



the british
psychological society
partnership and accreditation

St Andrews House
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August 2020

Dear Providers

New academic session: 2020/2021:

Guidance for programmes which have been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak

Over the past months we have experienced unprecedented and challenging times due to the COVID-19 outbreak. As we move forward, The British Psychological Society recognises the need to continue to remain agile and flexible to support both individuals and our education partners in continuing to safeguard accreditation for programmes disrupted by the pandemic. This is especially important as we enter the new academic session for 2020/2021.

The guidance that we provided in March 2020 covered an initial 6 month period and we are aware that many providers have implemented reasonable adjustments in line with that guidance. At that time we informed providers that the situation will continue to be regularly reviewed and further recommendations or extensions to this guidance would be made where necessary. As we are only gradually moving out of the lockdown period we are now issuing the following instructions and guidance:

New academic session 2020/2021:

For the next 12 month period, all acceptable reasonable adjustments (that adhere to the COVID-19 guidance) may remain in place. In line with this, and for monitoring purposes, we are requesting that all providers complete the following form:

Fast Track: (Temporary Modifications to Accredited Programmes): COVID-19 notification of temporary reasonable adjustments: Academic Session: 2020/2021 only (sent out with this letter and also available on the BPS website

<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologists/accreditation/education-providers>)

This will formally notify The Society of the reasonable adjustments that have been put in place in line with The Society's COVID-19 guidance:

<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologists/accreditation/education-providers>

The Fast-Track form should be returned to your dedicated Partnership and Accreditation Officer by **30 October 2020**.

In the first instance, please complete and submit the form for all areas of your provision that require reasonable adjustment. It is essential that you provide the SSR figure as it stands both with and without vacancies for each accredited programme that is affected as this will

enable us to make a full assessment of your current situation. Any deviation from the permitted SSR standard will automatically require the submission of an action plan outlining the reason for the discrepancy and the date by which the SSR will be met.

In doing so you will ensure that your programme/s remain within the requirements for accreditation. At this stage please do not send further documentation as this will be requested if needed.

Once the form has been assessed as being in line with the guidance, you will receive notification that your adjustments have been approved and that no further information is required for the 2020/21 academic session (unless more adjustments are made**). If anything is unclear, we will contact you to request further information. Any adjustments put in place that sit outside of those permitted by the guidance will be referred to our programme reviewers.

**If any further changes are made to the programme/s during the session, you must resubmit the form either by adding or removing from it the additional temporary adjustment and highlighting this.

Important Notes:

- If a provider wishes to make their changes permanent (rather than temporary for the next academic session) and they have not already done so, they should use the standard process for making changes to an accredited programme:
<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Accreditation/Making%20Changes%20to%20Accredited%20Programmes%20%28Updated%20May%202019%29.pdf>
- Any provider who wishes to implement changes or alterations to their programme/s that are above and beyond those outlined in The Society's guidance for COVID-19 must do so using the standard process for making changes to an accredited programme:
<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Accreditation/Making%20Changes%20to%20Accredited%20Programmes%20%28Updated%20May%202019%29.pdf>

All New programmes:

- If a provider wishes to seek accreditation of a new programme, they must complete the relevant Self Evaluation Questionnaire (SEQ) and submit this along with any associated documentation using the standard process specifying the delivery model as it stands at the time of submission. They must outline how the programme will be operating in that current format:
<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologists/accreditation/education-providers>

Additional note: If an accredited programme is moved to another School or Department (e.g. this may be due to campus closure) then please notify your designated Partnership and Accreditation Officer immediately.

Moving forward, The Society will continue to offer both guidance and support to our providers to ensure that they can fulfil their obligations in terms of accreditation.

We hope that we have provided you with enough clarity to complete the form. Due to the anticipated volume of enquiries, we have provided a FAQ section on the website:
<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologists/accreditation/education-providers>

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Lyons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Patricia Lyons

Accreditation Operations Manager