

Circ 100/2000

4th September 2000

Chief Executive Officer
Each Health Board & Eastern Regional Health Authority

Secretary/Manager / Chief Executive
Each Public Voluntary and Joint Board Hospital

Chief Officer
Each Mental Handicap and Specialist Agency

DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND
CHILDREN
AN ROINN
SLÁINTE AGUS LEANAÍ

Shaping a
Healthier Future

Re: Post-Graduate Training of Clinical Psychologists

As you know, this Department is a partner in the joint review of psychology services in the health service which has been ongoing for some time now. A detailed survey of psychologist human resources in the health services has been completed (details have already been sent to the Personal Officers groups). On the basis of this and other available information, a detailed short/medium term plan has now been drawn up to address the serious shortage in the supply of clinical psychologists.

Discussions have been held with representatives of the various training bodies with a view to increasing the output of courses from the present level of about seventeen post-graduates per annum to fifty per annum. It is anticipated that some of this increased training capacity will come on stream in October of this year and the remainder in October 2001.

The Department has decided to make funding available for additional Trainee Clinical Psychologist posts, each of which will be associated with one of the recognised post-graduate training programmes and to provide for the employment of Clinical Co-Ordinators in the ratio of 1:18 trainees (w.t.e.).

If your agency is interested in "bidding" for one or more of these new posts, please notify me in writing by 18 September 2000.

A number of conditions will attach to the allocation of these posts. These will include the following:

1. Funding for each post will be available for a three year period (i.e. the normal duration of the training course) and may be renewed for further periods of three years.
2. Each post must be associated with a recognised post-graduate clinical psychology training programme. Currently these are at UCD, TCD, and the PSI's Clinical Diploma. It is anticipated that a new course will open at UCG.
3. Successful "bidders" will be required to provide a supervised placement (by a clinical psychologist of at least senior grade) for each Trainee post allocated. In addition, they will be required to make that placement available to other trainees when not in use by their own employee.
4. Successful "bidders" and their clinical supervisors will be expected to fulfil the normal requirements of the training courses and the conditions laid down by course accrediting bodies.
5. Successful "bidders" will also be expected to provide the following physical supports to trainees:
 - ◆ A desk or personal office for each trainee - if the former, then there must be ready access to an interview/consulting room for direct client work.
 - ◆ A telephone.
 - ◆ Ready access to a PC and e-mail
 - ◆ A supply of psychometric tests appropriate to the placement.
 - ◆ Appropriate secretarial support.
 - ◆ Travel expenses at the approved rates.


In selecting which "bids" to accept, the Department will, in addition to the above, also have regard to the following:

1. The total number of places available and their location.
2. The balance of placements being offered (e.g. adult mental health, child mental health, learning disability, other) relative to training course requirements.
3. Areas of priority service development.

If your agency is in a position to make available other supervised placements, additional to those relating to any trainee posts for which you may "bid", I should be most interested to receive details from you.

If you require any further clarification or assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 6354044.

Yours sincerely


Adrienne Harrington
Personnel Management and Development Unit