
**TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS – PSYCHOLOGY**

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

Department: Executive Company Secretariat

Division: Professional Board for Psychology

Date: 23 March 2020

Dear Heads of Departments,

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS AND INTERNS - COVID-19

As you all are aware, President of the Republic, Hon. Cyril Ramaphosa, has declared the COVID-19 a national disaster in terms of National Disaster Management Act. 57 of 2002. The necessary measures to limit the rate of infections have caused significant challenges to the delivery of professional training programmes in psychology.

At this stage is difficult to predict the impact of these measures beyond the next month or two. However, we note that many institutions have already started to make contingency plans in order to continue to deliver high-quality training to their students. The Professional Board for Psychology is sympathetic to the unprecedented challenges that you face. While some flexibility may be necessary to preserve the academic training programmes, we must also ensure that our practitioners meet the minimum standards for education and training required to practise.

Several measures are being considered: These include rescheduling the teaching programme to delay and then concentrate the practical components later in the year, alternative assessments, the use of video-conferencing technology as an alternative to traditional teaching formats and possibly also as an alternative to face-to-face assessment and intervention.

We encourage Academic Departments to continue to share ideas and resources with one another in order find solutions and to ensure Limited disruption, if possible.

Please take the necessary measures to ensure that you are able to continue to provide the necessary training to your students over the short term. However, it will be necessary to consult and obtain approval from the Education, Training and Registration Committee for substantial changes in the offering of training programmes that could go beyond the next three months.

Yours faithfully.



**MRS A TALJAARD
DEPUTY COMPANY SECRETARY
PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY**