CPSYCHI
COLLEGE OF
PSYCHIATRISTS
OF IRELAND

APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Equivalence of Basic Specialist Training (BST) for the purposes of applying to Higher Specialist Training (HST) in Psychiatry in Ireland

PURPOSE

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) forms a critical component of EU policy in relation to widening participation in education and in supporting lifelong learning.

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is committed to supporting policies for recognition of prior learning (RPL) and providing fair access to training in psychiatry for all doctors based on standardised eligibility criteria and equivalent previous formal training experience.

PRINCIPLES

This process is only for the purposes of doctors wishing to seek equivalence of a recognised BST programme for the purposes of applying to Psychiatry HST programmes in Ireland.

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

CPsychI is committed to assuring a national standard of clinical competency in the practice of psychiatry and to ensuring that our training programmes are consistent with international best evidence in medical education.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be in line with and comparable to the current standard of training, curricular requirements and assessment and will be equivalent to existing CPsychI training programmes.

The training experience must have been completed no more than seven years prior to an application for recognition of prior formal training experience.

The responsibility for seeking and providing relevant supporting documentation lies with the applicant rather than with CPsychI.

ELIGIBILTY

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.
e. Contemporaneous certification of satisfactory performance in each of these BST posts completed by at least 4 consultant supervisors.
f. Evidence of satisfactory completion of an equivalent competency based curriculum for training.
g. Evidence of satisfactory contemporaneous continuous assessment process (involving workplace based assessments and annual review of progress) as outlined in the CPsychI Curriculum and Regulations.
h. Evidence of a final assessment / certification certified by the relevant National Postgraduate Medical Training Body

Additional documentation may be requested from the applicant as required, depending on individual circumstances.

Please note that the responsibility for seeking/ providing relevant documentation lies with the doctor rather than with CPsychI.

APPLICATION FEE

The fee is €250 to make an application for RPL for equivalence to BST for the purposes of applying to HST in Psychiatry. An application will not be considered until the fee is paid. The onus is on the applicant to ensure a complete application will all relevant information and evidence is submitted.

APPLICATION TIMELINES

Any doctor seeking RPL for equivalence to Basic Specialist Training for the purposes of applying to HST in Psychiatry must make an application at least three months prior to commencement of the application window for HST (usually early December).

Please see appendix below for application form.

Appendix One

Application form for Recognition of prior learning – BST for the purposes of applying to HST in Psychiatry.

Please read the application notes above carefully before completing this form.

Name

CPsychI Application Reference number (to be completed internally)

Address for Correspondence

Email

Contact Number

Please outline in the boxes below, the evidence you have provided to meet the eligibility criteria

Evidence of registration on national training programme (at BST level)

Evidence of accreditation/ inspection reports for the BST training programme

Evidence of having undertaken a minimum total duration in approved psychiatry training of 36 months

Evidence of a 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.

Evidence of contemporaneous certification of satisfactory performance in each of these BST posts completed by at least 4 consultant supervisors.

Evidence of satisfactory completion of an equivalent competency-based curriculum for training.

Evidence of satisfactory contemporaneous continuous assessment process (involving workplace based assessments and annual review of progress) as outlined in the CPsychI Curriculum and Regulations.

Evidence of a final assessment / certification certified by the relevant National Postgraduate Medical Training Body

Evidence of successful completion of MRCPsych UK or equivalent

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, understand that the above personal data and other personal data including my application documentation, are circulated to relevant CPsychI staff and Training Committees for the purposes of reviewing this application for RPL as is relates to equivalence of BST for the purposes of applying to HST in Psychiatry.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Completed forms and accompanying documentary evidence should be returned to recruitmet@irishpsychiatry.ie

A payment link for €250 will be issued. The application will not be considered until payment is made.