

Consultation – Proposal to retire the 4+2 internship pathway

The 4+2 internship pathway should be retired at the latest date identified, accepting enrolments until 30 June 2021. This way, all those we began a four year Psychology degree intending to use this pathway will not be disadvantaged. Otherwise, students beginning Psychology in the year of 2017 will be significantly disadvantaged as they are the only cohort year that did not have the option to complete the 4 + 2 program, or possess the knowledge of the Boards proposal prior to starting their course at the beginning of the academic year in February 2017. All students who began their Psychology course in 2016, have the opportunity to use the 4+2 internship program, and those who started in 2018 will have had the knowledge the internship program may not be available.

Psychology is my second degree, and I am completing it whilst working four days a week to achieve my dreams of becoming a Psychologist. I began the course in 2017 and intended to use the 4+2 internship pathway. This meant that I could realistically complete the course and become a registered Psychologist. By adding another two years of study, not only does it prevent me from practical experience but it also means two more years where I cannot earn a full time wage.

Additionally, as a student another concern I have is the inaccessibility of masters courses for the majority of students who want to peruse a career in Psychology. I would be devastated if I had worked four days a week and studied full time for four years to achieve my dream of becoming a psychologist, to not get into masters and be unable to achieve becoming a psychologist. The 4+2 method offers me a realistic, accessible pathway to becoming a provisional psychologist. I am very distressed about this, as I have change my whole career direction to become a psychologist based on the boards guidelines, which I referred to in December 2016 and early 2017 when deciding to return to study.

It is also unclear to me when I can apply for the 4+2 internship pathway. I have already spoken to a supervisor who would like to take me on to supervise at the beginning of January 2021, providing I am granted the Board's approval. I will not finish my fourth year of psychology study until December 2020. Does this mean I submit my application in June of 2020 in order to be in the internship cohort for 2021?

Lastly, upon looking at the Psychology Board of Australia's database, there seems to be only one fifth year program/Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology available, which is in Sydney. Prior to phasing out the 4+2 internship program, there should be more fifth year courses available, particularly online so other states can access them. It is unrealistic to expect those who are not accepted into masters (due to its very small intake) to move to Sydney and complete the fifth-year course.

Please could I be contacted about the decision made, as it will greatly influence my pathway. If this submission is published, please remove any identifying information.

Kind Regards,

Second Year Psychology Student.