



GUIDELINES FOR REGISTERED MEMBERSHIP 2011

These guidelines, approved by the Council of the Psychological Society of Ireland in February 2010, replace the previous guidelines of February 2009.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Psychological Society of Ireland established a Register of Psychologists in November 1988. The title “Registered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland” was adopted. 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 Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland”. The functions and activities which psychologists on the Register are competent to perform have not been specified as yet. The Society’s Code of Professional Ethics is available on the Society’s website www.psihq.ie. The Code can be viewed at <http://www.psihq.ie/2008Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf>

1.3 It should be remembered that all members and subscribers of the Society - Graduate Members, Registered Members, Associate Fellows, Fellows, Student Subscribers and Correspondence 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 Psychologist 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/supervisor as to the psychological component of competence gained. They should also satisfy themselves that their referees/supervisors are registered psychologists of PSI. This can be done by checking with the PSI office.

1.5 Members who are currently registered who allow their registration to lapse are advised that these new guidelines will be applied if they seek to re-instate their registered status. Thus, if members were registered under previous guidelines, it is in their best interest not to let their membership cease.

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

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

or

2.2 (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.

3. BECOMING A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

2.2 (i) Route

Accredited Postgraduate Professional Qualification and supervised experience as a Psychologist

With effect from 1st June 2009, an entrant to the register must be a Graduate Member of the Society, and must hold an accredited postgraduate professional qualification in psychology or equivalent and four years experience inclusive of any time spent undertaking the postgraduate qualification.

3.1 The Society requires at least two referees/supervisors who must attest that the applicant meets the requirements for registration. Referees/supervisors must be Registered Psychologists of the PSI, or overseas equivalent where study/work has been done overseas.

3.2 It may be necessary for a number of different referees/supervisors to support one's application if a person has worked in several posts.

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

3.4 Referees/supervisors 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.

3.5 Credit can only be given for completed postgraduate degrees and professional training courses accredited by the PSI or overseas equivalent. The course of study must be completed and the award given before it can be credited towards registration.

3.6 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 credit of three years.

3.7 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.

3.8 Please note that people employed and paid as an **Assistant Psychologist** may not count this period as supervised experience as a Psychologist.

3.9 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.

3.10 In the case of applicants with training and experience from overseas, the overseas referees/supervisors must be equivalent to PSI Registered Psychologists, in the country in which they work.

3.11 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. Translations into the English language should be authenticated by an appropriate authority as being true translations.

4. BECOMING A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

2.2 (ii) Route

Research Doctoral Degree in Psychology

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

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

4.2 The first referee should be a Research Doctoral Degree Supervisor. The second referee should be an examiner. Both of these referees/supervisors must be identifiable as psychologists.

4.3 The thesis must be clearly on a psychological topic. The thesis abstract and a structured summary should be provided

4.3.1 Refer to the guidelines reproduced below, for a structured summary of the thesis, as requested in the Scrutiny Application form. The structured summary should be 250 to 400 words in length.

4.3.1 Structured Summary Guideline, Please provide:

The thesis title, number of words, and date examined.

The names of examiners and Research Doctoral Degree for which the thesis was presented.

Objectives: State the objective of the research and the main hypotheses or questions addressed.

Design: Describe the design specifying the number of groups studied, and the number of occasions on which data were collected from these groups.

Methods: State if quantitative or qualitative methods were used. Specify the number and characteristics of participants; the assessment instruments, psychological tests or special apparatus used; and the procedures followed during data collection.

Results: Give the main results. Numerical data may be given briefly.

Data analysis: State the way qualitative data were processed or the statistics used to analyse quantitative data.

Conclusions: State the conclusions from the research and the implications of these for practice, policy development and further research.

4.4 Credit can only be given for completed postgraduate Research Doctoral Degrees from recognised universities. The course of study must be completed and the award given before it can be credited towards registration.

4.5 In the case of applicants with Research Doctoral Degrees in Psychology from overseas, the overseas referees/supervisors must be identifiable as psychologists in the country in which they work.

4.6 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. Translations into the English language should be authenticated by an appropriate authority as being true translations.

5. REFEREES/SUPERVISORS

2.2 (i) Route:

Accredited Professional Qualification and supervised experience as a Psychologist

With effect from 1st June 2009, an entrant to the register must be a Graduate Member of the Society, and must hold an accredited postgraduate professional qualification in psychology or equivalent and four years experience inclusive of any time spent undertaking the postgraduate qualification.

5.1 It is necessary for an applicant to nominate at least two referees/supervisors with his/her application.

In the case of PSI accredited professional training courses the Course Director or another PSI Registered Psychologist who supervised the course can act as the first referee. In the case of supervised experience as a psychologist, the other referee(s)/supervisor(s) should be PSI Registered Psychologist(s) who have supervised and have had direct knowledge of the period of experience cited by the applicant.

5.2 The Society requires that supervision arrangements by referees/supervisors 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. In the second two years an equivalent period of supervision of two hours fortnightly, or in special cases, monthly supervision is allowed. Applicants must apply, in advance, for the concession to use monthly supervision or for any other pro-rata arrangement.

5.3 In situations where psychologists find themselves working in contexts without day-to-day contact with other Registered Psychologists, they should ensure that at least two PSI Registered Psychologists supervise their work and competence so that they can be named as referees/supervisors for the purpose of registration.

2.2 (ii) Route

Research Doctoral Degree in Psychology

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

5.4 In the case of a Research Doctoral degree in Psychology the first referee should be a research supervisor and the second referee should be an examiner. Both a research supervisor and an examiner must be identifiable as psychologists. The thesis must be clearly on a psychological topic.

All Applications

5.5 It is important to note that verification by a referee is requested in relation to work undertaken, dates of duration as well as competence. Referees/supervisors are requested to verify the relevant supervised period of the applicant's work/training/study.

5.6 Where work/training/study is of a part-time nature, the hours per week, weeks per year, and dates should be clearly specified.

A full time equivalent period would then be calculated by MQRC and credited towards PSI Registration.

5.7 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/supervisor having direct knowledge of the study/training/ experience cited, it is unlikely that part of the application will be accepted.

5.8 Referees/supervisors must not be close relatives of the applicant, members of their immediate household, or partners. Such periods will not be credited towards PSI Registration. Any such referee/applicant relationship must be declared.

For further information, Refer to the PSI Code of Professional Ethics, Revision of May 2008, Section 4.4.3 in regard to being acutely aware of the problematic nature of dual relationships.

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

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

6.3 Fees for Registered Membership will be due at the same time as the annual PSI Membership fee.

6.4 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.

6.5 If members allow their Registered Membership to lapse for more than one year, they must reapply. Their application will be re-assessed using criteria which are current at that point in time and they will be charged a scrutiny fee.

6.6 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.

6.7 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.

6.8 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 a Registered Member allows his/her Registered Membership to lapse and continues to use the above title and/or abbreviation, he/she is liable to be challenged by Council.

6.9 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).

6.10 All Registered Members are required to undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD) under the relevant structures set up by Council.

7. JOINING THE SPECIALIST REGISTER

7.1 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 a full member of a Division.

7.2 A Registered member may hold membership of more than one Division and can hold more than one Specialist Registration.

7.3 For current information on the Specialist Registers please refer to the Society's website www.psihq.ie.