

2 April 2012

Request for Amendment to Regulation 6.1.3 (a) (viii)
Relating to the Professional Doctorate Awards

Purpose of Paper

1. APRC is asked to **consider**, and, if thought appropriate, **approve in principle** the addition of the award of Doctor of Forensic-Clinical Psychology(ForenClnPsyD) to the list of awards included under the banner of Professional Doctorate (Regulation 6.1.3 (a) (viii)), with effect from the 2012-13 academic session.

Proposal

2. That the award of ForenClnPsyD is added to the list of awards included under the banner of Professional Doctorate. Regulation 6.1.e (a) (viii), therefore, would read:

Professional Doctorate (ClnPsyD, EdD, ThD, EdPsychD, SocSciD, Foren.Psy.D, HScD, HScD(Clin), DPT, App.Ed ,Child Psy.D, DPharm, DAgriFood, ForenClnPsyD)

A programme, normally of three years' duration, which integrates taught postgraduate work and/or professional practice with research within a programme of 540 credits. Registered Students are assessed by a combination of written examinations and/or project report(s), dissertation or thesis which collectively make an original contribution to knowledge, worthy of publication. The programme comprises no more than 180 credits of taught modules.

Background

3. The University of Birmingham delivers the second oldest Clinical Psychology doctorate in the United Kingdom, and was the first university to deliver a Forensic Psychology doctorate.
4. Completion of these two qualifications permits successful students to apply for admission to the Health Professions Council (HPC), which maintains a list of registered practitioners, and for chartership as a clinical or forensic psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS), which covers a range of psychological specialisms,
5. At present, practitioners wishing to obtain dual registration must successfully complete both a Clinical Psychology and a Forensic Psychology programme of study.
6. It is proposed that both sets of training should be brought together in one four year programme (2 + 2 programme), so that practitioners may obtain dual registration and chartering through one programme/qualification. The programme would be subject to Fitness to Practise, as are the individual Clinical and Forensic doctoral programmes.

7. Forensic mental health services are provided by both the NHS and private providers. Clinical Psychology programmes are normally funded by the NHS; Forensic Psychology programmes by individuals or private providers.
8. The Forensic-Clinical Psychology Doctorate programme of study would be delivered in collaboration with St Andrew's Healthcare, a private healthcare provider, which would be willing to fund the first cohort of students.
9. Approval in Principle for the development of the collaborative provision arrangement has been given by the Collaborative Provision Committee, and the Programme Specification is due to be submitted on 16 March 2012 for consideration by the Programmed Approval Review Committee (PARC).
10. APRC is asked to approve this change in principle only, as the full proposal has not yet been approved through PARC. This paper proposes that, if the programme is approved at PARC, the Forensic-Clinical Psychology Doctorate should be added to the list of those programmes covered in the Regulations under the banner of Professional Doctorate.

Arguments to Support the Proposal

11.
 - That it is not possible to accommodate this programme within the existing research degrees and Professional Doctorates available at the University of Birmingham;
 - That the title of Forensic-Clinical Psychology Doctorate would be more attractive to the target audience than any other titles;
 - That the title clearly shows that the students have followed the dual path of forensic and clinical psychology in one programme of study and award.