

Re: Requirement to sit the National Exam

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in consultation on the National Exam.

I am currently enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Psychology (Clinical) program at the University of Adelaide.

While I am in agreement with the principle of conducting a registration exam, I am one of a number of students currently enrolled in a combination PhD/ Master of Psychology program, which requires four years of full-time study. We will not be eligible to complete our combined program until early 2017 and as such (unlike our full-time Masters classmates) would be required to sit the exam.

I would like to request consideration of a later exam-requirement deadline because, like my classmates, I am currently enrolled in an accredited program and I think it is reasonable to be treated in the same way.

From talking to past students, I also know that sometimes people need to interrupt their study for reasons of illness or family responsibility etc and these students could also be unfairly compromised by the May 2016 deadline.

I would like to propose that an exemption from the exam be offered to all students currently undertaking accredited masters and doctoral programs leading to registration.

AHPRA could then consider making the exam a requirement for future postgraduate students enrolling AFTER a date to be specified.

Thank you for your time.

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