

Registration standard: General registration

Effective from: 1 December 2025

Summary

This registration standard sets out the Psychology Board of Australia's (the Board'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 10 years, or
- b. an overseas qualification that in the Board's opinion is substantially equivalent or based on similar competencies 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.

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 program,³ or
- iv. a Board-approved 4+2 internship program,⁴ or
- v. an overseas qualification and supervised practice assessed by the Board as substantially equivalent or based on similar competencies 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.

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*.

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*.

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](#).

Successful completion of a Board-approved 5+1 internship program means the individual has completed a 5+1 internship program that was approved by the Board. The program requirements are outlined 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](#).

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 doing 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.

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Ministerial Council on 8 July 2024.

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

Review

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

Next review date: January 2029

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