



Application or nomination for a Fellowship of the Psychological Society of Ireland

This document describes the criteria and process for the award of Fellowship of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI).

This guide was developed in line with the relevant articles of the PSI Constitution which govern matters in this regard.

Members of the society may either apply or be nominated for a Fellowship.

Criteria for the award of Fellowships

A Fellowship is recognition of a significant contribution and is regarded as the Society's highest individual honour.

The criteria set out in the PSI constitution is as follows:

Fellowship Criteria as per the Constitution of PSI:

5 Fellowship

5.1 Application or nomination for Fellowship shall be made to the Council.

5.2 An applicant or nominee for Fellowship shall have been an Associate Fellow or Chartered Member of the Society for a period of not less than three consecutive years.

5.3 An applicant or nominee for Fellowship shall, in addition, satisfy the Council that he or she has at least ten years' professional experience in psychology and is considered qualified according to one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Has made a substantial contribution to the Society,
- b) Possesses superior psychological knowledge and skills,
- c) Has made an important contribution to the advancement of psychological knowledge,

Or

d) Has made an important contribution to the advancement of the practice of psychology.

5.4 Nominations for Fellowship may be made to Council, where two Fellows, Associate Fellows or Chartered Members are of the opinion that another Associate Fellow fulfils the conditions set out.

5.5 An application or nomination for Fellowship shall be signed by two Fellows, Associate Fellows or Chartered Members who may be required to attest that the applicant meets the requirements for Fellowship.

5.6 The Council may admit to Fellowship such eligible applicants or nominees as it deems fit.

5.7 Fellowship may be cited as a professional qualification while the Fellow is a member of the Society and the prescribed abbreviations to indicate Fellowship are F.Ps.S.I.

5.8 The Fellows and Honorary Fellows, as a body, shall be known as the College of Fellows.

5.9 The President, on the instructions of Council, may convene a convocation of Fellows in order to ascertain their views with regard to matters of interest to the Society.

5.10 The Council shall award a Fellowship to the President upon completion of his or her term of office. Provided that he or she remains in good standing with the Society.

Who should apply:

PSI Council welcomes applications from psychologists who work across a wide range of sectors including health and social care (statutory and voluntary), education, business, sport, academia, industry as well as those who work in independent practice. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of possible environments in which a psychologist might work.

What constitutes a substantial contribution?

To assist PSI Council in arriving at a decision, applicants or nominators are asked to make a case for how they believe the criterion of a 'substantial contribution' has been met.

Referees are similarly asked to present a case for the applicant. The following points may help applicants or nominators to decide whether the criteria for Fellowship is satisfied. This information should help in presenting the case as strongly as possible.

Meeting any of the criteria below should constitute a contribution substantial enough to be recognised by those working in the same branch of psychology.

- Possesses superior psychological knowledge and skills
and/or
- Has made an important contribution to the advancement of psychological knowledge
and/or
- Has made an important contribution to the advancement of the practice of psychology

The work of the applicant will have to be known about, and held in esteem, beyond their local environment, department or service. The expectation that the contribution will have had an impact on psychology generally applies equally to applications from members living and working abroad. The Society will be looking for evidence of its influence on science or practice when considering the award. For a contribution to be of appropriate significance, it should have been communicated widely. Often this is achieved by publishing the key aspects of the work in refereed journals, but other forms of publication and dissemination can be equally appropriate. This could include e.g. conferences, presentations, workshops, substantial non-refereed journals, or commissioned reports etc.

Applicants may find the following examples helpful in determining whether they meet the criteria. A significant contribution might involve the development of a new procedure, which has shown to be valid, effective, and of broad application. By definition, the new procedure will be known and accepted as important in the relevant area of psychology. Elaborating an existing technique or method and applying it to new problems or client groups may also be considered an appropriate contribution. Similarly, advanced casework employing innovative strategies would be considered applicable. A contribution through public service would involve, for example chairing or membership of national committees constituted to set up guidelines for the development or application of psychological knowledge in a particular area - for example, education, teaching, clinical practice or general work and organisation environments. It may involve significant and sustained work with voluntary bodies to introduce psychological principles or practice within their services.

A contribution through organising and developing the work of others could involve leading, representing and supporting psychologists including setting standards and promoting excellence in psychology. For example, a significant contribution can be demonstrated through developing a psychological service that has become a model for the delivery of professional services, which others have followed.

It is important to point out, though, that only the development, application or elaboration of **psychological knowledge and practice** can be considered relevant to the award of a Fellowship. Increasingly, people with degrees in psychology are making substantial and original contributions in other fields of endeavour (e.g. publishing, entertainment, marketing, administration and management to name but a few) but these contributions do not always involve a distinctive application of psychology. Bringing psychological theory, knowledge and practice to influence institutions, organisations or activities where there had been no such influence would, however, constitute an original contribution.

It is intended that the criteria will be interpreted broadly and might include any of the following:

- evidence of peer-recognised innovation and originality in the applicant's research/teaching/
practice/ public service/organisation and development of the work of others
- evidence of a significant contribution to one major area of knowledge or practice evidence of specific and significant ways in which the applicant has taken forward the knowledge or practice base in psychology
- evidence that the applicant has acquired a national or international reputation through making a major impact on a particular area of psychology
- evidence of the influence of an applicant's expertise in psychology on the development of national or international policy
- evidence of the applicant's expertise in psychology influencing another discipline or profession (e.g. the legal process, medicine, human resource management, etc)
- membership of a national or international committee (e.g. a government advisory or task group, or international working party/ advisory group)
- leadership of an initiative which has resulted in policy relating to services such as education, employee selection, decisions on parole, or care of the elderly becoming based on sound psychological principles
- a pioneering and sustained contribution to the development of a local psychological service which has delivered improved outcomes for clients or provided a model for best practice
- evidence of significant work with clients, carers and their organisations to improve services and deliver psychological care
- evidence of effective dissemination of knowledge/practice with discernible outcomes in the public domain
- winners of one of the PSI members awards
- service to the Society through completing a full term as an officer on PSI Council
- Significant support to a Society function, for example, work undertaken as part of the Society's accreditation processes, member accreditation, expert validation committee or other work core to the successful functioning of PSI

It should be noted that there is neither an expectation nor a requirement that all of these indicators should be achieved. The key issue is whether the criteria are met. This list of indicators sets out some of the ways that they might be met; other equivalent ways of meeting them are not excluded.

For all the reasons elaborated above, PSI Council will be highly dependent on the information provided by applicants, referees or nominations.

Council will make a decision based on the information submitted and will not seek further information/clarification once submission is complete

How to apply

Please submit:

1. Fellowship application form
2. CV (*4 pages or less*)
3. Personal statement - 'Your case for a Fellowship' (*500 words*)

'Your case for a Fellowship' is your opportunity to outline how you meet the criteria. It should detail most importantly how you have made a significant contribution to the Society directly or to the advancement or dissemination of psychological knowledge or Practice

Procedures

The following section describes the procedure for nominating a member or for an individual applying for a Fellowship. The documentation for both routes is the same.

Referees

Candidates, whether applying or being nominated for a Fellowship, must be supported by two Chartered members, Fellows, or Associate Fellows who will serve as referees. They will make a case for election by stating how the candidate meets the criteria detailed in this booklet. No application can be processed until both referees' reports are received. Applicants should share with each referee a copy of their application.

Candidates must send a copy of their application to each of their referees in order that they may see how the candidate has chosen to present their own case for a Fellowship.

Referees will be expected to comment on the case made by the applicant and to add their supporting evidence. They will also be asked to confirm that they have read the application and that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the information given by the applicant is correct.

How is my application assessed?

Following receipt of your application/nomination and both referees' reports, PSI Council will examine the application and one of the following outcomes will result:

1. The application makes a very strong case, is unequivocally supported by referees and PSI Council and a Fellowship award is confirmed.

Or:

2. The application is not judged to have met the criteria and is declined.

Decisions

The decision of the Society will be final. Successful candidates receive a letter and certificate signed by the President of PSI on behalf of Council.

Unsuccessful candidates will either be sent a standard letter informing them that their application has been unsuccessful, or one encouraging them to make a re-application at a later date.

In both cases the candidate may re-apply. The letters notifying candidates that their application has been unsuccessful will not provide feedback.

Newly confirmed Fellows will be announced in The Irish Psychologist and on PSI Social Media channels

If you have any queries, please contact us by email – membership@psychologicalsociety.ie