



The Psychological Society of Ireland

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To note: This document replaces any previous versions released by the PSI.

Whilst this document was issued in May 2020 with review in September 2020, the PSI extended the period up to September 2021, at which point the derogation can be reviewed as to the necessity of an extension.

11 May 2020

RE: Temporary derogation to supervisor requirements for professional training programmes during COVID-19

Dear Course Directors, Division Chairs & Psychology Managers,

In light of the unprecedented challenges faced by Health Services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and with particular focus on supporting the ongoing training of psychologists on doctoral programmes, the Council of the PSI has approved some temporary derogation to supervisor requirements for professional training programmes. This is a concrete example of the flexibility that the PSI committed to in the [Guidance for Psychological Society of Ireland Accredited Professional Doctorate Programmes During COVID-19 Outbreak](#).

These temporary measures will facilitate a greater number of potential placements being available for trainees, ease the burden on supervisors and ensure the smooth completion of professional training without diminishing the training placement. It would also go some way to addressing the growing anxiety being experienced by trainees across all programmes that they can fulfil both their accreditation and eligibility for future employment criteria. At a time of national emergency, we need psychologists of all levels contributing to the national need.

For trainees currently on Clinical Psychology training programmes, the requirement for the supervisor on either a core or specialist placement to be a *Senior Clinical Psychologist* will be temporarily changed to *Senior Psychologist*.

Directors: Mark Smyth (President), Megan Gaffney (President Elect), Ian O'Grady (Past President),
Vincent Mc Darby (Honorary Secretary), Michael Stoker (Honorary Treasurer), Dean McDonnell (Membership Secretary)



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For trainees currently on Counselling Psychology training programmes, the requirement for the supervising psychologist to have counselling or psychotherapy training/experience will be suspended temporarily.

The accreditation criteria for Educational Psychology training is suitably flexible to not have caused identifiable difficulties.

This derogation will be reviewed in September 2020 in parallel with the recently issued *Guidance for Psychological Society of Ireland Accredited Professional Doctorate Programmes During COVID-19 Outbreak*.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Smyth

PSI President

On behalf of The Psychological Society of Ireland