



## **GUIDELINES FOR PSI CHARTERED MEMBERSHIP**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** The Psychological Society of Ireland first established a Register of Psychologists in November 1988. The title “Registered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland” was adopted in 2016, this title was changed to “Chartered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland”. Only Chartered members of the Society with the necessary qualifications and experience can use this title. The new Constitution of the PSI was adopted at the 2017 AGM and this document now is the official set of Mems & Arts and outlines the steps to becoming a Chartered member of the PSI.

**1.2** Under the Directory of Chartered members, the Society has protected the title “Chartered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland”. The appropriate abbreviation which denotes Chartered Status is C.Psychol. PsSI. Chartered Members who are also Associate Fellows may use the abbreviation C.Psychol. AFPsSI; and those who are Fellows may use the abbreviation C.Psychol. FPsSI. The abbreviation may be used in any professional context including personal notices and advertisements.

**1.3** On receipt of the annual Chartered Membership fee, each Chartered Member will receive a PDF version of the Certificate of Chartership appropriately dated for that membership year. This Certificate may be publicly displayed.

**1.4** There are two routes towards gaining Chartered Membership:

*The PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION ROUTE* together with supervised work experience as a psychologist

OR

*The DOCTORAL RESEARCH ROUTE*

Check and choose the route which applies to you. Refer to Sections 2 and 3 of these Guidelines for the first route; and Section 4 of these guidelines for the second route. Sections 5 and 6 apply to all Chartered Members.

## **2. ROUTE ONE: ACCREDITED POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION and SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE AS A PSYCHOLOGIST**

**2.1** An accredited postgraduate professional qualification in psychology or equivalent and four year's experience inclusive of credited time spent undertaking the postgraduate qualification is required, see 2.6 and 2.7 below. The professional qualification includes academic courses, training placements, and research thesis.

### *DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WITH THE APPLICATION*

- The transcript or certified copy of the postgraduate professional qualification;
- Copy of the Certificate of Award;
- Supervised Experience Form signed by the relevant Supervisor(s).
- Copy of the Validation Unit Result (Overseas qualifications in Clinical, Counselling, or Educational Psychology).

**2.2** The Society requires at least one work supervisor who has had direct supervision of the period(s) of experience as a psychologist cited by the applicant to sign for the supervised experience. Supervisors must be Chartered Psychologists of the PSI, or an overseas equivalent, where work has been done overseas. See exception in point 3.3.

**2.3** It may be necessary for a number of different supervisors to support one's application if a person has worked in several posts. For each period of experience as a psychologist, a supervisor who has supervised and has direct experience of that period is required.

**2.4** Supervisors will be required to verify the authenticity of each period of supervised experience which is cited by an applicant in support of his/her application.

**2.5** Please note that people employed and paid as an Assistant/Associate/Intern Psychologist may not count this period as experience as a Psychologist.

**2.6** Credit can only be given for completed postgraduate professional training courses accredited by the PSI or overseas equivalent. The course of study must be completed and the award given before it can be credited towards chartered membership.

**2.7** Postgraduate professional training courses at a master's level accredited or previously recognized by the Society (including the Society's Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Psychology) will be given a maximum credit of two years. Doctoral professional training courses accredited by the Society will be given a maximum credit of three years.

**2.8** In the case of courses accredited by the British Psychological Society, or accredited overseas, these courses will receive a weighting similar to that of comparable courses in Ireland, irrespective of the duration.

**2.9** Qualification/training/experience may not be double counted; for example, placements which form part of a course qualification cannot be counted a second time as experience.

**2.10** In the case of applicants with experience as a psychologist gained overseas, the overseas supervisors must be equivalent to PSI Chartered Psychologists, in the country in which they work.

**2.11** Translations into the English language, should be authenticated by an appropriate authority as being true translations.

### **3. SUPERVISION OF WORK EXPERIENCE AS A PSYCHOLOGIST**

**3.1** It is necessary for an applicant to nominate at least one work supervisor with his/her application. Graduate Members who wish to become Chartered Members at some time in the future are advised to clearly identify for themselves, in advance, how their work as a psychologist can be supervised and subsequently verified by their supervisor.

**3.2** The Society requires that supervision arrangements by work supervisors allow for a minimum of one hour of supervision per week. An equivalent period of supervision of two hours fortnightly, or in special cases, monthly supervision is allowed. Applicants must apply, in advance, for the concession to use monthly supervision or for any other pro-rata arrangement.

**3.3** In situations where psychologists find themselves working in contexts without day-to-day contact with a PSI Chartered Psychologist, applicants may have a Senior Level Psychologist as their Supervisor who is a PSI member, or who is a member of an equivalent psychology regulatory body. Applicants should normally apply, in advance, to use this concession.

**3.4** Where supervised work as a psychologist is of a part-time nature, the hours per week, weeks per year and dates should be clearly specified. An equivalent full-time period can be calculated, based on a 35-hour working week of 48 weeks per year

**3.5** The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that the Committee can only make decisions on the basis of the relevant information supplied. It is the applicant's responsibility to supply accurate information regarding the duration and dates of supervised experience as a psychologist. In the absence of a supervisor having direct knowledge of the experience cited, it is unlikely that this part of the application will be accepted.

**3.6** Supervisors must not be close relatives of the applicant, members of their immediate household, or partners. Such periods of supervised work will not be credited towards PSI Chartership. Any such referee/applicant relationship must be declared.

For further information, Refer to the PSI Code of Professional Ethics, Revision of May 2008, Section 4.4.3 in regard to being acutely aware of the problematic nature of dual relationships.

### **4. ROUTE TWO: RESEARCH DOCTORAL DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**4.1** A research doctoral degree in psychology in which the thesis was clearly on a psychological topic and both a research supervisor and an examiner were identifiable as psychologists. (NB: by PhD thesis only).

#### **DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WITH APPLICATION**

- Copy of the Certificate of Award;
- Verification of Qualification Form signed by the relevant Supervisor and Examiner;
- Abstract of the doctoral thesis;
- Structured Summary of the doctoral thesis.

**4.2** The Society requires two referees who must attest that the applicant meets the requirements for PSI Chartership.

**4.3** The first referee should be a Research Doctoral Degree Supervisor. The second referee should be an examiner. Both of these supervisors/referees must be identifiable as equivalent to PSI Chartered psychologists, or senior level psychologists.

**4.4** The thesis must be on a psychological topic. A thesis abstract and a structured summary should be provided. Guidelines for a structured summary of the thesis, as requested in the Application form, are given below.

#### Structured Summary Guidelines

The structured summary should be 300 words in length, and include:

- The thesis title, number of words, date examined and the name of the university/college;
- The names of the Supervisor(s) and examiners and the name of the Research Doctoral Degree for which the thesis was presented;
- Objectives: State the objective of the research and the main hypotheses or questions addressed;
- Design: Describe the design specifying the number of groups studied, and the number of occasions on which data were collected from these groups;
- Methods: State if quantitative or qualitative methods were used. Specify the number and characteristics of participants; the assessment instruments, psychological tests or special apparatus used, and the procedures followed during data collection;
- Results: Give the main results. Numerical data may be given briefly;
- Data analysis: State the way qualitative data were processed or the statistics used to analyse quantitative data;
- Conclusions: State the conclusions from the research and the implications of these for practice, policy development and further research.

**4.5** Credit can only be given for completed postgraduate Research Doctoral Degrees from recognized universities. The course of study must be completed and the award given before it can be credited towards Chartered Membership of the Society.

**4.6** In the case of applicants with Research Doctoral Degrees in Psychology from overseas, the overseas referees/supervisors must be identifiable as psychologists in the country in which they work.

## **5. RULES AND REGULATIONS ABOUT THE FORM AND KEEPING OF THE DIRECTORY OF CHARTERED PSYCHOLOGISTS – BOTH ROUTES**

**5.1** A non-refundable scrutiny fee will be payable for processing each and every application for Chartered Membership.

**5.2** An annual fee for Chartered Membership will be payable over and above the annual Graduate Membership fee. Only fully paid Graduate Members of PSI can be on the Directory of Chartered Members. Fees for Chartered Membership will be due at the same time as the annual PSI Membership fee.

**5.3** The names of Chartered Members whose fees are not paid within three months of the due date for that year will be deleted from the Directory of Chartered members. Members are reminded that they cannot be in the Directory of Chartered Members if they have not paid their annual Graduate Membership fee.

**5.4** If members allow their Chartered Membership to lapse for more than one year, they must reapply. Their application will be re-assessed using criteria which are current at that point in time and they will be charged a scrutiny fee.

**5.5** It is every member's responsibility to inform the Society about changes of address so that the online Directory of Chartered members and the Society's mailing list can be maintained up to date.

**5.6** It should be emphasized that in order to use the title "Chartered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland", Chartered Members must be in good standing. If a Chartered Member allows his/her Chartered Membership to lapse and continues to use the above title or abbreviation, he/she is liable to be challenged by Council.

**5.7** The appropriate abbreviation which denotes Chartered Status is C. Psychol. (PsSI). Chartered Members who are also Associate Fellows may use the abbreviation C. Psychol. (AFPsSI) and Chartered Members who are also Fellows may use the abbreviation C. Psychol. (FPsSI).

**5.8** All Chartered Members are required to undertake Professional Learning and Development (Continuing Professional Development, CPD) under the relevant structures set up by Council.

**5.9** Members who do not fulfil these requirements and who use the title are liable to sanction by the Board of Professional Conduct of the Society. Any person outside the Society who uses the title will be challenged by the Society.

**5.10** It should be remembered that all members of the Society agree to be bound by the Society's Code of Professional Ethics. However, as Chartered Members are the only group who can publicly claim the title "Chartered Psychologist of the Psychological Society of Ireland", a particular responsibility is placed upon them to guard the Society's Code of Professional Ethics.

The Society's Code of Professional Ethics is available on the website:  
[www.psychologicalsociety.ie](http://www.psychologicalsociety.ie)

## **6. JOINING A SPECIALIST DIRECTORY**

**6.1** For a person to be included on a Specialist Directory, an applicant must be a Graduate Member of the Society, and be a

- (a) Chartered Member of the Society;
- (b) Full member of the relevant Division(s);

AND

- (c) Have been accepted by the relevant Division(s) as qualified in the area(s) of specialization.

**6.2** A Chartered member may hold membership of more than one Division and be qualified in more than one area of specialisation.

**6.3** For current information on the Specialist Directories please contact the relevant Division.