
**TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,
INTERN CO-ORDINATORS, INTERN
SUPERVISORS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

Department: Office of the Registrar

Division: Executive Company Secretariat

Date: 26 October 2022

Dear Heads of Department

RE: RELINKING OF INTERNSHIP TRAINING WITH HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

On 8 April 2020, the Board wrote to all academic departments (and internship sites) to advise those that had de-linked the coursework and internships should re-link these components before the start of the 2024 academic year. There were various reasons for this requirement, not least because universities and internship sites are compelled to collaborate to monitor the internships and ensure better integration of training across the coursework and internship years. It also ensures that graduates cannot obtain a professional qualification without completing an internship.

We are advised that most universities have already re-linked their coursework and internship years. Some, however, have not yet done so. In this regard, the Board has received requests to exempt specific programmes and particular psychology categories. However, such exemptions cannot be considered as the rationale for re-linking applies to all professional training programmes in psychology.

For those who have not yet formally re-linked the coursework and internship years, we advise the following:

The calendar or rules are amended to stipulate that the internship year is a non-credit-bearing requirement of the degree. Therefore, students who have completed the coursework and thesis requirements may not graduate until they have also successfully completed their internships. While it is preferential for the universities to partner with particular accredited internship sites, this is not essential. It could simply be that the requirement is that students complete any accredited or approved internship programme. In other words, the Master's degree is by coursework, dissertation and internship.

Alternatively, universities may want to consider re-curriculating their qualification so that an internship is a form of work-integrated learning and a credit-bearing component of the degree. These credits would be in addition to the minimum of 180 credits for a Master's degree.

The deadline for Universities that have not yet re-linked these components is the start of the 2024 academic year. From January 2024, the *Evaluation Criteria for Professional Programmes in Psychology, Registered Counselling and Psychometry* circulated on 19 July 2022 will be amended so that Criterion E (Programme Structure and Outcomes) includes the minimum standard that the coursework and internship years are formally linked.

Yours faithfully,



MS P KHATI
DEPUTY COMPANY SECRETARY
PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY