

Registration as a Chartered Psychologist

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Introduction

This booklet explains the function of the *Register of Chartered Psychologists*, along with rules and regulations and the criteria for registration as a Chartered Psychologist.

It does **not** include the detailed criteria for registration in the various branches of psychology; for example, the specific route to becoming a Chartered Forensic Psychologist. Because this information is extensive, specialist and subject to regular updating, it can be found at www.bps.org.uk/careers/careers.cfm. If you do not have access to the web, please contact the Society's help desk for a printed copy.

If you plan to apply to register as a Chartered Psychologist, you should also consult the *Code of Conduct, Ethical Principles and Guidelines*. This separate booklet (or see www.bps.org.uk/about/rules5.cfm) contains the Code of Conduct and guidelines on related issues, such as how Chartered Psychologists may describe themselves in a way that is consistent with the requirements of the Society's Royal Charter, Statutes and Rules. Chartered Psychologists and members of the Society agree to abide by the Society's Code of Conduct and to take account of further guidelines on ethical matters.

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What is a Chartered Psychologist?

A Chartered Psychologist is someone who is entered on the *Register of Chartered Psychologists*. This means that the individual:

- has successfully applied to join the Register;
- has successfully completed a first qualification in psychology accredited for the Graduate Basis for Registration (see p.9);
- has undergone a further course or period of supervised training in a specific area of psychology, e.g. clinical, educational or health;
- has agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct, and is subject to a disciplinary procedure which permits removal from the Register by a Disciplinary Board on which non-psychologists make up the majority of members;
- has been judged fit to practise psychology.

But why a Register?

Currently anyone can call themselves a psychologist. As psychology and psychological services expand, concern exists that there are people practising psychological techniques and calling themselves psychologists who have no proper qualifications.

After many years of detailed consultation with Government, the Privy Council accepted that the *Register of Chartered Psychologists* was the way forward, so that the title '**Chartered Psychologist**' could become 'protected'.

The *Register* came into operation fully in the summer of 1990. It now contains the names of over 10,000 Chartered Psychologists with details of their qualifications and work addresses, and is published on the Society's website (at www.bps.org.uk/findpsychologist/psychoindex.cfm).

Why register as a Chartered Psychologist?

Increasingly, employers such as the NHS and other public services expect psychologists to be registered with the Society. The *Register* has been set up primarily to protect the public and to help employers.

If a member of the public consults or employs a Chartered Psychologist they can be assured that the person is properly trained, fully qualified and answerable to an independent authority for professional actions. Chartered Psychologists, in accord with the Code of Conduct, have agreed to:

- maintain and develop their professional competence;
- work within their competence;
- obtain proper consent before carrying out any investigations or treatment;
- respect confidences; and
- conduct themselves in a way that does not damage the interests of their clients, or bring the profession into disrepute.

Only Chartered Psychologists are entitled to use the abbreviation '**CPsychol**'. Therefore, before a member of the public employs a psychologist the Society advises them to look for those letters, the title '**Chartered Psychologist**', or the appropriate specialist titles.

Specialist chartered titles

Chartered Psychologists work in various settings depending on their specialist, post-graduate, training. There are nine main Divisions within the discipline – Clinical, Counselling, Educational, Forensic, Health, Neuropsychology, Occupational, Sport and Exercise and Teaching/Research (see www.bps.org.uk/sub-syst/subsystems_div1.cfm).

Full members of a Division of the Society with a specialist title who have been accepted as Chartered Psychologists can use the specialist title appropriate for that Division, e.g. **Chartered Clinical Psychologist** or **Chartered Forensic Psychologist**.

Entitlement to use any specialist title depends on *eligibility* for membership of the relevant Division rather than *actual* membership. Clearly membership provides definitive proof of eligibility, but it is not necessary to continue to belong to a Division once eligibility has been established. However, the Society has no way of establishing eligibility other than by asking a member to submit an application for full membership of the Division.

Consequently if you are a Chartered Psychologist but not currently a Division member and you wish to use a specialist adjectival title, you must make a successful application to join the relevant Division. As the administrative costs of processing an application are the same as the costs of a year's fee to the Division, a charge will be levied equal to the annual fee for the Division concerned.

If your application for Division membership is successful you will become a member for the next year. The following year it will be assumed that you wish to remain a member of the Division unless you resign.

General principle

The Society has a responsibility to ensure that members of the public are given only valid information about those on the Register. Therefore, Chartered Psychologists should not adopt specialist titles until they are sure that they are entitled to use them. If in doubt check where you stand with the Society's office, or you may be embarrassed by making a claim that the Register fails to substantiate. Making an unauthorised claim to a specialist title may become the basis for disciplinary action.

Abbreviations

Statute 30(3) makes it clear that no variants of the abbreviation **CPsychol** may be used.

However, Chartered Psychologists may also use the following specialist terms when describing themselves, as long as they are who entitled to use the terms:

Chartered Clinical Psychologist
Chartered Counselling Psychologist
Chartered Educational Psychologist
Chartered Forensic Psychologist
Chartered Health Psychologist
Chartered Occupational Psychologist.

Statute 30(5) implies that a person should not describe themselves as, for instance, a 'Chartered Clinical and Educational Psychologist'. An alternative would be to use the generic term Chartered Psychologist and then give areas of expertise, e.g. 'specialising in Clinical and Educational Psychology'.

Rules and regulations

Powers of the Council

Statute 11(5) allows the Board of Trustees to make regulations in respect of the Register, the making of applications for registration, determining appeal procedures, the requirement to notify the Society of a change of address, the powers to erase someone's name from the Register, and charge fees for registration.

In keeping with this Statute the Board of Trustees has agreed a number of procedures that will be followed by the Membership and Professional Training Board and its Admissions Committee. For instance, it has approved the application forms that will be used and appeal procedures for candidates. Copies are available from the Society's Leicester office.

The Board of Trustees has also agreed that all applicants for membership and registration shall send in *advance* with their application the full first year's subscription, registration and Practising Certificate fees. The following rules and regulations (which should be read in conjunction with the Charter, Statutes and Rules of the Society) will apply to Chartered Psychologists once they have been accepted for registration:

1 Application Forms and Information

Applications for membership of the Society and registration as a Chartered Psychologist should be submitted to the Honorary General Secretary of the Society on forms available from the Leicester office or from the internet (www.bps.org.uk/docdownload/docdownload.cfm). Information on the costs and procedures for paying the initial registration fee and annual Practising Certificate fee are available from the Leicester office and on the internet, as are forms on which to apply for exemption from the Practising Certificate (see p.14).

2 The Register

The Register of Chartered Psychologists is available on the Society's website, at www.bps.org.uk/findpsychologist/psychoindex.cfm.

3 Errors, omissions and changes

It is the responsibility of all Chartered Psychologists to bring to the attention of the Honorary General Secretary any errors and omissions in the Register. Every Chartered Psychologist should send immediate notice of any change of address, or additional qualifications obtained, to the Leicester Office. No fees are charged for alterations. Chartered Psychologists who have changed their address without giving notice are liable to have their names removed from the Register within three months of two communications from the Society not being answered or letters being returned 'address unknown'.

4 Proof of entry on the Register and Practising Certificates

Following initial registration, Chartered Psychologists will be sent a registration document confirming their entry on the Register. This registration document has no currency as a certificate to practise psychology unless supported by an annually issued Practising Certificate, which will take the form of a printed note with a unique identification number. All current Certificates remain the property of the Society and should be returned to the Honorary General Secretary if a Chartered Psychologist ceases to be eligible for inclusion on the Register for any reason. If loss of a Practising Certificate is proved to the Society's satisfaction a duplicate Certificate may be issued on payment of a small fee.

5 Annual fees for Practising Certificates

Although subscriptions for membership are due on a calendar year basis, for the purpose of the annual Practising Certificate fee the year will be 12 months following the quarter date after admission to the Register. For example, if admission to the Register was granted in February, March or April in one year, the renewal of the annual Practising Certificate will be from 1 May the following year.

6 Renewals

Reminders that annual Practising Certificates are due for renewal and that annual fees are pending will be sent out in the quarter before they are due. Chartered Psychologists are expected to pay all fees and Society subscriptions by direct debit, unless permission to make payment in other ways is granted on application to the Honorary General Secretary. If an annual Practising Certificate fee is not paid (except in the case of Members paying subscriptions by instalments in accordance with Rule 23), or an application for exemption from a Practising Certificate is not submitted within three months of the renewal date, the name of the Chartered Psychologist shall be removed from the Register.

7 Allocation of money

Chartered Psychologists who are removed from the Society through non-payment of subscriptions (see Rule 11) will also have their names removed from the Register on ceasing to be Members. In the event of insufficient payment being received by the Society to cover the debts of Members who are in arrears, the order of crediting payments will be to: (i) Membership subscriptions, (ii) Practising Certificate fees, (iii) Divisions, (iv) Sections and Special Groups, (v) Journals and sundries. Thus a Member whose subscription to the Society is in

arrears may need to clear this debt to avoid having his or her name removed from the Register for non-payment of Practising Certificate fees. Members are urged to make all payments to the Society by direct debit, thereby avoiding the danger of falling into arrears with their subscription and fee payments.

8 The clearance of debts before registration

No Member who is in arrears with his or her subscriptions for membership of the Society will be entered on the Register of Chartered Psychologists until the debt has been cleared.

9 Restoration of names to the Register

Under Statute 21 (4) (a) a fee equivalent to the initial registration fee at the time will be charged for the restoration of the name of a Chartered Psychologist to the Register.

10 Psychologists not required to hold Practising Certificates

For Chartered Psychologists who are not required to hold annual Practising Certificates, the current Rules for Membership will apply with respect to removal from the Register (i.e. if Chartered Psychologists cease to be Members of the Society for any reason, their names will be removed from the Register). Members who are not required to hold Practising Certificates are required to sign a declaration to that effect. They will be sent a reminder about future declarations, shortly before the expiry of any previous one.

11 Subsequent removals

It is then assumed that the Practising Certificate fee is due for payment by direct debit from the date following the expiry of the declaration unless a further declaration, or the relevant fee for a Practising Certificate, has been lodged with

the Honorary General Secretary. If a declaration or the relevant fee is not received within three months of the date when the previous declaration expired, the name of the Chartered Psychologist concerned will be removed from the Register.

12 Changes in circumstances

Chartered Psychologists who have signed a declaration (Regulation 10) and experience a change in circumstances, which means they now require a Practising Certificate, must alert the Honorary General Secretary to their change of circumstances and apply for a Practising Certificate. (On request all Chartered Psychologists are automatically eligible for Practising Certificates, subject to the requirement that they maintain Continuing Professional Development.) Any breach of these Regulations or Statute 13 shall be deemed a breach of the Statutes and, if a Disciplinary Committee so decide, may lead to removal of the name of the Member concerned from the Register.

13 Retired Members

Members of the Society who are retired may benefit from not paying Society subscriptions under Rule 26. However, they are still required to hold Practising Certificates and to pay the annual fee, unless they claim an exemption from holding a Practising Certificate in accordance with the conditions of Statute 13 (see p.14).

14 Concessions

The Rules of the Society provide for reduced subscription rates in cases of Members and Contributors with limited financial resources. As a general rule, however, the Board of Trustees wishes to keep administrative costs to a minimum by offering reductions in relation to Registration and Practising Certificate fees under Statute 21 (6) and Rule 27 only in cases of extreme and proven hardship. Most psychologists who are in receipt of no income will be covered by Statute 13, as they will not be offering services. In those instances where Chartered Psychologists are giving their services free to, for instance, a charitable body the institution concerned might be invited to pay the fee for the psychologist in cases of difficulty.

Criteria for registration as C.Psychol

Central to the Society's authority for maintaining the Register is Statute 12. It covers the criteria by which members of the Society can be registered as Chartered Psychologists or deemed to have the prerequisite qualification, the Graduate Basis for Registration. It specifies the requirements for registration and applies to current students and to newly qualified graduates. It also applies to all existing psychologists who are applying or re-applying for registration.

Statute 12(3) reads as follows:

'...to be included in the *Register of Chartered Psychologists* an applicant shall be a member of the Society and shall both:

- (a) (i) have passed a Qualifying Examination set by the Society; or
(ii) have obtained a first degree conferred by a University or the Council for National Academic Awards for which psychology has been taken as a major subject and which is regarded by the Council as covering the general areas of psychology at least as broadly as required by the Qualifying Examination referred to in (i) above, and to the same standard; or
(iii) for graduates not covered under (i) and (ii) above, have such further experience or postgraduate qualification in psychology as shall assure the Council that the applicant has at least as broad a grasp of the general areas of psychology as that required by the Qualifying Examination referred to (i) above and to the same standard; and
- (b) Since the date of passing the Qualifying Examination (or from the first date of becoming eligible for exemption from it under (a)(ii) or (a)(iii) above) shall have successfully completed a period of study of, or practice in, psychology, or a combination of both, accept-

able to the Council and shall be judged by the Council to have reached a standard sufficient for professional practice in psychology without supervision, the relevant period being of three years duration if full-time or an equivalent period of part-time or such greater period as the Council may stipulate.'

Candidates for registration who have the qualifications referred to in (a)(i), (a)(ii) or (a)(iii) above may be referred to as having the 'Graduate Basis for Registration'.

A framework

The above Statute provides a basic framework defining the qualifications that applicants must have for registration: a qualification which gives the Graduate Basis for Registration, followed by successful completion of a period of study and/or supervised practice in psychology.

The Statute provides only a framework, leaving it for the Board of Trustees to determine in the case of each applicant and each category of applicant (e.g. someone who has trained in clinical psychology or occupational psychology) whether the requirements of the Statute have been met. The Board of Trustees is advised on these matters by the Membership and Professional Training Board. The Admissions Committee and certain other specialist committees such as the Committee for the Scrutiny of Individual Clinical Qualifications have the task of considering individual applications. In many cases such committees may deem it necessary for the applicant to undertake more than the minimum three-year period of study and/or successful supervised practice. The overriding factor is that the applicant is 'judged to have reached a standard sufficient for professional practice in psychology without supervision'.

It must be emphasised that this document describes only agreed *guidelines*. These will continue to evolve as precedents are set. Therefore, nothing in this document replaces or diminishes the Statutes, Rules and Regulations to which it refers nor does it prevent the Society modifying the guidelines or departing from them in the interests of taking appropriate decisions about the applications of individual candidates.

The Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR)

Statute 12(3)(a) introduces an important distinction between Graduate Membership and the Graduate Basis for Registration.

The grade of Graduate Membership allows those who have qualifications in psychology to be a part of the learned and professional Society for psychologists. People may become Graduate Members on the basis of degrees in psychology which cover a narrow part of the discipline.

However, it is considered that in order to train successfully and practise as a professional applied psychologist it is necessary for an individual to have a rather broader knowledge base in psychology than that required for Graduate Membership. The concept of the Graduate Basis for Registration has been developed to ensure that psychology graduates entering postgraduate training courses in professional applied psychology have the broad knowledge base which will enable them to understand the basic scientific principles underlying the professional application of psychology. To achieve the Graduate Basis for Registration a graduate must either pass the Society's Qualifying Examination or hold a qualification accredited by the Society as conferring the Graduate Basis for Registration or, in the case of graduates from overseas, prove that they have studied psychology to the breadth and standard of the Qualifying Examination.

For more information about the criteria for membership and the Graduate Basis for Registration see the leaflet *Criteria for Membership* (also available at www.bps.org.uk/documents/criteria.pdf).

The Society has criteria for accrediting degree courses and equivalent qualifications for the purposes of Graduate Membership and the Graduate Basis for Registration. Further details about the criteria used when accrediting such qualifications can be found in the leaflet *Quality Assurance Policies and Practices for First Qualifications in Psychology*.

The Society maintains a list of degree courses and equivalent qualifications accredited as giving the Graduate Basis for Registration: see www.bps.org.uk/careers/search.cfm.

The consequences of introducing the Graduate Basis for Registration

The Graduate Basis for Registration did not exist before the Society set up the Register. Consequently, on 18 December 1987 all those who were members of the Society were assigned the Graduate Basis for Registration. As long as such members remain members of the Society they will retain the Graduate Basis for Registration. However, if any such member resigns from membership of the Society and then wishes to rejoin, their new application will be considered according to current rules, and they may not be awarded the Graduate Basis for Registration unless they have obtained a further qualification which meets the conditions of Statute 12(3)(a).

Postgraduate Course Admissions Criteria

Since 1989, the Society has expected all candidates admitted to Society-accredited professional applied psychology training courses to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Registration before admission. Similarly, all candidates enrolling for the Society's Diplomas in the various branches of

applied psychology are required to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Registration. Candidates entering professional applied psychology training courses are strongly encouraged to seek Conditional Registration (see p.11).

Criteria for Full Registration

Statute 12(3)(b) specifies the conditions that a candidate who holds the Graduate Basis for Registration must also meet to qualify for entry on the Register of Chartered Psychologists (see p.9 of this booklet). In addition, candidates should bear the following principles in mind:

Continued Professional Development (CPD) The Code of Conduct stresses the requirement for psychologists 'to maintain and develop their professional competence, to recognise and work within its limits and to identify and ameliorate factors which restrict it'. In addition, Statute 13 (2) requires all practitioners holding Practising Certificates to undertake CPD.

Practitioners in other fields Competent practitioners in other fields (e.g. education, management consultancy, medicine or psychotherapy) will not qualify for registration unless their primary contribution to these other disciplines is grounded in the profession and discipline of psychology.

Part-time training Equivalent part-time periods of training or experience are accepted on a pro-rata basis when appropriate.

When is competence tested? As part of a candidate's postgraduate preparation for registration there must be some formal assessment of competence.

Experience in a private practice or voluntary agency Post-qualification experience may sometimes be

gained in private practice or in employment with a voluntary agency (as opposed to a public sector employer such as the NHS or a LEA). Candidates need to be aware that Conditional Registration normally requires the candidate to be supervised by a Chartered Psychologist. If this is not possible, candidates will not be free to work towards registration on their own if no supervisor can be identified in smaller practices, unless other formal supervision arrangements, approved by the Admissions Committee or the relevant Division, are contractually in place.

Non-psychology graduates All postgraduate training courses set entrance standards that require eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Registration. All students on postgraduate psychology courses should have the Graduate Basis for Registration on entry to the course. If an individual without the Graduate Basis for Registration is accepted on to a course he or she will not be able to count that course towards the postgraduate requirements for Chartered status.

What if GBR comes second? It is accepted that in exceptional circumstances a candidate for registration can gain the qualifications required by Statute 12(3)(b) before those required under Statute 12(3)(a). For example, a graduate from another discipline may complete a PhD in psychology and then subsequently obtain a qualification that confers eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Registration (e.g. passes the Qualifying Examination). Such entrants to registration are extremely rare, and technically are admitted under Statute 12(4), which states that 'The Council may enter on the Register of Chartered Psychologists such other members of the Society as it thinks fit.'

Conditional Registration

Under the provisions of Statute 12(7), those who are on one of the recognised routes to registration may be offered Conditional Registration. For some routes to registration, Conditional Registration is a condition of entry onto the training route. This provides public protection by ensuring the member is governed by the Code of Conduct, but also allows the individual to show that they are very close to becoming a Chartered Psychologist. They must have started on the relevant course, job or training post, and they can be conditionally registered for the period up to the point at which they are expected to become eligible for Full Registration, up to a maximum of three years. At the end of this period, if the candidate has not obtained the qualification that is being sought, Conditional Registration should normally be renewed on application from the candidate. Normally no candidate will be permitted to be conditionally registered for more than seven years (where full-time work has been involved).

Qualifications obtained outside the United Kingdom

The criteria described above apply to candidates with qualifications gained within the United Kingdom. The Society uses the same principles when taking decisions about applications from psychologists who have obtained some or all of their qualifications in another country. However, special procedures have been developed to ensure that all applications received from psychologists who have trained overseas are treated fairly and on their own merits.

The Graduate Basis for Registration

When the Admissions Committee considers an application for registration it must first decide if the applicant may be awarded the Graduate

Basis for Registration. This must be on the basis of a pass in the Society's Qualifying Examination or by proving that they hold qualifications in psychology which:

- are awarded by a University recognised by the International Association of Universities;
- are of an equivalent standard to a British Bachelor (Honours) degree;
- have psychology as the main subject (at least 50 per cent of studies counting towards award of the qualification);
- cover the general areas of psychology to the same breadth as the Qualifying Examination.

The Society uses the guidance published by the International Association of Universities and the National Academic Recognition Information Centre, and collects information from overseas registration councils, licensing boards and professional and scientific societies. Applicants are asked to provide copies of transcripts and syllabi for courses undertaken as part of their degrees in order to help establish their eligibility for the GBR.

Registration as a Chartered Psychologist

When the Graduate Basis for Registration has been awarded the Admissions Committee considers whether the remainder of the applicant's qualifications and experience meet the requirements of registration as a Chartered Psychologist. An applicant must normally demonstrate that they have qualifications and experience which are equivalent to those required in the UK for full membership of one of the Society's Divisions. Qualifications which count toward registration must be of an equivalent standard to a UK postgraduate qualification (that is, at least UK masters degree standard). Experience which counts towards registration will usually have been gained whilst undertaking a postgraduate professional training course or after qualification.

Representatives of the relevant Division on the Admissions Committee will decide whether or not the candidate is eligible for full membership of the Division. If the applicant is deemed eligible, then registration will normally be granted. Alternatively, the applicant will be advised what additional qualifications and/or experience may be required in order to achieve registration. Applications from clinical psychologists will be considered by the Committee for Scrutiny of Individual Clinical Qualifications. All other applications will be considered by the Admissions Committee.

In some countries psychologists train in specialisms which are not practised by UK psychologists. In some other countries psychologists undertake a generic training in applied psychology. In these cases it is difficult for the Society to assess an application for registration, unless the applicant stipulates the field of applied psychology in which they intend to work. The Society can then assess whether the applicant's training and experience constitutes preparation to work in that specialism in the UK and stipulate what, if any, further training or experience may be necessary before the applicant can register.

Competence in the English Language

Statute 12(5) gives the Society the right to refuse registration to an applicant who 'lacks an adequate knowledge of the practice of psychology in the United Kingdom or of the language in which it would be practised'. Almost any work as a psychologist can only be effectively carried out if the psychologist is fluent in the language in which it is practised in the UK; this will almost exclusively mean that a psychologist must be fluent in English.

Applicants for registration are normally required to pass the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate Certificate of

Proficiency in English at Grade 'A'. Exemption will be granted when the applicant studied for, and was examined in, English for his or her psychology qualifications.

No language examination is required for Graduate Membership and the Graduate Basis for Registration. Overseas students who join a postgraduate psychology course in the UK would not normally need to pass the English language examination as their postgraduate qualification will be examined in English.

The European Economic Area (EEA)

All applications from psychologists who have rights of establishment in an EEA member state are considered under the provisions of the European Directive 89/48/EEC. The arrangements already described in this section comply with the requirements of this Directive, except for the requirement of language competence.

Where a migrant has not demonstrated competence in some areas of psychology which are required for the practice of psychology in the UK, they can undertake an adaptation period (which the Society may assess) or an examination (referred to in the Directive as an aptitude test). The Society advises that it is in the interest of the applicant to choose an adaptation period. This provides opportunities for the psychologist to become familiar with the practice of psychology in the UK and to address any deficiencies in their knowledge or skills in an appropriate manner. An examination fails to provide these opportunities. In addition such an examination would be expensive to develop and administer, as no equivalent tests exist within the UK and there is no provision within the Directive for the migrant to resit a failed exam.

Under the provisions of the Directive 89/48/EEC, the Society cannot require migrants from EEA member states to take an English language test. However, EEA migrants are

reminded that on joining the Register of Chartered Psychologists they agree to abide by the Society's Code of Conduct. It would be professional misconduct for a psychologist to attempt to practise psychology in a language in which he or she is not sufficiently competent.

Some practical implications

1. Applicants whose degree certificates and other papers are printed in a language other than English will be responsible for supplying authenticated translations of them at their own expense.

2. Applicants are advised to apply as early as possible, especially if there is any chance that employers or course organisers may require a decision from the Society before the applicant can be considered for a job or a place on a course. It is important to remember that unavoidable delays will occur when the Society requests referees' reports and additional information about qualifications obtained overseas. Migrants to the UK are advised to establish their status with the Society as soon as they

decide to emigrate, that is, normally well before they leave for the United Kingdom. From the time the Society has received all the information it requires to make a decision, including referees' reports, the Directive 89/48/EEC requires that a decision is notified to the candidate within four months.

Temporary visitors and overseas registration

The Society does not have a category of temporary registration: in the event of an overseas visitor wishing to register, the routine procedures need to be followed. On returning home, some short-term visitors decide to let their membership of the Society and registration lapse. In principle, however, there is nothing to prevent psychologists living abroad remaining as Chartered Psychologists, provided they retain their membership of the Society, keep the Society informed of changes of address and observe the Code of Conduct.

Practising Certificates

Permission has to be requested to be exempt from holding a Practising Certificate. The grant of exemption will always be made for a specified period of time, not to exceed five years. A further grant may be made upon fresh application at the end of the period.

Chartered Psychologists who have been granted exemption will be sent a reminder to re-apply shortly before their period of exemption expires. Conversely, Chartered Psychologists can at any time take out Practising Certificates if their activities are about to change. Every Chartered Psychologist is automatically entitled to a Practising Certificate if one is required and paid for, providing they can satisfy the Society's CPD requirements.

The Criteria for Exemption

Permission to be on the Register without holding a current Practising Certificate may be made to two main categories of Member:

(a) Unemployed members

The Statute permits unemployed Members to retain their names on the Register at no financial cost, as long as they are not 'offering or agreeing to provide psychological services'. When they are seeking a new post they will have no difficulty demonstrating the bona fide nature of their credentials as properly qualified Chartered Psychologists. Their names will appear on the Register.

Members granted exemption under this Statute will be required to alert the Society to any changes of circumstances that might alter the grounds on which exemption was granted.

(b) Academic Psychologists

The public case for registration does not really apply to academic psychologists provided their activities are limited to publishing, research and teaching.

If an academic psychologist chooses to be exempt from the Practising Certificate, he or she must declare that their professional services are provided solely 'in connection with the acquisition or dissemination of knowledge about psychology for academic purposes.'

Academic psychologists who also offer services as part of a consultancy service or as part of other employment (paid or voluntary) should obtain a Practising Certificate.

Common sense will be needed to interpret this Statute. In most cases it will be self-evident to the Chartered Psychologists concerned whether they are offering services for the direct benefit of 'clients' who are seeking answers to a particular problem (Practising Certificate required) or whether they are conducting research with experimental participants in a general seeking after knowledge (exemption from Practising Certificates applies). There are likely always to be some 'grey areas'. In these cases advice can be sought from the Society. Precedents will be established that will assist with further advice to others.

The Society

The British Psychological Society was founded in 1901 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1965.

Its principal object is to promote the advancement and diffusion of a knowledge of psychology pure and applied and especially to promote the efficiency and usefulness of Members of the Society by setting up a high standard of professional education and knowledge.

The Society has more than 39,000 members and:

- has offices in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales;
 - accredits around 800 undergraduate degrees;
 - accredits over 150 postgraduate professional training courses;
 - confers Fellowships for distinguished achievements;
 - confers Chartered Status for professionally qualified psychologists;
 - awards grants to support research and scholarship;
 - publishes 10 scientific journals, and also jointly publishes *Evidence Based Mental Health* with the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Psychiatrists;
 - publishes books in partnership with Blackwells;
 - publishes *The Psychologist* each month;
 - provides a free 'Research Digest' service by e-mail;
 - publishes newsletters for its constituent groups;
 - maintains a website (www.bps.org.uk);
 - has international links with psychological societies and associations throughout the world;
 - provides a service for the news media and the public;
- has an Ethics Committee and provides service to the Professional Conduct Board;
 - maintains a Register of more than 11,100 Chartered Psychologists;
 - prepares policy statements and responses to government consultations;
 - holds conferences, workshops, continuing professional development and training events;
 - recognises distinguished contributions to psychological science and practice through individual awards and honours.

The Society continues to work to enhance:

- recruitment – the target is 50,000 members by 2006;
- services – the Society has offices in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales;
- public understanding of psychology – addressed by regular media activity and outreach events;
- influence on public policy – through the work of its Boards and Parliamentary Officer;
- membership activities – to fully utilise the strengths and diversity of Society members.

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