



DIVISION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Hong Kong Psychological Society

香港心理學會臨床心理學組

<http://dcp.hkps.org.hk>

RECRUITING A PROPERLY QUALIFIED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST GUIDE FOR EMPLOYERS

Objective

- To support actual and potential employers of clinical psychologists in identifying a properly qualified clinical psychologist
- To protect the public through ensuring that they have access to a competent level of clinical psychological service

Background

- There is an increased awareness and need for psychological services in the community.
- Currently no statutory regulation of clinical psychologists is in place in Hong Kong.
- Self-claimed qualifications and titles can be misleading.

Importance of Recruiting a Properly Qualified Clinical Psychologist

- An employer has a duty of care to service recipients
- Employing an under-qualified or unqualified clinical psychologist carries a high risk of professional malpractice
- Employing a Properly Qualified Clinical Psychologist helps strengthen the level of competence of the service of the employing agency
- Only properly qualified clinical psychologists can be users of certain assessment instruments (e.g. locally-validated Wechsler Intelligence Scales, Tests of Specific Difficulties in Reading and Writing)

Criteria of a Properly Qualified Clinical Psychologist

- Graduates from Clinical Psychology training programmes from either the University of Hong Kong or the Chinese University of Hong Kong – the Master programmes in Clinical Psychology of the 2 universities are funded by the Hong Kong Government.
- A Master programme in Clinical Psychology as recognized by the Division of Clinical Psychology, Hong Kong Psychological Society Limited, is basically a 2-year full-time programme with proper on-site supervised clinical practice. The supervised clinical practice should be no less than 220 days and cover different client groups. The responsible clinical supervisor should be adequately experienced clinical psychologists employed in the placement settings.
- Graduates from overseas Clinical Psychology training programmes accredited by their respective accreditation bodies with practicing licence issued by the country where the degree was conferred.

Role of the Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP), Hong Kong Psychological Society Limited (HKPS)

- DCP admits members by the criteria of a proper qualification
http://www.dcp.hkps.org.hk/members_criteria.php
- A list of current DCP membership is accessible at
http://www.dcp.hkps.org.hk/members_directory.php
- Non-members can apply for a Statement of Eligibility from DCP to prove that they fulfill the criteria of qualification.
http://www.dcp.hkps.org.hk/downloads/005_DCP_Form_Application%20for%20statement%20of%20eligibility_2016-05-16.pdf
- DCP maintains the professional competence of its members through mandating
 - continuous education activities for its member clinical psychologists to keep up their professional knowledge
 - observance of the Code of Professional Ethics stipulated by HKPS
- DCP disseminates advertisement of recruitment of Clinical Psychologists to its members at a nominal fee charged to the potential employers.
- DCP is ready to contribute information relevant to the employment of clinical psychologists through the contact of dcp@hkps.org.hk

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the recognition of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) a proof that a non-local degree in clinical psychology is a proper qualification for practice?

No. The HKCAAVQ only vets the academic qualifications but NOT the professional competence to practice.

2. Are members of professional societies other than DCP equally eligible as a properly qualified clinical psychologist?

Not really. It all depends on the criteria of membership of the respective societies.

3. How can one be assured that qualifications of a graduate from overseas training programme are in line with international standards?

The training programme should be accredited by the local accrediting body and the individual has obtained a practicing licence issued by the regulating body in the country where the degree is conferred.

4. Can one be rest assured that an individual who was once a DCP member is still a properly qualified clinical psychologist?

No. The reason for not maintaining the membership would need to be clarified. DCP membership can be terminated upon the serious violation of the code of professional conduct.

The Division of Clinical Psychology, Hong Kong Psychological Society Limited

DCP was founded in 1982. It is the largest professional body representing the specialty of Clinical Psychology in Hong Kong. DCP members are employed by various HKSAR Government Departments, the Hospital Authority, non-government organizations, and in private practice. DCP has more than 500 members, constituting about 90% of all qualified clinical psychologists in Hong Kong. <http://www.dcp.hkps.org.hk>

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