

Statement of clarification:

Intern Psychologists restricted to practise within the training programme

The Psychologists Board has only been registering students since 2004. Since then we have seen a steady increase in requests from Intern Psychologists (**Interns**) who want to continue practising in paid employment after they have completed their practical training, but before they have completed their full qualification (i.e., Masters, DClinPsych, and/or PGDip). The discontinuation of the requirement for Interns to hold practising certificates has caused the Board to re-evaluate its response to these requests, as it has reminded us that at this stage of the training/registration process it is the university that is responsible for developing and assessing an Intern's competence. Understandably then, both the current and the proposed (see consultation paper on the Board's website) scope of practice for Intern Psychologists make it clear that they can only practise within the confines of the training programme. The standard condition on their scope states this quite explicitly;

“...may only practise under close supervision while undertaking the internship requirements for the Board-accredited Post Graduate Diploma or Doctoral course the intern is enrolled in.”

Interns who have completed their practical training, but who wish to work while completing some other requirement for their full qualification therefore have two options;

1. Obtain a letter from the training programme stating that the university will continue to take overall responsibility for their supervision and that their practice is considered to be part of the programme's internship requirements (perhaps as a means of consolidating or maintaining competence while completing other aspects of their qualifications) , or
2. Arrange with their employer to work as something other than a psychologist (perhaps as a Mental Health Therapist, Counsellor, Performance Coach, Employment Consultant, etc.) until such time as they are fully registered.

The Board believe that this approach is necessary to meet its obligation to protect the public, and is also in the long term interests of students (who will need to plan and structure their studies carefully to ensure there is not a long gap between completion of their practical training and completion of the qualifications required for full registration).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Board's Registrar (Steve Osborne) or Deputy Registrar (Bill King).