

# The Psychologists Board of Western Australia

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## **PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### **OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **Preamble**

In order to practice psychology in Western Australia applicants must be registered with the Psychologists Board of Western Australia. The current registration requirements are:

1. An accredited Australian four year degree in psychology followed by two years of practical experience supervised by a registered psychologist approved by the Board.

Or

2. An accredited four year degree in psychology plus completion of an accredited Masters degree in psychology.

When a person applies for registration with overseas qualifications, the Board undertakes an independent assessment of those qualifications to determine whether they can be considered equivalent to an accredited degree from an Australian university.

The outcome of that assessment will determine the level of registration which is obtainable by that applicant, ie:

Qualifications assessed as equivalent to 4 years of study = conditional registration

Qualifications assessed as equivalent to 6 years of study = full registration

#### **Conditional Registration**

This level of registration requires the applicant, after completion of an accredited 4 year degree, to be employed and under Board approved supervision for a period of 2 years (full time equivalent).

Should the applicant wish the Board to consider overseas experience in lieu of the 2 years supervision, evidence will need to be supplied of the supervised practice undertaken in the form of report(s) from their supervisor(s) outlining details of the supervision and their recommendations as to the applicant's ability to practice independently.

Please note that each applicant with overseas qualifications will be required to undertake a period of supervision of at least 6 months in duration.

### **Full Registration**

This level of registration requires the applicant to have completed at least 6 years of study in psychology resulting in the awarding of a Masters degree; it carries no employment or supervision criteria.

#### **Please note:**

In order to be eligible for registration, applicants must be resident in the State of Western Australia.

Also, if previously registered as a psychologist in another State, Territory or country, a Certificate of Good Standing will be required from the registration body in the last place of registration.

### **Assessment of Qualifications**

**Please note that assessments by NOOSR and the APS are undertaken for migration and membership purposes. These assessments are NOT necessarily acceptable to the Board for registration purposes. Please do not be confused.**

In order that the Board can obtain an assessment of overseas qualifications, the following documentation should accompany an application for registration:

- Copies of psychology degrees.
- Copies of academic transcripts
- Course handbooks (if available)
- Any additional information which shows the content of the degree course undertaken.
- Details of hours, practicum content and thesis details of Masters degree.

The Board has two independent status advisers who undertakes the assessment and advises the Board as to the Australian equivalent of overseas qualifications. (That is why it is important that as much information as possible is supplied regarding the content of the overseas qualification. This is the information the assessor will use to determine the Australian equivalent.)

The outcome of the assessment will determine the level of registration obtainable (see above).

**Please note that an application for assessment of overseas qualifications will not be accepted unless it is accompanied by a fully completed application for registration.** Please see the Board's website for details of the documentation required for registration ([www.psychboard.wa.gov.au](http://www.psychboard.wa.gov.au)).

For those applicants who are overseas at the time of the assessment, registration cannot become effective until you become resident in Western Australia at which time you will be required to present the originals of the documentation to the Board. A **non-refundable** application fee will be payable at the time the application is lodged.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of the application as quickly as possible, however, it should be noted that this process can take up to 12 weeks.

## **Specialist Title**

Potential applicants should be aware that in Western Australia use of a specialist title is regulated under the Psychologists Act 2005. The use of a specialist title is granted by the Board in recognition of the specialist knowledge, skills and experience which are held by a psychologist and needed to practice as specialist.

Specialist titles which are recognised in Western Australia include:

- Clinical
- Counselling
- Educational & Developmental
- Clinical Neuropsychological
- Organisational
- Forensic
- Sport

The minimum academic requirement for use of a specialist title is at least an accredited Masters degree in the relevant speciality of psychology (or equivalent as determined by the Board), followed by a minimum of two years full-time (or part-time equivalent) supervised relevant practice approved by the Board.

Applicants from overseas who hold a specialist title in their native country and wish to continue to use the specialist title in Western Australia will need to provide the following:

- Copies of supervision reports.
- Details of supervision undertaken, eg no of hours, period of supervision, supervisor's qualifications etc.
- Details of work experience, post-Masters degree, to evidence the specialist nature of the work undertaken and the length of time spent working in their specialist field.
- Copy of certificate of registration which indicates registration as a specialist (eg Certificate of Registration as a Clinical Psychologist) from the registering body where the specialist title was held.

Once the Board is satisfied that it has sufficient information upon which to base its decision regarding use of a specialist title, the matter will be considered at the next available Board meeting.

Please note that each applicant with overseas qualifications will be required to undertake a period of supervision of at least 6 months in duration.

Those applicants who are not able to satisfy the Board with regard to the above will need to make an application to the Board for approval of supervision towards the specialist title.

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (excluding January) and the agenda for each meeting closes ten working days prior to that meeting.

Applicants will be advised of the Board's decisions in writing.

Please forward the relevant documentation to:

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Psychologists Board of WA  
PO Box 263  
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Or email to: [psychboard@mjwa.com.au](mailto:psychboard@mjwa.com.au)