

Criteria for Registration in Forensic Psychiatry

Any doctor can apply to be registered in Forensic Psychiatry if he/she fulfils ALL the following requirements:

1. Fully registered with the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) and hold a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC).
2. Registered as a psychiatrist in National Specialist Register (NSR).
3. Completed Postgraduate training in Forensic Psychiatry at recognised centres subsequent to completion of training as a psychiatrist (refer item 1 of appendix)

And

possess skills in core procedures (refer item 2 of appendix)

4. Holds a recognised postgraduate qualification .
 - 4.1 Recognised postgraduate qualification
 - 4.1.1 Successful completion of Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry, Malaysia (3 years programme)
 - 4.1.2 Successful completion of Career Postgraduate Forensic Psychiatry Training Program of Australia or New Zealand
 - 4.1.3 Subspecialty Certificate in Forensic Psychiatry (listing in the General Medical Council Register, United Kingdom
 - Or**
Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training in Forensic Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists, United Kingdom.
 - 4.1.4 American Psychiatric Association, Board Certification for Training in Forensic Psychiatry
- 4.2 Any other equivalent postgraduate degree recognised by the Forensic Psychiatry Specialty Subcommittee. Consideration will be on a case by case basis. The following will be considered in the deliberations:
 - i. Curriculum of the training programme
 - ii. Supervisors/Trainers' reports.

5. Notwithstanding the above, the SSC may consider applications from applicants who, while not possessing any of the above qualifications, have undergone recognized training before 24 August 2006, subject to satisfactory referees' reports.

Appendix

1. General Principles of Recognised Training in Forensic Psychiatry

- i. It should be practical in nature, involving 'hands-on' clinical training with the appropriate clinical responsibility borne by the trainee;
- ii. The trainee should be well supervised primarily by forensic psychiatrists with sufficient experience and seniority and with the assistance of other mental health professionals (e.g. clinical psychologists, psychotherapists);
- iii. There should be sufficient workload as well as breadth and depth of forensic psychiatry services in the training centres to ensure adequate learning opportunities that include amongst others comprehensive management and multidisciplinary teamwork;
- iv. Academic content should cover the appropriate aspects of forensic psychiatry development, mental health legislation and the related laws, relationship of offending to mental disorders, comprehensive management and multidisciplinary teamwork
- v. Training should include liaison with the Courts, the Police, the Prison authorities, detention centres and other relevant penal and rehabilitation institutions.

2. Core Competencies

- i. Knowledge and understanding of the legal and ethical framework of psychiatric practice, including mental health legislations and related laws.
- ii. Detailed knowledge of the range of services available to the mentally disordered offender and how to use them.
- iii. Expert knowledge of the effects of psychopathology on abnormal (including criminal) behaviours including, in particular, aggression and sexual violence.
- iv. An understanding of criminological issues, including ethnicity, gender and culture in forensic psychiatry
- v. Carry out a clinical assessment of offenders.
- vi. Formulate opinions clearly (both written and verbal) and present them to other professionals and as evidence to the courts
- vii. To write court and other clinical and management reports.
- viii. Expertise in the use of security as part of treatment and in the assessment of risk, dangerousness and appropriate communication of advice on this to professional colleagues.
- ix. Experience in the forensic psychiatric aspects of adolescent psychiatry, learning disability and substance misuse.
- x. Ability to run an inpatient unit and community services in forensic psychiatry, including expertise in the statutory care requirements of detained and restricted patients.

3. Be actively involved in the management of forensic psychiatry patients for significant portions of their daily work schedule;

4. Satisfy the SSC (as judged from referees' reports) that he/she is able to practice independently as a forensic psychiatrist.

5. Miscellaneous

- i. The Specialty Subcommittee (SSC) may set CME/CPD criteria for applicants before renewing their specialist registration after a specified period.
- ii. The SSC may also adopt additional rules that may be set by the National Credentialing Committee with regard to eligibility for registration as a specialist in the future.
- iii. Any changes to registration criteria, CME/CPD requirements or rules and regulations shall be posted on the NSR website.