

Equivalence of Basic Specialist Training (BST) – BST programme undertaken outside Ireland

Entry to HST requires the completion of CPsychI BST programme (or equivalent from another jurisdiction).

Doctors who have completed a BST programme from another jurisdiction and hold MRCPsych UK (or equivalent) may be eligible to apply for HST. Consideration will be taken, on a case by case basis, to determine equivalence to the CPsychI BST programme.

BST programmes that are automatically deemed equivalent are:

- UK – Programmes Approved by The Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Australia and New Zealand – Programmes Approved by The Royal Australasian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

Doctors who have completed BST in a jurisdiction other than the UK, Australia or New Zealand must provide documentary evidence that the BST training programme is equivalent to the Irish BST programme as outlined in the CPsychI Curriculum and Regulations. This evidence must include:

- a) Evidence of registration on national training programme (at BST level)
- b) Evidence of accreditation/ inspection reports for the BST training programme
- c) Minimum total duration in approved psychiatry training of 36 months
- d) Minimum mix of 18 months in accredited BST posts in Adult Psychiatry, 6 months in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 6 months in Psychiatry of Old Age / Psychiatry of Learning Disability. Contemporaneous certification of satisfactory performance in each of these BST posts completed by at least 4 consultant supervisors.
- e) Evidence of satisfactory completion of an equivalent competency based curriculum for training and satisfactory contemporaneous continuous assessment process (involving workplace based assessments and annual review of progress) as outlined in the CPsychI Curriculum and Regulations.
- f) Evidence of a final assessment / certification certified by the relevant National Postgraduate Medical Training Body

Additional documentation may be requested from the doctor as required, depending on individual circumstances. Please note that the responsibility for seeking/ providing relevant documentation lies with the doctor rather than with CPsychI.

The postgraduate training department advises any potential candidate holding BST certification from another jurisdiction to contact the department at least 3 months prior to the closing date for HST applications (usually January) to seek advice on equivalence status.