

Public Consultation  
Professional Regulation Unit  
Department of Health  
Hawkins House  
Dublin 2, D02 VW90



**QQI**

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann  
Quality and Qualifications Ireland

30 November 2016

Re: Proposed Regulation of counsellors and psychotherapists under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 20015

Dear Sir/Madam,

QQI welcomes the opportunity to respond to the public consultation on the regulation of counsellors and psychotherapists. Having regard to the background information provided and the specific issues to be addressed, QQI submits its response with particular reference to two of the issues:

- The appropriate level of qualifications to be set for future applicants for registration having regard to the QQI Award standards
- The appropriate level of “grand parenting” qualifications to be set for existing practitioners having regard to the QQI Award standards.

In 2014 QQI completed and published the Awards Standards for educational and training qualifications in Counselling and Psychotherapy. These are designed to be used by persons developing and reviewing specific programmes of education and training leading to major awards (at NFQ Levels 6 through 9 inclusively) in Counselling and Psychotherapy. These standards are solely for use in education and training and are not standards for professional practice. They are used by providers designing programmes for awards to be made by QQI or by awarding bodies to which it has delegated authority to make awards (currently this applies to the Institutes of Technology for taught programmes up to level 9). The Award Standards provide a reference for benchmarking intended programme learning outcomes when specific programmes are being validated or revalidated by QQI. It should be noted that the universities and Dublin Institute of Technology are awarding bodies in their own right and can validate their own programmes. They are not bound by QQI award standards. However, we hope that they will be useful references for them when validating their programmes.

While QQI's standards identify a common core of learning outcomes for counselling *and* psychotherapy, this is not intended to preclude distinguishing between the two for purposes of providing or regulating professional services if this is deemed in the public interest.

To help guide programme validation, the standards include an indicative special validation condition. This concerns the ‘practice placement’ in programmes leading to honours bachelor’s degree (level 8) qualifications. The 2014 standards note that this may be superseded or become unnecessary when the professional regulator takes on a role in approving programmes intended to prepare persons for entry to this professional field.



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QQI considers it important that information is clearly set out by the Regulator that addresses concerns by providers, learners, graduates and professional bodies as to what qualifications will be appropriate for registration. Such information should take cognisance of the range of qualifications possible given the range of awarding bodies that are currently represented in the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Professional awarding bodies or international awarding bodies may in time seek recognition with the NFQ. Hence regulation should take cognisance of the need for such flexibility in the future.

Since the publication of the 2014 Counselling and Psychotherapy Award Standards, several providers have validated or revalidated programmes. These include programmes which have identified either counselling or psychotherapy as the intended focus, while others have been designed to cover both. **Appendix 1** (available via <http://qsearch.qqi.ie/WebPart/Search?searchtype=programmes>) provides a list of all programmes validated by QQI with reference to Counselling or Psychotherapy. Some of these precede the publication of the 2014 standards. There is a duplication where the terms 'counselling' and 'psychotherapy' appear in the same programme title. Each programme listed includes a hyperlink to specific information on the QQI website which helps identify the level and validation date of the programme. This may prove useful when looking at subject content of programmes and the validation period (first entry to last entry onto programme). In gauging the potential scale of grand parenting it may benefit the Department and CORU to refer to the programmes in Appendix 1.

A further source of information is certification figures i.e. the number of learners who have achieved awards. Each of the providers mentioned in Appendix 1 has a page (accessed via <http://qsearch.qqi.ie/WebPart/Search?searchtype=providers>) and on that page is a link to 'Infographics' which provides a graphical representation of the provider's certification history by gender, age band, award title.

QQI looks forward to working with the Department and CORU as appropriate during the establishment of the regulation process.

Your faithfully,

Roisin Sweeney  
Head of Award Standards  
Qualifications Directorate

## Appendix 1



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Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann  
Quality and Qualifications Ireland

**43** Programmes named Counselling

### **HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN ARTS in Applied Social Studies in**

#### **Counselling Studies**

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

### **HIGHER DIPLOMA IN ARTS in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS in Counselling Skills and Psychotherapy Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS in Counselling Skills and Addiction Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS in Counselling Skills and Youth Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

### **DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

### **DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING SKILLS AND ADDICTION STUDIES**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

### **DIPLOMA IN YOUTH AND COUNSELLING STUDIES**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

### **CERTIFICATE IN COUNSELLING STUDIES**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

### **MASTER OF ARTS in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland

**MASTER OF ARTS in Counselling and Pastoral Care**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

**BACHELOR OF ARTS in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN ARTS in Integrative Counselling and  
Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) in Integrative Counselling &  
Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**CERTIFICATE IN INTEGRATIVE COUNSELLING AND  
PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC STUDIES**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) in Counselling and Psychotherapy  
Studies**

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

**CERTIFICATE IN COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY STUDIES**

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

**Master of Arts in Pluralistic Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Pluralistic Counselling and  
Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**Higher Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

**Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Psychotherapy**



DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland

## **Bachelor of Arts in Holistic Counselling and Psychotherapy**

International College for Personal and Professional Development

## **Certificate in Holistic Counselling and Psychotherapy**

International College for Personal and Professional Development

## **Master of Arts in Counselling and Pastoral Care**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Pastoral Care**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Master of Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Addiction Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Youth Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Higher Certificate in Arts in Counselling Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Certificate in Counselling Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland

## **Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Skills and Psychotherapy Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Skills and Addiction Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Skills and Youth Studies**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

- **Higher Certificate in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapeutic Studies**
  - IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED
- **Certificate in Counselling and Psychotherapeutic Studies**
  - IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED
- **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy**
  - IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**34** Programmes named psychotherapy



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) in Counselling and Psychotherapy**  
DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

**HIGHER DIPLOMA IN ARTS in Counselling and Psychotherapy**  
DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

**MASTER OF ARTS in Psychotherapy**  
DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

**MASTER OF ARTS in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy**  
DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

**MASTER OF ARTS in Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapy and  
Play Therapy**  
CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTRE LIMITED

**BACHELOR OF ARTS in Counselling Skills and Psychotherapy Studies**  
IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) in Counselling and Psychotherapy**  
IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

**DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY**  
IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

**MASTER OF ARTS in Counselling and Psychotherapy**  
IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

**MASTER OF SCIENCE in Systemic Psychotherapy**  
CLANWILLIAM INSTITUTE

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE in Systemic Psychotherapy**  
CLANWILLIAM INSTITUTE

**BACHELOR OF ARTS in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy**  
IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED



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Qualifications Council of Ireland  
Cáilíochtaí Éireann  
Quality and Qualifications Ireland

**HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN ARTS in Integrative Counselling and  
Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) in Integrative Counselling &  
Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) in Counselling and Psychotherapy  
Studies**

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

**HIGHER DIPLOMA IN ARTS in Psychotherapy Studies**

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

**CERTIFICATE IN COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY STUDIES**

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

**MASTER OF ARTS in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy**

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

**Master of Arts in Pluralistic Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED

**Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Pluralistic Counselling and  
Psychotherapy**

IICP EDUCATION AND TRAINING LIMITED



34 Programmes named psychotherapy



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## **Master of Arts in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy**

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

## **Master of Arts in Psychotherapy**

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

## **Higher Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

## **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

## **Master of Arts in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy**

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

## **Bachelor of Arts in Holistic Counselling and Psychotherapy**

International College for Personal and Professional Development

## **Certificate in Holistic Counselling and Psychotherapy**

International College for Personal and Professional Development

## **Master of Arts in Creative Psychotherapy (Humanistic and Integrative Modality)**

CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTRE LIMITED

## **Master of Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

## **Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy**

IRISH COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND APPLIED SCIENCES LIMITED

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