



GUIDELINES FOR REGISTERED MEMBERSHIP 2009

These guidelines, approved by the Council of the Psychological Society of Ireland in February 2009, replace the previous guidelines of August 2000.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Psychological Society of Ireland established a Register of Psychologists in November 1988. The form of registration adopted by the Society is “indicative registration” which essentially copyrighted the title “Registered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland”. Only registered members of the Society with the necessary qualifications and experience can use this title. Members who do not fulfil these requirements and who use the title are liable to sanction by the Board of Professional Conduct of the Society. Any person outside the Society who uses the title will be challenged by the Society.
- 1.2 Under the Register, the Society has protected the title “Registered Psychologists of the Psychological Society of Ireland”. The functions and activities which psychologists on the Register are competent to perform have not been specified. The Society’s Code of Professional Ethics is published together with the list of Registered Psychologists of the Psychological Society of Ireland.
- 1.3 It should be remembered that all members and subscribers of the Society - Graduate Members, Registered Members, Associate Fellows, Fellows and Student Subscribers agree to be bound by the Society’s Code of Professional Ethics. However, as Registered Members are the only group who can publicly claim the title “Registered Psychologists of the Psychological Society of Ireland”, a particular responsibility is placed upon them to guard the Society’s Code of Professional Ethics.
- 1.4 Graduate Members who wish to become Registered Members at some time in the future are advised to clearly identify for themselves, in advance, how professional or research training *can* be supervised and subsequently attested to by a referee as to the psychological component of competence gained. They should also satisfy for themselves that their **referee is a registered psychologist of PSI**. This can be done by referring to the Society’s website www.psihq.ie or the PSI office.

2. BECOMING A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

2.1 Completed application forms should be addressed to the Membership, Qualification and Registration Committee (MQRC). The MQRC process the applications and recommend to Council those who meet the criteria.

2.2 The criteria for registered membership stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

With effect from 1st June 2009, an entrant to the register must be a Graduate Member of the Society, and must hold

(i) an accredited postgraduate professional qualification in psychology or equivalent and four years experience inclusive of any time spent undertaking the postgraduate qualification;

or

(ii) a research doctoral degree in psychology in which the thesis was clearly on a psychological topic and both a research supervisor and an examiner were identifiable as psychologists.

2.3 The Society requires two referees who must attest that the applicant meets the requirements for registration.

2.4 It may be necessary for a number of different referees to support one's application. If a person has worked in several posts, it will be necessary for a number of different referees to support one's application.

2.5 In the case of applicants with training and experience from overseas, referees should be equivalent to Registered Psychologists in the country in which they work. Overseas applicants must submit evidence of licensing/registration status in their own country. Only original documentation (not photocopies) in regard to the licence/register will be accepted - original transcripts of overseas courses are required.

2.6 For each period of study/training/experience, a referee who has supervised and has direct experience of that period is required.

2.7 Referees will be required to verify the authenticity of each period of supervised study/training/experience which is cited by an applicant in support of his/her application.

2.8 Credit can be given for completed postgraduate PhDs and accredited professional training courses from recognised universities.

2.9 In regard to course work, the course of study must be completed and the award given before it can be credited towards registration.

2.10 Postgraduate professional training courses at master's level accredited or previously accredited by the Society (including the Society's Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Psychology) will be given a maximum credit of two years. Doctoral professional training courses accredited by the Society will be given a maximum of three years.

- 2.11 In the case of courses accredited by the British Psychological Society, or accredited overseas, these courses will receive a weighting similar to that of comparable courses in Ireland, irrespective of duration.
- 2.12 Qualification/training/experience may not be double counted; for example, placements which form part of a course qualification cannot be counted a second time as experience.

3. JOINING THE SPECIALIST REGISTER

- 3.1 For a person to be included on a Specialist Register, an applicant must be a Graduate Member of the Society, and
 - (i) be a Registered Member of the Society and
 - (ii) be eligible for full membership of a Division.
- 3.2 A Registered member may hold membership of more than one Division and can hold more than one Specialist Registration.
- 3.3.1 A Registered member who wishes to join a PSI Specialist Register must obtain written confirmation from the relevant Division(s) that they hold or are eligible to hold full membership of that Division(s).
- 3.4 An application for inclusion in the Specialist Register(s) must be accompanied by the appropriate fee (see www.psihq.ie).

4. SUPERVISION AND REFEREES

- 4.1 It is necessary for an applicant to nominate at least two referees with your application. In the case of PhD degrees the first referee should be the PhD Supervisor and in the case of PSI accredited professional training courses the Course Director can act as the first referee. One referee should be from a Registered Psychologist who must have supervised and have had direct knowledge of the period of experience cited by the applicant
- 4.2 The Society requires that supervision arrangements by referees allow for a minimum of one and a half hours each week for the first two years and a minimum of one hour per week for the subsequent two years or in the second two years an equivalent period of supervision either fortnightly, or in special cases, monthly rather than one hour every week. Applicants must apply for the concession to use monthly supervision.
- 4.3 It is important to note that verification by referee/supervisor is requested in relation to work undertaken, dates of duration as well as competence. Referees are requested to verify the relevant supervised period of the applicant's study/training/work experience rather than the character of the applicant.
- 4.4 Where work is of a part-time nature, the hours per week, weeks per year, and dates should be clearly specified.
- 4.5 The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that MQRC can only make decisions on the basis of the relevant information supplied. It is the applicant's responsibility to supply accurate information regarding the duration and dates of the periods of supervised study/training/experience. In the absence of a referee having direct knowledge of the study/training/experience cited, it is unlikely that part of the application will be accepted.

- 4.6 Referees should not be close relatives of the applicant, members of their immediate household, or partners. Any such relationship must be declared.
- 4.7 The person who acts as a referee should be a Registered Member of the Psychological Society of Ireland (with a least one year's post-registration experience). However, some psychologists may find themselves working in contexts without day-to-day contact with other Registered Psychologists. In these situations, psychologists should ensure that at least two Registered Psychologists supervise their work and competence so that they can be named as referees for the purpose of registration.
- 4.8 Please note that people employed and paid as an Assistant Psychologist may not count this period as supervised experience as a Psychologist.

5. RULES AND REGULATIONS ABOUT THE FORM AND KEEPING OF THE REGISTER

- 5.1 A scrutiny fee will be payable for processing each and every application for Registered Membership. If the application is successful, the scrutiny fee will cover the first annual Registered Membership fee. If the application is not successful, the scrutiny fee will not be returned.
- 5.2 An annual fee for Registered Membership will be payable over and above the annual Graduate Membership fee. Only fully paid Graduate Members of PSI can be on the Register.
- 5.3 Fees for Registered Membership will be due at the same time as the annual PSI Membership fee.
- 5.4 The names of Registered Members whose fees are not paid within three months of the due date for that year will be deleted from the Register. Members are reminded that they cannot be on the Register if they have not also paid their annual Graduate Membership fee.
- 5.5 If members allow their Registered Membership to lapse for more than one year, they must re-apply. Their application will be re-assessed using criteria which are current at that point in time and they will be charged a scrutiny fee.
- 5.6 It is every member's responsibility to inform the Society about changes of address so that the Register and the Society's mailing list can be maintained up to date.
- 5.7 On receipt of the annual Registered Membership fee, each Registered Member will receive a Certificate of Registration appropriately dated for that membership year. This Certificate may be publicly displayed.
- 5.8 It should be emphasised that in order to use the title "Registered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland" or the abbreviation Reg. Psychol. (PsSI) Registered Members must be in good standing. If you allow your Registered Membership to lapse and continue to use the above title and/or abbreviation, you are liable to sanction by the Board of Professional Conduct.
- 5.9 The appropriate abbreviation which denotes Registered status is Reg. Psychol. (PsSI). However Registered Members who are also Associate Fellows may use the abbreviation Reg. Psychol. (AFPSI) and Registered Members who are also Fellows may use the abbreviation Reg. Psychol. (FPSI).

- 5.10 CPD is mandatory for all Registered Members of PSI since 2005. Registered members must submit CPD logs on a three year CPD cycle. Details of the PSI CPD scheme and log forms are available on the PSI website at www.psihq.ie.

6. REVIEW PERIOD

- 6.1 These guidelines are effective as of February 2009. They will be reviewed at regular intervals. Members are reminded that, in the future, the criteria for becoming a Registered Member of the Society may become more stringent. Graduate members who are currently eligible for Registered status may not be eligible in future years. Consequently, it is in their interest to apply for Registered Membership and to ensure that their Registered Membership does not lapse.