

Why the 4+2 Pathway should be kept

I've supervised a lot of psychology graduates in the workplace. I've been supervising for 13 years.

One thing that stands out is that by the time the 4+2 program is complete, a psychologist has far more practical skills than a psychologist graduating from a masters program.

The difference is stark. Those two years in the workplace learning by doing makes a huge difference. Even when the practical placements are considered, regardless of the area of study, regardless of the age or ability of the psychologist. Those who've graduated with a masters, if they keep up their supervision will eventually build those practical skills too; but many don't.

Many masters graduates don't know how to deliver a basic CBT intervention; how to manage suicide risk; how to gain informed consent from a client. Whereas every 4+2 psychologist I've met can.

Please keep the 4+2 program; it is very effective and surely the more options a student has the more worthy people we can welcome into our profession.

Susan McKee