

To whom it may concern,

I am a current student at the University of Sydney, in my first full-time year of the Master of Teaching (School Counselling).

In 2017, I completed my psychology degree, also at the University of Sydney, with first class honours.

I completed my Graduate Diploma in Psychology at the University of Sydney in 2015. In 1994 I completed a Bachelor of Arts, also at the University of Sydney.

I am a Department of Education scholarship recipient. This means that once I finish my Masters, I will commence full-time work as a school counsellor with the Department, in a high-needs area.

I am a single parent and mature age student. My psychology studies have so far spanned 7 years . By the time I complete my studies and begin work, I will have been studying for 8 consecutive years. I am so very looking forward to finally commencing work as a school counsellor and, **soon after, undertaking the supervision process to become a registered psychologist.**

My intention has always been to become a psychologist. I understand that once I start with the Department it is unlikely that I will be given supervisor for *at least* a year. I am absolutely not in a financial position to engage a supervisor myself.

After 8 years of committed, successful academic endeavour to reach my goal of becoming a registered psychologist I am extremely concerned that the proposal to retire the 4+2 internship will prevent me from doing so.

I request that understanding be extended to those of us who are capable, committed pre-service and early career counsellors yet are unable to initiate the costly journey of registration. The reality is that we need time to complete registration, without an expectation that we are both capable and wealthy.

Sincerely,

Shayne McIntyre
School Counsellor in training, University of Sydney