulated learning activities and recognise some simulated client contact towards the internship. There are also more flexible options for supervision delivery including more secondary supervision, provision to vary the length and frequency of supervision sessions, and included allowances for phone and indirect supervision.

You can make any changes to your plan under the revised guideline that will still allow you to achieve all the core competencies and the minimum hours, and that are approved by your principal supervisor.

Refer to the guidelines for full details of what you can do in the new internship program.

Limited work roles

The Board retired the Policy for 4+2 internship program: limited work role on 1 June 2017, when the revised guideline came into effect. Much of the information from the policy is incorporated into the revised guideline:

- Information about the types of placements and work roles that are suitable for the internship in sections 3.3 – *Placements and work roles* and 3.3.1 – *Scope of the psychological practice*
- Information about the research and evaluation competency is also in 3.3 – *Placements and work roles*. The amount of supervised psychological applied research in a psychological practice role that can be counted towards the hours for the internship has been increased from 388 to 400 hours.

For the most part there will be no changes to the types of work roles suitable for the 4+2 internship. More than one placement will be required if the primary work role does not provide opportunity for all the core competencies to be achieved.

A key difference is that provisional psychologists are no longer specifically required to complete 770 hours of practice with clients in each of the broad lifespan stages (child/adolescent and adult/older adult).

If you have a limited work role in relation to the lifespan competency you must still demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary for effective and ethical practice with people from across the lifespan, but there is now more flexibility around how you can do this. Generally some practice with clients from different lifespan stages is necessary to develop skills and knowledge in this area and demonstrate your competence to your supervisor. Additionally, you must pass the national psychology exam that assesses applied psychological knowledge and assumes real-life experience with a range of clients and presentations. If you can do this with fewer practice hours in a lifespan stage then you may revise your internship plan accordingly, in consultation with your supervisor.

The revised plan should include other activities that will contribute to achievement of the competencies, for example: simulated learning activities, PD workshops, organisational visits/observational placements, discussions in supervision, extra task/s set by the supervisor.

The revised plan must also include provision for:

- demonstrating competence using both an adult test of intelligence and a child test of intelligence
- the new across the lifespan task (section 2.4.7 of the revised guideline).