

To the Chairperson,

Being enrolled in the combined Masters/PhD clinical psychology course since February-March 2013, I have been informed that my study will be supported by the APA scholarship for approximately 3.5 years, while the completion of the course may take up to 4 years. I have been advised to distribute my Masters coursework components and placements over that period, with the third (final) placement being undertaken after the submission of my PhD thesis, aiming to complete all requirements of the combined degree by February 2017.

With the AHPRA's introduction of the National Psychology Exam, a new dead-line for a full registration application has been imposed - 31 June, 2016, which implies that all coursework and placements must be completed by that date. This will cut my entitlement to fulfil all the Clinical Masters components by approximately 8-9 months.

I am aiming to finalise my studies at the shortest possible time, however, as it often happens in life, some unpredictable obstacles may eventuate (delays with the project, sickness, etc.). Having a shorter amount of time is disadvantageous and places undue pressure on the combined degree students.

Further, an issue of equity can be raised: all university students completing the same postgraduate Masters degree should be granted the same professional registration entitlements. Specifically, penalising those who complete their study as PhD or part-time students, by requiring them to finance (about \$500.00), undertake and pass an additional exam is unjust.

I hope that the AHPRA Committee will reconsider this issue and allow ALL currently enrolled students (inclusive of part-time students) to complete their degrees in their due time, qualifying these future professionals for their full registration as psychologists.

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