

Guidelines for Registration as a ‘psychologist’ in Bermuda

The detailed educational and relevant experience criteria upon which the Council will rely in seeking to be satisfied that the requirements of Section 5(2) of the Psychological Practitioners Act 1998 (the “Act”) are met are set out below.

Education and Academic Training

The academic training requirement for registration under the Act is satisfied if the applicant possesses a graduate degree in psychology that at the time it was awarded meets the following criteria:

- I. The degree is a terminal degree in a specialty of psychology from the country of training (e.g. clinical doctoral psychology programme in North America) in an institution of higher learning. The terminal degree and institution must be accredited or approved by the national psychological association of the country of training (e.g. American Psychological Association, Canadian Psychological Association or British Psychological Society) or national body governing that specialty, and as approved by the Council.
- II. If not accredited or approved by one of the above bodies (or by a similar national psychological association of the country of training or other national body governing that specialty deemed by the Council to represent a comparable standard) or the standards are significantly different from the above the educational and training programme must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) The terminal graduate programme training is offered in a regionally accredited institution of higher learning. Regional accreditation refers to accreditation by a recognized regional accreditation body in the United States, an institution with provincial authorization or charter in Canada, or in other countries, institutions where the standards do not differ significantly from those of the above bodies.
 - (b) The programme, wherever it may be administratively housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a psychology programme. Such a programme must specify in pertinent institutional catalogues, web sites, and brochures its intent to educate and train psychological practitioners.
 - (c) The psychology programme must stand as a recognizable, coherent organizational unity within the institution of higher learning.
 - (d) There must be a clear degree conferring authority with primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas, whether or not the programme of study cuts across administrative lines.

- (e) There must be an identifiable psychologist faculty on site. The principal members of such faculty should in the opinion of the Council each meet the requirements for registration under the Act.
- (f) The programme must have an identifiable body of students who are matriculated for a degree.
- (g) The training programme should involve at least one (1) continuous academic year of full-time residency (“residency shall mean face to face interactions between teacher/instructor and student”) or two (2) years of half-time residency that the issuing institution is accepting as credit towards the degree.
- (h) In the case of distance learning programmes, applicants may be approved if the candidates can demonstrate that they meet the National standard for qualification as an independent practitioner i.e. through successful attainment of a licensure exam in any state of the USA, or registration with the Health Professions Council in the UK.
With regard to placements here in Bermuda, we advise individuals to contact their university or college to determine whether these would meet their requirements.
- (i) The programme must be an integrated, organized sequence of study and training.
- (j) The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of three (3) full years of graduate study within which a minimum of a full semester course, or equivalent, in each of the following areas must be taken: research design and methodology, and statistics and psychometrics.

The curriculum’s core programme shall require each student to demonstrate competence in each of the following substantive content areas. This requirement will typically be met in the United States by including a minimum of three (3) or more graduate semester (hours) in each of the five (5) content areas; and in Canada by including a minimum of forty five (45) hours of instruction in each of:

- (1) Biological basis of behaviour: physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation and perception, psychopharmacology.
- (2) Cognitive bases of behaviour: learning, thinking, motivation, emotions.
- (3) Social bases of behaviour: social psychology, group processes, organizational and systems theory.

- (4) Individual differences: personality theory, human development, abnormal psychology.
- (5) Scientific and professional ethics and standards.

Additionally all professional educational programmes in psychology will include course requirements in specialty areas.

- (k) The formal training should include a coordinated practicum experience that totals at least two (2) semesters of practicum and one (1) year in predoctoral intern setting. The predoctoral internship should meet the guidelines established by the national psychology association, or meet other internship, field or laboratory requirements appropriate to the education and specialty of the applicant.

General Comment

The above educational and training requirements are for guidance purposes only; and the foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered and given weight to by the Council in accessing academic training is not intended to be exhaustive, but is believed to include all material factors considered by the Council.

B. Experience

The applicant must have completed at least one thousand (1,000) hours of supervised experience.

Five hundred (500) hours of the above requirement must be obtained after the completion of the academic training embodied in the formal training required to be awarded the terminal graduate degree in psychology. No less than twenty-five (25) of these hours shall constitute direct face to face interaction constituting supervision with the supervisor.