UQ CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY POSTGRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM POLICY REGARDING SIGNING OF THE PDEC-76 FORM

The Psychology Board of Australia has stated that it believes that only individuals who have attained the minimum standard for registration as set out in the General registration standard should be granted registration. According to the Board, “this means that candidates must have progressed to the point where they have completed what is substantially equivalent to an accredited Masters degree. Individuals wishing to apply for general registration before completing their doctoral thesis must be assessed by their university as having attained all the core capabilities required for an accredited Masters degree as set out in the APAC standards.”

See the Board’s FAQ on this HERE: file:///Users/nachana/Desktop/Psychology-Board---Fact-Sheet---Fact-Sheet-on-the-PDEC-76-Form-for-Heads-of-Psychology-Schools-and-Higher-Degree-Candidates.pdf

However, both the Board and the School of Psychology at UQ share the opinion that students pursuing higher level doctoral degrees should not be unduly disadvantaged. Therefore the School has reviewed and refined its policy on this in order to be more responsive to students, and we now have the following guidelines in place:

(a) if you are pursuing a professional doctoral degree, you can have the pdec-76 form signed when:
  a. you have completed and passed all of the clinical practica and all of the coursework associated with the completion of a Master’s degree in the year in which you first enrolled in the degree, and all of these grades are finalised on SI-net; just having handed in say a folio for example IS NOT ENOUGH
  b. you have submitted your thesis to the HABS Faculty office, and in the accompanying documents your thesis supervisor has indicated that your thesis meets the requirements for the doctoral thesis in breadth, scope and quality

(b) if you are pursuing the Master of Clinical Psychology / PhD concurrent degree program, you can have the pdec-76 form signed when
  a. you have completed and passed all of the clinical practica and all of the coursework associated with the completion of a Master’s degree in the year in which you first enrolled in the degree, and all of these grades are finalised on SI-net; just having handed in say a folio for example IS NOT ENOUGH
  b. you have successfully passed your final PhD thesis progression milestone and your attainment of that milestone has been signed off by the chair of your committee
  c. At the same time, please note that we recommend you only enrol in the final practicum once you have completed and submitted your PhD thesis. Enrolling in any courses while enrolled as a PhD
student requires a recommendation to approve the enrolment from your supervisor and the School of Psychology, and approval from the Graduate School. The School of Psychology normally will only recommend approval for coursework in the recommended sequence, as that is designed to allow students to meet their PhD milestone requirements.

If you feel you are at a point where you can seek to have the PDEC-76 form signed off, can you follow these steps:

1. Complete your portion of the form and send this to RACHELLE CROTON (postgraduate administrator) in the School
2. Rachelle will then check your transcript and confirm for the Head of School that these conditions have been met. She then confirms this with the Head of School, who will then complete and send the forms
3. Note that ONLY the Head of School can sign these forms, and that one should allow 7 working days for the process to be complete; you should factor in this time period when speaking with employers, rather than stating to the School that the employer needs this ASAP.
4. Note that the Board in its documentation allows the Universities to not sign the forms if we are not satisfied as to progression; in this unlikely circumstance the DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL TRAINING will be in contact with you, but again these would only be exceptional circumstances e.g. it is unclear whether thesis is really meeting milestone/submission requirements.

I will again state that you should factor in adequate time when speaking with employers to get this paperwork signed, rather than stating to the School that the employer needs this ASAP. Being on the telephone to any administrative staff in the School to expedite this process is not on.

The PDEC-76 forms can be obtained HERE:


Any questions? Direct these to the current Director of Clinical Training Programs, Professor Nancy Pachana, at npachana@psy.uq.edu.au