

Information for those considering Fellowship

Applications or nominations for Fellowship are considered by Council in accordance with the relevant Articles of Association, namely, Articles 8.3 and 8.6:

8.3 An applicant or nominee for Fellowship shall in addition satisfy the Council that he or she has at least ten years professional experience in psychology and either (a) has made a substantial contribution to the Society, (b) possesses superior psychological knowledge and skills, (c) has made an important contribution to the advancement of psychological knowledge, or (d) has made an important contribution to the advancement of the practice of psychology.

8.6 The Council may admit to Fellowship such eligible applicants or nominees as it deems fit.

In determining the eligibility of applicants or nominees, Council will bear in mind the extremely high standing of Fellowship of the Society, and the requirement that Fellows possess attributes that can reasonably be described using terms such as “substantial”, “superior”, and “important”. In making determinations of the suitability of applicants or nominees for Fellowship, Council evaluates the information it has been provided with in the context of the following types of considerations:

1. **What constitutes a “substantial contribution to the Society”?** Such contributions should be in the realms of developing the Society and of contributing to its aims. Holding office in the Society should be seen as important, but not necessary, and not sufficient on its own. Some contributions might include:
 - Editing a publication of the Society over a long period
 - Instituting a successful conference or annual event
 - Representing the Society successfully in negotiations/collaborations with other organisations, particularly when they serve to enhance professional opportunities for psychologists
 - Establishing a successful Special Interest Group or Division (personal responsibility for this should be demonstrated)
 - Serving actively and successfully on multiple committees over a long period of time
 - Publicising the Society in a positive light
 - Promoting collegiality within the Society (e.g., preventing or resolving conflict)

2. **What constitutes “superior psychological knowledge or skills”?** Superior knowledge would be most associated with a proven track record in academic contexts; superior skills would be practitioner-related. Some examples might include:
 - Multiple academic qualifications beyond the norm (e.g., double-doctorate holders)
 - Having received an honorary degree

- Having received honours such as special awards, commendations, fellowships, etc., from other bodies that specialise in psychology or related disciplines
- Having achieved a professorship unusually early in one's career
- Developing a genuinely major theory or method in one's field (e.g., of international repute)
- Be deemed (for example, by one's peers) to be exceptionally skilled in one's field (e.g., be a renowned supervisor)

3. What constitutes an “important contribution to the advancement of psychological knowledge”? This essentially implies a successful career in academia, research, or writing. Examples include:

- Having a qualifications-set that would ensure a senior position in academia (e.g., a doctorate, a publication list equivalent to around three to four peer-reviewed publications per annum over a number of years, a track record of successful research grant applications and doctorate students, etc.) [*Note: it would be inappropriate for Fellowship to be awarded to academics who function below this standard – otherwise all academics would be entitled to Fellowship*]
- Having established new academic programmes in psychology of accreditable standard (personal responsibility for this should be demonstrated)
- Having authored a successful book (or books) that advance psychological knowledge (i.e., not textbooks, which merely *relay* psychological knowledge)
- Having managed research in psychology that is recognised as significant within one's field (e.g., internationally)

4. What constitutes an “important contribution to the advancement of the practice of psychology”? This essentially implies a successful career in the training of psychology or in the management of service-provision. Examples include:

- Having, oneself, an advanced level of training in psychology
- Having established new training programmes in psychology of accreditable standard (personal responsibility for this should be demonstrated)
- Having established, or managed over a number of years, a psychological service, especially one which serves previously neglected client groups or geographical areas
- Having achieved a significant expansion of psychological services through negotiation with government, or related agencies
- Having provided multiple CPD opportunities to fellow psychologists

In making such contextual considerations, it is desirable for Council to adhere to two important principles. Firstly, the applicant/nominee's contributions should be **genuinely “substantial”, “superior”, or “important”**. Secondly, evaluations should be **comparative with regard to the applicant/nominee's peers**. Contributions that comprise the basic functions of a person's job or that have been made by dozens, if not hundreds, of other people can hardly be described as “superior”. A further over-

arching principle is that the determination has to be made on the **applicant/nominator's own case**. If it is claimed that the applicant or nominee has made substantial contributions in one or more given areas, this case in its entirety should be considered, and weaknesses should be seen as detracting from it.