

Registration standard: General registration

Effective from: **Date Month**

[Remove highlighted sections from registration standard effective on 1 January 2029]

Summary

This registration standard sets out the Psychology Board of Australia's requirements for the general registration of psychologists. General registration as a psychologist may be granted to individuals who meet requirements set out in this registration standard and in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all applicants for general registration and applicants for renewal of general registration as a psychologist.

Qualification requirements

The minimum qualification required to be qualified to apply for general registration is:

- a) a four-year accredited sequence of study in psychology that has been approved by the Board as providing a qualification for registration in the profession, that has been completed within the last ten years, or
- b) an overseas qualification that in the Board's opinion is substantially equivalent to a).

To be eligible for general registration as a psychologist, in addition to the minimum qualification, applicants must have completed a postgraduate degree accredited as fifth and sixth year of study in psychology, or another approved program of supervised practice and training as detailed in the eligibility requirements part e) below.

Eligibility requirements

In order to apply for general registration a six-year sequence of education and training is required.

In addition to holding the minimum qualification, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- a) the individual must be a suitable person to hold general registration as a psychologist under the National Law
- b) the individual must not be disqualified under the National Law, or the law of a co-regulatory jurisdiction, from applying for registration, or being registered, in the psychology profession
- c) the individual must meet all other requirements stated in approved registration standards for the psychology profession that apply to general registration¹
- d) the individual must provide evidence of having passed the National Psychology Examination (unless exempt)²
- e) the individual must have successfully completed a Board-approved supervised practice and training program while registered as a provisional psychologist.

¹ Refer to section 38(1)(a)-(e) of the National Law and the Psychology Board of Australia's registration standards www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Registration-Standards.aspx.

² Refer to the Psychology Board of Australia's *Guidelines for the National Psychology Examination*.

Commented [A1]: To be updated if proposal is approved.

Commented [A2]: Sections in green highlight have been previously approved by Ministerial Council and concern the [retirement of the 4+2 internship program](#). These changes are effective on 1 January 2029 on the completion of the 4+2 retirement transition period. They are therefore not the subject of this consultation but are noted here for completeness and clarity.

The Board has determined that the supervised practice program requirement must be met by successfully completing one of the following:

- i. a Board-approved postgraduate qualification accredited as a fifth and sixth year of study, or
- ii. all fifth and sixth year-level coursework and practicum of a Board-approved postgraduate qualification accredited as a fifth, sixth and seventh year of study, and having made sufficient progress in the research thesis, or
- iii. a Board-approved qualification accredited as a fifth year of study followed by successful completion of a Board-approved 5+1 internship program³, or
- iv. a Board-approved 4+2 internship program⁴, or
- v. an overseas qualification and supervised practice assessed by the Board as substantially equivalent to either i), iii), or iv) and successful completion of a Board-approved transitional program (unless exempt).

Maintaining general registration

General registration is required to be renewed annually. When renewing their registration, psychologists are required to meet the requirements set out in sections 107 and 109 of the National Law.

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 6 November 2015 and takes effect from 2 May 2016.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide ranging consultation.

Definitions

Accredited sequence of study means a program of study, comprising one or more qualifications that have been assessed by the accreditation authority for the profession as meeting the requirements of accreditation standards developed and approved under Part 6 of the National Law, and subsequently approved by the Board as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration in the psychology profession.

Approved qualification means a qualification obtained by completing an approved program of study which appears on the Board's *List of approved programs*.

Board means the Psychology Board of Australia established under section 31 of the National Law.

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory of Australia.

Successful completion of a Board-approved 4+2 internship program means the individual has completed a 4+2 internship program in accordance with a supervised practice program that was approved by the Board in accordance with the *Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program*. To be considered to have successfully completed the program the individual must have achieved the following during the program:

1. Demonstrated competence in the following areas:
 - knowledge of the discipline
 - ethical, legal and professional matters
 - psychological assessment and measurement
 - intervention strategies
 - research and evaluation
 - communication and interpersonal relationships
 - working with people from diverse groups
 - practice across the lifespan

³ Refer to the Psychology Board of Australia's *Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program*.

⁴ Refer to the Psychology Board of Australia's *Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program*.

Commented [A3]: To be updated if proposal is approved.

2. Completed a minimum of 3000 hours of the approved internship over a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years of which at least:
 - 2720 hours are supervised psychological practice in a work role approved by the Board consisting of sufficient opportunity to develop the required competencies, including 1000 hours of direct client contact
 - 160 hours are psychological supervision with a Board-approved supervisor where at least one hour of supervision is received for every 17 hours of psychological practice, and
 - 120 hours are professional development
3. Completed and submitted to the Board four case reports that the Board assesses as meeting the requirements of case reports set out in its guideline and demonstrating the attainment of the required competencies, and
4. Completed all the internship requirements set out in the *Guidelines for 4+2 internship programs*.

Successful completion of a Board-approved 5+1 internship program means: the individual has completed a 5+1 internship program ~~in accordance with a supervised practice program~~ that was approved by the Board. ~~The program requirements are outlined in the Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program in accordance with the Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program.~~ To be considered to have successfully completed the program the individual must have achieved the following during the program:

1. Completed and graduated from a Board-approved qualification accredited as a fifth year of study, and completed a minimum of 1500 hours of the approved internship over a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years of which at least:
 - 1360 hours are supervised psychological practice in a work role approved by the Board consisting of sufficient opportunity to develop the required competencies, including 500 hours of direct client contact
 - 80 hours are psychological supervision with a Board-approved supervisor where at least one hour of supervision is received for every 17 hours of psychological practice, and
 - 60 hours are professional development
2. Completed and submitted to the Board two case reports that the Board assesses as meeting the requirements of case reports set out in the *Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program* and demonstrating the attainment of the required competencies, and
3. Completed all the internship requirements set out in the *Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program*.

Successful completion of a Board-approved transitional program means the individual has completed a transitional program that was approved by the Board. ~~The Transitional program is outlined in the Guidelines for transitional programs.~~ To be considered to have successfully completed the program the individual must have achieved the following during the program:

1. Demonstrated competence in the following areas to a Board-approved supervisor through direct observation of practice and/or discussion in supervision sessions:
 - ethical, legal and professional matters as relevant to the Australian context
 - working with people from diverse groups as relevant to the Australian context
2. Completed a minimum of 210 hours of psychological practice in an approved work role over a minimum of three months/12 weeks and for at least 17.5 hours per week, and
3. Completed a minimum of six hours of individual supervision with a Board-approved supervisor focussing on Australian ethical, legal, professional, and cultural matters, provided at a rate of at least one hour per fortnight.

Sufficient progress in the research thesis means that work on the doctoral thesis has progressed to the point where the Head of Psychology School at the educational institution at which the individual is undertaking a Board-approved qualification accredited as a fifth to seventh year of study, is satisfied that the thesis writing is equivalent to a sixth year thesis in size and scope.

Review

This registration standard will be reviewed at least every three years.

Next review date: Date year

Commented [A4]: The 4+2 internship program is outlined in the [Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program](#).

Recommend removing this section.

Removing this section will remove unnecessary detail from a Standard.

Core competencies do not need to be defined here as:
 -they are not mentioned in the body of this Standard, so they do not need to be defined in the definition section
 -they are defined in other documents (e.g. Board's Guidelines for the 4+2 internship program, Guidelines for the National Psychology Exam)
 - The competencies are being reviewed and may change
 -This consultation paper suggests creating a single document that lists all the competencies in one place in the *Draft professional competencies for psychologists*.

Commented [A5]: Minor edit to improve readability.

Commented [A6]:
 The 5+1 internship program is outlined in the [Guidelines for the 5+1 internship program](#) and is currently being reviewed.

Recommend removing this section to streamline policy review process and remove unnecessary detail from a Standard.

Commented [A7]:
 Minor edit to improve clarity and remove unnecessary detail.

Commented [A8]: Recommend removing this section to streamline policy review process and remove unnecessary detail from a Standard. The Transitional program is outlined in the [Guidelines for transitional programs](#) as noted in the previous sentence.

This standard replaces the previously published general registration standard from 2 May 2016.

Commented [A9]: To be updated if proposal is approved.