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Educational and Training Requirements for Membership

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Summary of Changes

	Location	Changes in Version 2
1.	Section 1	Revised wordings from applicants having to satisfy the Council to satisfy the conditions set out by the Council
2.	Note section 1	Added the exception of online programmes that are intended to be face-to-face due to unpredictable situations

Educational and Training Requirements for HKAEP Membership:

Applicants who meet the following conditions set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 are considered to be eligible for membership of the Hong Kong Association of Educational Psychologists Limited (HKAEP).

- 1 hold an undergraduate degree in Psychology or its equivalence acceptable to the HKAEP Professional Council (“the Council”) and

Applicants shall have satisfied either one of the following conditions as set out by the Council:

- 1.1. a bachelor’s degree from an institution recognized by the Council with a minimum of second lower honours level or a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (on 4.0 GPA scale) with psychology as the major subject and taking no less than eight courses in different areas of psychology covering at least Research Methods in Psychology and 5 out of the 6 following fundamental areas:
 - 1.1.1. Biological / Physiological Psychology,
 - 1.1.2. Developmental /Child Psychology,
 - 1.1.3. Cognitive Psychology /Perception /Learning /Memory,
 - 1.1.4. Personality /Individual Differences,
 - 1.1.5. Social Psychology, and
 - 1.1.6. History of Psychology/Contemporary Issues in Psychology¹; or
 - 1.2. a postgraduate qualification in psychology from an institution recognized by the Council covering the courses and fundamental areas of psychology as specified in 1.1 above; or
 - 1.3. such other qualification in psychology as the Council shall approve.
- 2 hold a Master’s or Doctoral degree in educational/school psychology acceptable to the Council (see Appendix 1 & 2).

Notes:

¹ Remarks: The completion of an independent research project in psychology, or an advanced, seminar-based course in psychology from the above bachelor’s or postgraduate degrees could be considered as fulfilling the area of “History of Psychology / Contemporary Issues in Psychology”.

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1. Only campus-oriented psychology programmes, inter alia, qualify to be evaluated in application for HKAEP registration. A "campus-oriented" psychology programme is defined as a Bachelor or above psychology degree programme where the teaching activities are conducted in the physical presence of teaching staff(s) and student(s) in the same tertiary educational institutions. Therefore, for example, if a psychology degree programme is conducted (mainly or partly) through online platforms such as Skype/YouTube, it would not be accepted in the application for HKAEP registration. Programmes that are intended to be conducted on a face-to-face basis but eventually conducted through online platforms due to unpredictable situations (e.g social distancing measures) would be considered with special consideration.

2. The Registration Committee of the HKAEP will review the educational requirements triennially and make necessary revisions with reference to changes in local professional development and to the most-updated international standards in the profession of educational psychology.

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Appendix 1

Master's or Doctoral degrees deemed acceptable by HKAEP Board of Professional Council as a requirement for eligibility of membership

The length of programme should be no less than two years of full-time study or the equivalent part-time study leading to a Master's degree, or three years of full-time study or the equivalent part-time study leading to a Doctoral degree.

The training provided by the programme should be based on the “scientist-practitioner” model, emphasizing empirically-based or evidence-informed professional practice in addition to the required research training. It should aim at preparing students to carry out professional work at the individual, group, and systems levels. The coursework, research and practicum components should add up to a minimum of 60 semester credits (US system) or 120 semester credits (European system), with the quantitative value of one semester credit (US system) or two semester credits (European system) being equivalent to one contact hour per week throughout a semester for coursework. The total hours of practicum are no less than 1,200 hours. The delivery of the programme should be mainly on a face-to-face resident study basis.

1. Coursework:

The coursework component should cover all the following areas at an advanced level:

(a) ***Professional issues and standards in educational psychology practice***

- (i) History, foundations, and models of educational psychology services
- (ii) Legal and ethical issues
- (iii) Professional issues and standards

(b) ***Psychological foundations***

- (i) Social and cultural basis of behavior
- (ii) Individual differences
- (iii) Developmental psychology
- (iv) Human learning

(c) ***Educational foundations***

- (i) Curriculum and instruction
- (ii) Organization and operation of schools
- (iii) Education of children with special needs

(d) ***Psychoeducational Assessment***

- (i) Assessment of intelligence, aptitude, and achievement
- (ii) Behavioral, social, and emotional assessment
- (iii) Assessment of special educational needs

(e) ***Intervention***

- (i) Direct intervention (individual and group levels)
- (ii) Indirect intervention (consultation and school/systems level)

(f) ***Research methods and statistics***

- (i) Research and evaluation methods
- (ii) Statistics

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2. Research:

All students on the programme should conduct an empirical research project and submit a dissertation. The dissertation should be of a Master's/Doctoral standard and is on a topic that has direct relevance to the field of Educational Psychology.

3. Practicum:

The programme should contain supervised fieldwork training of a minimum of 1,200 hours with at least three placements. Of the 1,200 hours, at least 600 hours should be in educational settings. Fieldwork supervisors should have at least three years of relevant professional experience (full-time or equivalent) in educational or clinical psychology.

Practical training should aim at helping students become reflective practitioners with strong systems perspectives and problem-solving abilities. The placements should provide adequate hands-on experience in relation to individual work, group work, and systems work, encompassing a wide range of student/school needs. This should include experiences of working with students, families, teachers, and improving the school system, during which the following skills/qualities are developed up to the required professional standards:

- (a) Personal qualities and conduct in professional practice
- (b) Assessment skills
- (c) Interview skills
- (d) Intervention skills
- (e) Consultation and collaboration skills
- (f) Report writing and record keeping

For more details about programmes deemed acceptable to the HKAEP, please refer to the document "Standards for the Training of Professional Educational Psychologists in Hong Kong".

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Appendix 2

Examples of academic and professional training that may lead to eligibility for HKAEP membership

The following are examples of academic and professional qualifications that may lead to membership eligibility. Note that this list only acts as a guide and is not exhaustive.

Hong Kong

- An undergraduate degree in Psychology or its equivalence acceptable to the Council; and
- A relevant Master's/Doctoral degree acceptable to the Council such as:
 1. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
 - 1.1 Master of Educational and Child Psychology
 2. The University of Hong Kong
 - 2.1 Master of Social Sciences in Educational Psychology
 - 2.2 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) with a specialization in Educational Psychology
 3. The Chinese University of Hong Kong
 - 3.1 Master of Arts Programme in Professional Educational Psychology

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

- An undergraduate degree in Psychology or its equivalence (qualifying for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership [GBC] of the British Psychological Society) and
- A Doctoral degree in educational psychology from programmes accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) or the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)

Scotland

- An undergraduate degree in Psychology or its equivalence (qualifying for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership [GBC] of the British Psychological Society) and
- A Master's/Doctoral degree in educational psychology from BPS-accredited programmes

U.S.A.

- An undergraduate degree in Psychology or its equivalence acceptable to the Division and
- A Master's/Specialist-level degree/Doctoral degree in school psychology from programmes accredited by the National Association of School Psychology (NASP) or the American Psychological Association (APA)

Canada

- An undergraduate degree in Psychology or its equivalence acceptable to the Council and
- A Master's/Doctoral degree in school psychology from programmes accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association

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Australia

- An undergraduate degree in Psychology or its equivalence (qualifying for Associate Membership of the Australian Psychological Society) and
- A relevant Master's degree accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) (with 1,000 hours of practicum), and 200 hours of top-up supervised practicum provided by an accredited programme

Notes:

1. The above qualifications are not necessarily registrable qualifications. The list is only for general information and reference, without prejudice to the exercise by the Council of any of its powers and functions in assessing the particular circumstances and qualifications of each case. The list is compiled based on the best information available at the time of compilation. The Council may from time to time review the qualifications and reserves the right to revise the list as appropriate.
2. Applicants with a Master's/Doctoral degree in educational/school psychology from a non-accredited programme by the above international accreditation bodies or organizations have to (1) submit a qualifications assessment report conducted by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) on the degree, which supports that the educational and professional qualifications meet at least a Master's/Doctoral level of training in educational/school psychology; and (2) provide supporting documents that professional training for the obtained degree fulfil all of the membership requirements specified in Appendix 1.

References

1. Social Workers Registration Board. <https://www.swrb.org.hk/en/hk.asp>
2. Physiotherapists Board. http://www.smp-council.org.hk/pt/en/content.php?page=cd_qq