

Health Professions Council – 3rd October 2007

Applied Psychologists: Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

Standard 1 of the standards of education and training (“SET 1”) sets out the normal threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register for each profession.

Each time we regulate a new profession, it is necessary to amend this standard to add the threshold entry level for that profession. In accordance with Article 3 (14) of the Health Professions Order 2001, the Council is required to consult whenever it publishes standards or issues guidance. It will therefore be necessary to consult on the change to SET 1.

The attached paper outlines the current entry routes for each of the disciplines of applied psychology and discusses an appropriate threshold level of qualification for entry to the applied psychologists part of the Register.

At its meeting on 5 July 2007, the Council agreed that the standards of proficiency, currently being drafted by a Professional Liaison Group (PLG), should be approved electronically by the Education and Training Committee and Council. This was owing to potentially short timescales. The Council is asked to agree similar arrangements for the necessary amendment to SET 1.

Decision

The Council is invited to discuss and recommend an appropriate threshold level of entry to the Register for applied psychologists. In particular, the Council is invited to agree the following:

- a) that the proposed threshold level of qualification for entry to Register for applied psychologists in standard 1 of the standards of education and training should be set at masters level, with the wording described on page 12;
- b) that, in accordance with Article 3 (14) of the Health Professions Order 2001, a consultation should be held on this proposal; and
- c) the text of the consultation document in appendix two.

The Council is further invited to agree that, following the consultation, the Education and Training Committee it should ratify the change to SET 1 and the text of the consultation responses document electronically (unless a change to

timescales means that the Committee is able to consider it at its meeting on 26 March 2008).

It should be noted that due to the timing of Committee meetings and paper deadlines, at the time of being submitted for distribution, this paper had not yet been considered by the Education and Training Committee on September 27th 2007.

It is therefore proposed that feedback from the Education and Training Committee on this paper and its recommendations will be given verbally to Council on 4th October. If the Education and Training Committee's suggestions or feedback are substantial and warrant significant changes, then with the President's agreement, this paper may be withdrawn, amended, and re-considered at a subsequent meeting, or alternatively any rewording may be tabled.

Background information

This paper uses information obtained from the British Psychological Society website (www.bps.org.uk).

Resource implications

- Organising mail out of consultation document
- Producing consultation responses document

Financial implications

- Printing of consultation document
- Mail out of consultation list

These implications are included in the Policy and Standards budget and workplan for 2007/08.

Appendices

Appendix one: Currently and historically approved qualifications

Appendix two: Draft consultation document

Date of paper

21st September 2007

Applied Psychologists: Threshold level of entry

Introduction

The government white paper 'Trust, Assurance and Safety – The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century' said:

'The government is planning to introduce statutory regulation for applied psychologists...' (p. 81).

'Psychologists...will be regulated by the Health Professions Council' (p.85).

On 5 July 2007, the Council agreed that a Professional Liaison Group (PLG) should be set up to draft the standards of proficiency for applied psychologists, in preparation for the likely opening of the applied psychologists part of the Register.

Unless otherwise dictated by a change in the external environment, the applied psychology disciplines within the scope of regulation are likely to be the same as those identified in the 2004 Department of Health consultation document:

'Applied Psychology: Enhancing public protection: Proposals for the statutory regulation of applied psychologists' (March 2005). They are:

- Clinical Psychologists
- Counselling Psychologists
- Educational Psychologists
- Forensic Psychologists
- Health Psychologists
- Occupational Psychologists
- Sports and Exercise Psychologists

Regulation of applied psychologists

It should be noted that although the white paper has indicated that applied psychologists should be regulated by HPC, the necessary legislation to allow this to happen has yet to be passed. However, it is proposed nonetheless that it is an appropriate time to begin consideration of an appropriate threshold level. This would ensure the necessary preparatory steps for the likely opening of the Register are taken in good time. In particular, this would ensure time for a public consultation of three months in duration, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines.

If we were to regulate applied psychologists, all those who have chartered status in the disciplines above, and hold a practising certificate with the British Psychological Society (BPS), would be expected to automatically transfer to the HPC Register.

About the threshold level

SET 1 of the standards of education and training sets out the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register in the professions the Council regulates.

The standard currently reads:

1.1 The Council normally expects that the **threshold** entry routes to the Register will be the following:

1.1.1 Bachelor degree with honours for the following professions:

- chiropody or podiatry;
- dietetics;
- occupational therapy;
- orthoptics;
- physiotherapy;
- prosthetics and orthotics;
- radiography;
- speech and language therapy;
- biomedical science (with the Certificate of Competence awarded by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), or equivalent if appropriate); and

1.1.2 Masters degree for the arts therapies.

1.1.3 Masters degree for the clinical sciences (with the award of the Association of Clinical Scientists' Certificate of Attainment, or equivalent).

1.1.4 Equivalent to Certificate of Higher Education for paramedics.

1.1.5 Diploma of Higher Education in Operating Department Practice for Operating Department Practitioners.

In setting the threshold level of entry, the Council is setting the threshold academic level of qualification which it would normally accept for the purposes of an approved programme which leads to registration. As the threshold is the 'minimum', qualifications at higher academic levels may still be approved.

For example, amongst the existing regulated professions, the threshold entry for paramedics is equivalent to a Certificate of Higher Education. In the past all pre-registration education and training was delivered via the Institute of Healthcare Development (IHCD) qualification delivered by ambulance training centres. However, there has been a move to develop education and training in formal higher education settings, and we approve a number of courses at foundation or honours degree level, above the threshold.

The threshold level might change over time to reflect changes in the delivery of education and training. This has happened in a number of the existing professions we regulate – as professions have developed the threshold academic level has increased. Any change in the threshold academic level is one that is normally led by the profession and/or by education providers and employers and which occurs over time. At an appropriate time, consideration might be given to changing SET 1, having regard to the level at which the majority of education and training is delivered.

In setting the threshold level, the Executive suggests that the Committee will need to have regard to the academic level of the existing qualifications which lead to entry to the profession. For example, the Council currently approves a number of pre-registration courses in physiotherapy at Masters level. These primarily allow candidates with undergraduate degrees in other disciplines to qualify in physiotherapy. However, the majority of new registrants become registered having followed an undergraduate honours programme, and the threshold is set at honours degree level.

Our primary consideration in approving a programme, whether at or substantially above the threshold, is that the programme meets the standards of education and training and will allow students to meet the standards of proficiency on completion.

Standards of proficiency and approval of pre-registration programmes

In the standards of education and training guidance we say about SET 1:

“We expect that most of the programmes on our approved list will be at the standard which we have outlined above, but we realise that there may be some exceptions. We have set the level above for each profession, based on what we think is needed for people who successfully complete the programme to meet all of the standards of proficiency.

This standard contains the word ‘normally’ to show that you may be able to design a programme which leads to different qualification from that above, but which meets the rest of the standards of education and training, and the standards of proficiency, so can still be approved by us.”¹

Therefore, the threshold level is that necessary to successfully deliver the standards of proficiency. However, on a practical basis, when determining the threshold level the Committee might wish to consider these as two related but nonetheless separate issues.

In establishing standards of proficiency the Council has to be sure that the standards are necessary threshold standards for safe and effective practice. It is important therefore that they are not determined by ‘working backwards’ from an academic level, and determining standards to meet that academic level. The standards of proficiency are being drafted by a Professional Liaison Group (PLG) and will be consulted on alongside the change to SET 1.

As both consultations will take place at the same time, the results of the standards of proficiency consultation can also be fed into consideration of the change to SET 1.

¹ Standards of education and training guidance, January 2007, p. 4.

Applied Psychology: Education and training routes

Information accurate as of 4 September 2007. Source: BPS website

Background information

British Psychological Society Statutes

1. Statute 12 (3) of the BPS' statutes sets out the existing requirements to achieve chartered status.
2. To be included in the Register of chartered psychologists, the statutes state that an applicant, having first obtained the Graduate Basis for Registration (see below):
*'...shall have successfully completed a period of study of, or practice in, psychology, or a combination of both, acceptable to the Board of Trustees and shall be judged by the Board of Trustees to have reached a standard sufficient for professional practice in psychology, the relevant period being of three years duration if full time or an equivalent period if part-time...'*²

Graduate basis for registration

1. Candidates for training programmes in applied psychology disciplines first need to have undertaken an undergraduate honours degree in psychology which is accredited by the BPS. This confers the 'Graduate Basis for Registration' and graduate membership of the BPS.³
2. Candidates who do not hold the graduate basis for registration can either undertake the society's qualifying examination or undertake a conversion programme offered by a number of higher education institutions.
3. In effect, an undergraduate honours programme which leads to the graduate basis for registration is an entry requirement for pre-registration training which is delivered at post-graduate level. A parallel to this in the existing professions the Council regulates is in art therapy. The threshold level of entry in this profession is at Masters degree level and higher education institutions will normally look for previous undergraduate study in a subject relevant to art therapy as part of their entry criteria.
4. The graduate basis for registration would not form part of the Council's threshold level of qualification for entry.

² British Psychological Society Statutes, Statute 12, <http://www.bps.org.uk/the-society/ethics-rules-charter-code-of-conduct/statutes/statute-11-to-statute-13.cfm> (accessed 04.09.07)

³ For more information on the accreditation of programmes for the graduate basis for registration, please see British Psychological Society, Quality Assurance Policies and Practice for First Qualifications in Psychology, August 2005, http://www.bps.org.uk/downloadfile.cfm?file_uid=85E06197-1143-DFD0-7E75-EF0FB2E1F163&ext=pdf.

Independent route

1. The BPS accredits postgraduate programmes in each of the applied psychology disciplines.
2. However, in some disciplines an independent route to registration is available. The final qualification is awarded by the BPS but they do not perform the role of an education provider. The independent route involves supervised practice together with the collection of detailed information which demonstrates that certain competencies have been met. Students are required to take responsibility for their own learning and professional development.

Professional doctorates

1. In a small number of applied psychology disciplines, the current entry route is a doctorate.
2. These programmes are normally 'taught' doctorates (sometimes known as 'professional' doctorates) and they differ in terms of structure and content to 'traditional' PhDs. Put simply, a professional doctorate is a doctorate which has been tailored towards a particular profession in terms of content and delivery.
3. The QAA produces a descriptor for doctoral degrees. 'Original research' or 'advanced scholarship' is central to the doctoral level award.⁴

⁴ Quality Assurance Agency, The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - January 2001
Quality Assurance Agency, The framework for qualifications of higher education institutions in Scotland - January 2001

Entry routes for applied psychologists

The entry routes in each of the applied psychology disciplines approved by the BPS follow on the next page. Please note: the level of qualification for entry shown below is the minimum level approved by the BPS.

Please note that there are also routes to registration for international applicants and via grandparenting in sports and exercise psychology. This section focuses on the equivalent to the 'UK approved course' route to registration

- **Clinical Psychology**

1. The level of entry is 3 year full-time doctorate in clinical psychology.⁵
2. The BPS also offers a statement of equivalence in clinical psychology. This allows people who have trained outside of the UK or in another area of applied psychology to become chartered clinical psychologists.
3. The independent route is not open for clinical psychologists.

- **Counselling Psychology**

1. The level of entry is three years' full time (or equivalent part time) personal development, study, research and practice leading to a doctorate level award.
2. This is either through:
 - a) a university programme in counselling psychology; or
 - b) by completing the BPS qualification in counselling psychology (via the independent route).
3. The BPS qualification is not a course of study; it is a pattern of evidence requirements and assessments around which trainees create their own training programme. Candidates are supervised in practice by a chartered counselling psychologist and have to provide evidence of meeting certain competencies, dependent upon their prior learning.
4. The level of the university programmes listed as accredited by the BPS range from postgraduate diploma to doctorate.

- **Educational Psychology**

1. The level of entry is a 3 year full time doctorate in Educational Psychology.
2. In Scotland, however, this is a 2 year full time Masters degree programme plus one year of supervised practice. Supervision placements are approved and monitored by the BPS Scottish Division of Educational Psychology (SDEP).⁶
3. The independent route is not open for educational psychologists.

⁵ It should be noted that the standards of education and training do not specify the length of a programme or the mode of delivery.

⁶ Each discipline of applied psychology is represented by a division within the BPS.

- Forensic Psychology

1. The level of entry is:
 - a) a 1 year full time (or its part time equivalent) MSc programme plus completion of stage 2 of the Society's diploma in forensic psychology; or
 - b) successful completion of stages 1 and 2 of the Society's diploma in forensic psychology (via the independent route).
2. The independent route consists of a stage one component (described by the BPS as equivalent to the MSc) and a stage two component in which trainees have to provide evidence of applying psychology in forensic practice.
3. Stage two comprises of exemplars of applying psychology in forensic practice, a practice diary and supervision log. This portfolio of evidence is assessed by the BPS and successful candidates are awarded chartered status.

- Health Psychology

1. The level of entry is:
 - a) a 1 year full time (or part time equivalent) MSc in Health Psychology plus completion of stage 2 of the BPS qualification in health psychology; or
 - b) successful completion of stages 1 and 2 of the BPS qualification in health psychology (via the independent route).
2. The BPS qualification in health psychology consists of a stage one (described by the BPS as equivalent to the MSc), followed by a stage two qualification which consists of a structured and assessed period of supervised practice. The assessment includes written assignments, supervisor reports and an oral examination.

- Occupational Psychology

1. The level of entry is either:
 - a) an accredited 1 year full time (or part time equivalent) MSc in occupational psychology plus two years supervised practice; or
 - b) three years' full time supervised work experience including the BPS' postgraduate Certificate in Occupational Psychology (via the independent route).
2. The supervised period has to be supervised by a chartered occupational psychologist and approved by the BPS Division of Occupational Psychology.

- Sports and Exercise Psychology

1. The level of entry is a 1 year full time MSc in Sports and Exercise Psychology plus two years' supervised work experience. This is approved/ supervised by the BPS Division of Sports and Exercise Psychology (DSEP).
2. Sports and Exercise Psychology was the most recent applied psychology discipline to be added to those leading to chartered status in 2004. A grandparenting period is currently in operation which allows those who have completed at least 5 years full time sports and exercise psychology practice (or its part time equivalent) to become chartered.

Proposals for the threshold entry level

The Executive suggests that the Committee should set the threshold level of entry by having regard to the breadth of the existing academic awards leading to entry to the profession. Amongst the applied psychology disciplines, both clinical psychology and educational psychology (not Scotland) are doctoral level disciplines.

However, the academic level amongst the other disciplines is often at masters level, plus additional training, study and supervised practice, as required.

Whilst there is clear variation between the different disciplines, in keeping with the existing standards of education and training, it is proposed that the threshold level should relate to the whole of the applied psychologists part of the Register, rather than each discipline.

On page six an excerpt from the statute of the British Psychological Society which sets out the current arrangements is included. It should be noted here that the existing standards of education and training do not make requirements of education providers as to the length of education and training programmes. SET 1 articulates the threshold in terms of an academic level.

The Committee may also wish to take into account which qualifications the Council would need to approve if applied psychologists were to be registered. In the disciplines of clinical psychology and educational psychology (excluding Scotland) the Council would be able to visit and approve the higher education institution (HEI) delivered doctoral programmes as they directly lead to the ability to practise. However, in the other disciplines the entry route of MSc plus additional training, study and supervised practice poses the question of which qualification the Council would need to approve.

Amongst the existing professions, the Council approves the certificate of attainment issued by the Association of Clinical Scientists (ACS) as sufficient to lead to registration as a clinical scientist. The Council is not involved in approving the postgraduate study completed by trainees, only the certificate is approved as leading to registration. The threshold level for clinical scientists reads: 'Masters degree for the clinical sciences (with the award of the Association of Clinical Scientists' Certificate of Attainment, or equivalent).'

Whilst it will ultimately be a policy decision by the Committee and Council as to which courses it will approve and visit, the Committee may wish to have regard to this when determining a proposal for the threshold level. In particular, the threshold would need to be written in such a way that the variation in education and training routes can be accounted for.

Two options for the threshold are discussed below:

1) Masters level threshold

The first option is that the threshold should be set at Masters level with wording such as:

“Masters degree for applied psychology or equivalent (with further training and experience, as appropriate)”

Setting the threshold at Masters degree level would recognise that completion of a masters degree (or its ‘equivalent’ via the independent route, if open) forms part of the training in the majority of applied psychology disciplines: educational psychology (in Scotland), forensic psychology, health psychology, occupational psychology and sports and exercise psychology.

Successful completion of a Masters degree in each of the disciplines above is not currently sufficient in order to become chartered with the BPS. The additional wording in brackets is suggested in order to acknowledge this and allow the flexibility to approve the additional qualification currently necessary to become chartered.

As the level is the threshold, qualifications at doctorate level could still be approved.

2) Doctorate level threshold

The second option is that the threshold should be set at Doctorate level, with wording such as:

“Doctorate for applied psychology (or equivalent)” or “Equivalent to Doctorate level for applied psychology”

A doctorate level threshold would recognise the Doctorate level route to qualification in educational psychology (not Scotland) and clinical psychology. The use of the word ‘equivalent’ might allow the Council to conclude that entry routes in other disciplines were equivalent to a Doctorate.

However, in setting such a threshold level, the Council might be seen to be making a statement that an MSc plus further study, training or experience is equivalent in academic level to a Doctorate. The Council is not a qualifications awarding body, so this could be problematic.

Recommendation

The Executive suggests, in light of the above discussion of the options, that the Committee considers consulting on a threshold at Masters level, with the wording shown on the previous page or similar.

Appendix two is draft consultation document, based on the Executive’s recommendation.

Appendix 1: Courses approved by the British Psychological Society (BPS) (current and historical)

N.B: These courses may not on their own be sufficient to become chartered.
Please see main paper for more details.

Clinical Psychology (currently approved; accessed 06.08.07)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	Cardiff University
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	Coventry University
Doctorate in Clinical and Community Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	Exeter University
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	Institute of Psychiatry
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Lancaster
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Newcastle
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psych	Queen's University Belfast
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	Royal Holloway
Doctoral Training Programme in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psychol	Saloman's Centre
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Sheffield
Clinical Psychology	Doctorate	University of Staffordshire
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psych	University College London
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	Clin.Psy.D	University of Birmingham
Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology	Clin.Psy.D	University of East Anglia
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of East London
Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin,Psychol	University of Edinburgh
Clinical Psychology – Flexible Training Programme	Doctorate	University of Edinburgh
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Essex
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Glasgow

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Hertfordshire
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	ClinPsyD	University of Hull
Clinical Psychology	Doctorate	University of Keele
Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psychol	University of Leeds
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Leicester
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Lincoln
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Liverpool
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	Clin.Psy.D	University of Manchester
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Nottingham IWHO
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psychol	University of Oxford
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (Bristol)	D.Clin.Psy	University of Plymouth
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Plymouth
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	Doctorate	University of Southampton
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Surrey
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Teeside
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Wales, Bangor
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Warwick

Clinical Psychology (historic qualifications)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
South Wales In-Service Course	Diploma	University of Cardiff
Clinical and Community Psychology	MSc	University of Exeter
Clinical Psychology	MSc	Institute of Psychiatry
Lancashire Training Course in Clinical Psychology	Diploma	University of Lancaster
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Newcastle
Abnormal Psychology	MSc	Queen's University of Belfast
Clinical Psychology Training Scheme in South Thame	Diploma	Salomon's centre
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Sheffield
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	Trinity College Dublin
Doctorate of Psychological Science in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Sc	University College Dublin
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University College London
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Birmingham
East Anglian RHA Training Scheme in Clinical Psychology	Diploma	University of Cambridge (Soc)
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of East London
Clinical Psychology	MPhil	University of Edinburgh
Clinical Psychology	MPhil	University of Glasgow
Clinical Psychology	M.App.Sci	University of Glasgow
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Hull
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Leeds
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Leeds
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Leicester
Clinical Psychology	M.Clin.Psy	University of Liverpool
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Manchester
Oxford RHA In-Service Training Scheme	Diploma	University of Oxford
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Plymouth
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Plymouth
Wessex Regional Training Scheme in Clinical Psychology	Diploma	University of Southampton

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Clinical Psychology	MSc	University of Surrey
Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	D.Clin.Psy	University of Wales, Bangor

Sports and Exercise Psychology (currently approved; accessed 06.08.07)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Sports Psychology	MSc	Liverpool John Moores University
Psychology of Sport and Exercise	MSc	Loughbrough University
Sport and Exercise Psychology	MSc	University of Chichester
Sport and Exercise Psychology	MSc	University of Northumbria
Sport and Exercise Psychology	MSc	University of Wales, Bangor

There are no historic courses for sports and exercise psychology; a grandparenting process is currently in place.

Forensic Psychology (currently approved; accessed 06.08.07)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Forensic Psychology and Crime	MSc	University of Coventry
Forensic Psychology	MSc	University of Coventry
Forensic Psychology	MSc	Glasgow Caledonian University
Forensic Psychology	MSc	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Forensic Psychology	MSc	Manchester Metropolitan University
Forensic Psychology	MSc	Middlesex University
Forensic Psychology Practice	MSc	University of Birmingham
Criminological Psychology	MSc	University of Birmingham
Doctorate in Forensic Psychology	ForenPsyD	University of Birmingham
Forensic Psychology	MSc	University of Central Lancashire
Forensic Psychology	MSc	University of Kent
Applied Forensic Psychology	MSc	University of Leicester
Forensic Psychology	MSc	University of Leicester
Investigative Psychology	MSc	University of Liverpool
Forensic Psychology	MSc	University of Portsmouth
Forensic Psychology	MSc	University of Surrey
Applied Forensic Psychology	MSc	University of York

Forensic Psychology (Historic qualifications)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Applied Criminology Psychology	MSc	Birkbeck College
Forensic and Legal Psychology	MSc	University of Leicester

Educational Psychology (currently approved; accessed 06.08.07)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Educational Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	Bristol (Community and Health)
Educational Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of Cardiff
Education, Child and Community Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of Exeter
Educational, Child and Adolescent Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	Institute of Education
Applied Educational Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of Newcastle
Educational, Child and Adolescent Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	Queen's University Belfast
Educational Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	Queen's University of Belfast
Educational Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of Sheffield
Child, Community and Educational Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust
Educational and Child Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	Educational Psychology
Applied Educational and Child Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of Birmingham
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Dundee
Educational and Child Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of East London
Educational and Child Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of Manchester
Applied Educational Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of Nottingham
Educational Psychology	D.Ed.Psy	University of Southampton
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Strathclyde

Educational Psychology (historic qualifications)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Educational Psychology	MEd	Bristol (Experimental Psychol)
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Cardiff
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Exeter
Educational Psychology	MSc	Institute of Education
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Newcastle
Developmental and Educational Psychology	MSc	Queen's University of Belfast
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Sheffield
Educational Psychology	MSc	Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust
Educational Psychology	MA	University College Dublin
Educational Psychology	MSc	University College London
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Birmingham
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of East London
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Manchester
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Nottingham
Educational Psychology	MSc	University of Southampton

Occupational Psychology (currently approved; accessed 06.08.07)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Work Psychology and Business	MSc	Aston University
Occupational Psychology	MSc	Birkbeck College
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Cardiff
Organisational Psychology	MSc	City University
Occupational Psychology	MSc	Glasgow Caledonian University
Occupational Psychology	MSc	Goldsmith's College
Occupational Psychology	MSc	Liverpool John Moores University
Occupational Psychology	MSc	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Occupational Psychology	MSc	Queen's University of Belfast
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Sheffield
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of East London
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Gloucestershire
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Hertfordshire
Work and Organisational Psychology	MSc	University of Hull
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Leicester
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Manchester
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Northumbria
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Nottingham IWHO
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Strathclyde
Occupational and Organisational Psychology	MSc	University of Surrey

Occupational Psychology (historic qualifications)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Organisational Psychology	MSc	Bristol (Experimental Psychology)
Occupational Psychology	MSc	Cranfield University
Applied Psychology	MSc	Cranfield University
Occupational Psychology	MSc	Heriot-Watt University
Occupational Psychology	MSc /MA	University of Sheffield
Industrial Psychology	MSc	University of Hull
Organisational Psychology	MSc	University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology
Occupational Psychology	MSc	University of Strathclyde

Health Psychology (currently approved; accessed 06.08.2007)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Health Psychology	MSc	Aston University
Doctor of Psychology	DPsych	City University
Health Psychology	MSc	City University
Stage 2 Training in Health Psychology	PostMscDip	City University
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Coventry
Stage 2 Training in Health Psychology	PhD	Institute of Psychiatry
Health Psychology	MSc	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Health Psychology	MSc	Middlesex University
Health Psychology	MSc	Queen Margaret University
Stage 2: Professional Doctorate in Health Psychology	Doctorate	Queen Margaret University
Health Psychology	MSc	Staffordshire University
Health Psychology	Doctorate	Staffordshire University
Health Psychology	MSc	Thames Valley University
Health Psychology	MSc	University College London
Stage 2 Training in Health Psychology	PhD	University College London
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Bath
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Bedfordshire
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Central Lancashire
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Derby
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Kent
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Nottingham IWHO
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Southampton
Health Psychology	PhD/ MPhil	University of Southampton
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Stirling
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Surrey
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Sussex
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Teeside
Health Psychology	MSc	University of the West of England
Health Psychology	MSc	University of Westminster

There are no historic courses in health psychology

Counselling Psychology (currently approved; accessed 06.08.07)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Postgraduate Programme in Counselling Psychology	PGRD/DPsyc	City University
Advanced Practitioner Diploma in Counselling Psychology	PGRD	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology	PracDoc	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Counselling Psychology and Psychotherapy by Prof Studies	DCPsych	Metanoia Institute
Doctorate in Counselling Psychology	DCounsPsy	Regent's College
Postgraduate Programme in Counselling Psychology	PGRD	Regent's College
Practice of Counselling Psychology	PgDip	Roehampton, University of Surrey
Counselling Psychology	PGdip	Roehampton, University of Surrey
Counselling Psychology	MSc	Roehampton, University of Surrey
Counselling Psychology	PgDip	University of East London
Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology	Doctorate	University of East London
Counselling Psychology	PGRD	University of East London
Counselling Psychology	PgDip/MSc	University of East London
Psych.D Psychotherapeutic and Counselling psychology	Psych.D	University of Surrey
Counselling Psychology	Psych.D	University of Teeside
Postgraduate Programme in Counselling Psychology	MSc/DCouns	University of Wolverhampton
Practitioner Doctorate in Counselling Psychology	D.Couns.Psy	University of Wolverhampton

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Counselling Psychology	PgDip	City University
Counselling Psychology	MSc	City University
Practice of Counselling Psychology	Post MSc Dip	City University
Counselling Psychology	MSc	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Postgraduate Programme in Counselling Psychology	Masters	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Counselling Psychology	PgDip	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Postgraduate Practitioner Diploma in Counselling Psychology	Dip	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Doctorate in Counselling Psychology	D.Couns.Ps	London Metropolitan University (Guildhall)
Msc Integrative Counselling Psychology and Psychotherapy	MSc	Metanoia Institute
Counselling Psychology Pathway of the MA Psychotherapy and Counselling	MA	Regent's College
Counselling Psychology	PgDip	Regent's College
Counselling Psychology	MA	Regent's College
Existential Counselling Diploma	Post-MA Diploma	Regent's College
Psychological Counselling	Diploma	Roehampton, University of Surrey
Counselling Psychology	MSc	Roehampton, University of Surrey
Counselling Psychology	MSc	Trinity College Dublin
Psychological Counselling	PgDip	Counselling Psychology
Counselling Psychology	PgDip	University of East London
MSc Advanced Counselling Psychology	MSc	University of East London
Counselling Psychology	MSc	University of East London
Therapeutic Psychology	MSc	University of Surrey
Therapeutic Psychology	PgDip	University of Surrey
Psych.D in Psychotherapeutic and counselling psychology	Psych.D	University of Surrey
Counselling Psychology	MSc	University of Teeside

Counselling Psychology (Historic qualifications)

Course Title	Academic Award	Institution
Counselling Psychology (Year three modules)	MSc	University of Wolverhampton
Counselling Psychology	MSc	University of Wolverhampton
Counselling Psychology	MSc	University of Wolverhampton

Applied Psychologists – Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register Consultation paper

The standards of education and training are the standards that an education and training programme must meet before we can approve it as leading to registration. We are seeking the views of our stakeholders on an addition to these standards, in preparation for the likely regulation of applied psychologists.

Regulation of applied psychologists

In February 2007, the government published a white paper on the future of regulation, 'Trust, Assurance and Safety – The Regulation of Health Professionals, in the 21st Century'.

The white paper said:

'The government is planning to introduce statutory regulation for applied psychologists...' (p. 81).

'Psychologists...will be regulated by the Health Professions Council' (p.85).

The white paper also indicated that psychotherapists, counsellors and other psychological therapists would be priorities for future regulation.

Unless otherwise dictated by a change in government policy, the applied psychology disciplines to be regulated are likely to be the same as those identified in the 2004 Department of Health consultation document: 'Applied Psychology: Enhancing public protection: Proposals for the statutory regulation of applied psychologists' (March 2005). They are:

- Clinical Psychologists
- Counselling Psychologists
- Educational Psychologists
- Forensic Psychologists
- Health Psychologists
- Occupational Psychologists
- Sports and Exercise Psychologists

It should be noted that although the white paper has indicated that applied psychologists should be regulated by HPC, the necessary legislation to allow this to happen has yet to be passed. However, we believe that it is important to start this work at an early stage, to allow sufficient time to consider our proposals. In particular, this allows time for a full three month public consultation.

We are consulting on our proposals alongside a consultation on draft standards of proficiency for applied psychologists.

About the standards of education and training

The standards of education and training are standards which apply to education and training programmes which lead to eligibility for registration.

Our Education: approvals and monitoring department is responsible for conducting approvals visits of education and training providers to ensure that their programmes meet our standards.

We assess programmes against our standards of education and training which cover such areas as admissions, assessment standards and practice placements. A programme which meets the standards of education and training will also allow a student who successfully completes that programme to meet the standards of proficiency. These are the standards we publish for the safe and effective practice of each profession we regulate.

Once a programme is approved, a graduate from that programme is eligible to apply for registration. We grant open-ended approval, subject to ongoing checks via our monitoring and major/ minor change processes.

You can find out more information about our role in education by visiting our website: <http://www.hpc-uk.org/education/>

SET 1: Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register

Standard one of the standards of education and training (“SET 1”) sets out the threshold level of entry to the Register in the professions we regulate. This is articulated as a threshold academic level. Every time we open a new part of the Register, we need to determine the threshold level of qualification for entry for the new profession, following consultation, and add this to the standards.

The standard currently reads:

1.1 The Council normally expects that the **threshold** entry routes to the Register will be the following:

1.1.1 Bachelor degree with honours for the following professions:

- chiropody or podiatry;
- dietetics;
- occupational therapy;
- orthoptics;
- physiotherapy;
- prosthetics and orthotics;
- radiography;
- speech and language therapy;
- biomedical science (with the Certificate of Competence awarded by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), or equivalent if appropriate); and

1.1.2 Masters degree for the arts therapies.

1.1.3 Masters degree for the clinical sciences (with the award of the Association of Clinical Scientists' Certificate of Attainment, or equivalent).

1.1.4 Equivalent to Certificate of Higher Education for paramedics.

1.1.5 Diploma of Higher Education in Operating Department Practice for Operating Department Practitioners.

In setting the threshold level of qualification for entry, the Council is setting the threshold academic level of qualification which it would normally accept for the purposes of an approved programme which leads to registration. As the threshold is the 'minimum', programmes above the threshold academic level may be approved.

The threshold level might change over time to reflect changes in the delivery of education and training. This has happened in a number of the existing professions we regulate – as professions have developed the threshold academic level has increased. Any change in the threshold academic level is one that is normally led by the profession and/or by education providers and employers and which occurs over time. At an appropriate time, consideration might be given to changing SET 1, having regard to the level at which the majority of education and training is delivered.

Our primary consideration in approving a programme, whether at or substantially above the threshold, is that the programme meets the standards of education and training and will allow students to meet the standards of proficiency on completion.

Our considerations

In developing our proposal for the threshold academic level, we took into account variation in the academic levels of existing qualifications leading to entry to each applied psychology discipline.

Although the entry routes in clinical and educational psychology (not Scotland) are at doctorate level, a masters degree or masters degree level qualification forms part of the education and training requirements in the majority of the other disciplines. As the threshold level relates to the part of the Register, we must set a threshold which can account for all the applied psychology disciplines.

In addition we are a UK regulator and our standards must apply equally across the UK. Therefore, our standards must additionally take account of any variation in education and training routes between the home countries.

Our proposal

We propose to set the threshold level for the applied psychologists part of the Register at masters degree level with the following wording:

“Masters degree for applied psychology or equivalent (with further training and experience as appropriate).”

We believe that setting the threshold for the applied psychologists part of the Register at masters level would be a sensible, pragmatic step which would recognise that completion of a masters degree (or its equivalent) forms part of the education and training in the majority of applied psychology disciplines.

However, we also recognise that a masters degree (or its equivalent), on its own, is not currently sufficient in order to become chartered with the British Psychological Society. Therefore the additional wording in brackets is suggested in order to acknowledge this and allow the flexibility to approve this additional training.

This proposal would not prevent education and training programmes delivered at doctorate level from continuing to run and from being approved by us.

Routes of entry to the Register

The threshold academic level of qualification for entry to the Register applies to education and training programmes seeking approval rather than to individuals. Therefore, it would not affect individuals who might have followed education and training programmes delivered at levels below the threshold in the past.

When we regulate a new profession, all those whose names appear on the relevant voluntary Register would normally transfer to the HPC register. There are then three routes open to registration:

- **UK approved course:** Our Education and Training Committee would normally approve those programmes which have lead to membership of the voluntary register. This means that any individual who could have been a member of the register on the date of the transfer, but was not (for example, their membership had just lapsed) would be able to apply to us for registration via the UK-approved course route.
- **Grandparenting:** Whenever we regulate a new profession, and protect a title, there will be a ‘grandparenting’ period. The length of the grandparenting period is defined by law, and has previously been two years. The ‘Grandparenting window’ allows people who have previously

been practising the profession, but who could not become voluntarily registered, to apply for registration, provided that they can meet certain criteria. Applications are assessed on an individual basis by registration assessors, who are appropriately qualified members of the profession. After the grandparenting period has closed, the only way to become registered for UK-trained individuals is to complete an approved programme.

- **International route:** Applicants who have trained outside of the United Kingdom can apply to us via our international route.

You can find out more about the routes to registration and about what happens when a new profession becomes regulated, by visiting our website.

Your responses

We would welcome your comments to our proposals for the threshold entry level for applied psychologists to be added to SET 1 of the standards of education and training.

This consultation with put our proposals before a wide range of stakeholders, including professional bodies, employers, higher education institutions and others with an interest in our work . We would like to invite any individual or organisation with an interest in these issues to respond to this consultation. The consultation will run until xx [month] 2008 and further copies of the document will be available on our website to download.

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please send your response to:

Applied psychologists SET 1 consultation
Policy and standards
Health Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU

E-mail:

Website: www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations

At the end of the consultation period, we will publish a summary of the responses we receive together with an explanation of our decision or decisions as a result.

If you prefer your responses not to be made public, please indicate this when you respond.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Thornton
Chair of the Education and Training Committee