



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

REGULATION
on the education, rights and obligations of psychologists
and criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences,
No. 1130/2012.

SECTION I

General provisions.

Article 1

Scope.

This Regulation applies to psychologists holding licences and specialist licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 5.

SECTION II

Licences.

Article 2

Professional title.

The right to use the professional title of psychologist and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 3

Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed an BSc degree in psychology from the Faculty of Psychology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, a BSc degree in psychology from the School of Business in the University of Reykjavik, or a BA degree from the University of Akureyri Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as two years of further studies (*Cand. Psych.* degree) from the Faculty of Psychology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences. In addition to this the applicant having completed additional studies (*Cand. Psych.* degree), shall have completed twelve months of clinical training, under the guidance of a psychologist, at recognised institutions or premises of self-employed healthcare practitioner recognised by the Medical Director of Health.

A licence may also be granted on the basis of education from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a psychologist who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to Nordic Convention on a common Nordic labour market for certain health professionals and veterinarians, No. 36/1993 (*cf.* Amendment No. 6/2001).

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

Other criteria for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 4

Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Psychology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria for qualifications under the first paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III

Specialist licences in psychology.

Article 5

Specialist licences.

The right to use the title of specialist in a specialist field of psychology and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 6

Criteria for specialist licences.

Specialist licences may be granted in clinical specialist fields of psychology. This is subject to the condition that the specialist training of the applicant is defined as being within the specialist field for which he/she applies for a specialist licence.

The relevant specialist field shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

A specialist clinical field refers to a field which involves direct interaction with patients/clients, as well as diagnosis and treatment.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist licence under Article 5 a psychologist shall fulfil the following standards;

1. he/she shall be licensed as a psychologist in Iceland under Article 2; and
2. he/she shall have completed recognised formal specialist training after postgraduate studies (*Cand. Psych.*) under Article 3, a diploma (60 ETCS) or education equivalent to a diploma, master's or doctoral studies in a specialist field within psychology, from a recognised university or university institution; and
3. he/she shall have worked for the equivalent of at least three years full-time as a psychologist alongside or after his/her education under indent 2, under the guidance of a psychologist with a specialist licence or another healthcare practitioner with comparable knowledge within the specified specialist field. Any relevant professional experience during studies may be subtracted from that time. The work shall have taken place within the speciality for which the application for a specialist licence is made, and at institutions or premises of self-employed healthcare practitioner recognised by the Medical Director of Health. If the applicant has worked less than full-time, the duration of employment shall be proportionately longer; and
4. he/she shall have received at least 50 hours of professional guidance from a psychologist with a specialist licence or another healthcare practitioner with similar specialised knowledge in the relevant specialist field in the speciality.

Up to twelve months full-time may be subtracted if the person has been employed in the relevant speciality alongside doctoral studies.

A specialist licence may be granted to those who are certified as specialists or a specialist licence in a state where requirements for specialist training are similar, even if the educational arrangements differ from the fourth paragraph.

A specific field on which the person has focussed within the clinical specialist field may be specified.

Further criteria for the granting of a specialist licence are subject to Article 12.