

**Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology (DECPsy)
Fitness to Practise Statement**

Fitness to practise means having the necessary skills, knowledge, health and character to undertake and complete, safely and effectively, a programme that includes elements of professional practice, experiential learning or any additional placement requirements. Trainees on the DECPsy programme are required to read this statement in conjunction with Mary Immaculate College's extant Fitness to Practise Code and Procedures.

1. Professional Fitness to Practice and Health Requirements

Placement is a core part of the DECPsy programme at Mary Immaculate College. It involves a collaborative partnership between the College and participating schools and placement organisations. Trainees must abide by the extant Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) Code of Professional Ethics and are expected to act at all times in accordance with this Code which makes explicit the core principles underpinning the profession of psychology in Ireland; Respect, Responsibility, Competence and Integrity.

2. Professional Competencies and Responsibilities

a) Professional responsibilities

- The trainee must act at all times in accordance with the extant PSI Code of Professional Ethics.
- The trainee must be aware of and act at all times in accordance with the roles and responsibilities of trainee psychologists as outlines in extant Course and Placement Handbooks.
- The trainee must recognise the rights of stakeholders with whom they are working. At all times trainees must show a high regard for the personal safety, the moral welfare and the well-being of clients.
- The trainee must be aware of and responsive to the impact of their actions on themselves and on others.
- The trainee must be aware of his/her professional responsibility, to bring to the College's attention as soon as practicable any issue, such as illness, incapacity, substance misuse, other medical issue or pending prosecution which arise in the course of the placement, that is likely to affect his/her capacity to engage fully with the placement.
- The trainee must engage professionally and appropriately with all stakeholders involved in their placement.

b) Communication skills

- The trainee must communicate appropriately and effectively at all times with placement stakeholders.

c) Working within the scope of practice

- The trainee must uphold the policies and procedures of the placement organisation in working with clients and stakeholders.

d) Confidentiality

- The trainee must treat all relevant data and issues with confidentiality where required.

- The trainee must ensure that the use of social networking sites is kept private and that they make no reference to placement stakeholders on social networking sites.

e) Child Protection

- The trainee must make themselves aware of, and abide by the placement organisation's Child Protection Policy and make themselves aware of all relevant statutory policies relating to child protection.

f) Managing risks and reporting concerns

- The trainee must pay attention to safety regulations governing the use of equipment, facilities and outdoor areas.
- The safety of clients must be ensured at all times.
- The trainee should report any concerns they have to the relevant person in charge and follow the placement organisation's policy in relation to Health and Safety matters.

g) Honesty and trustworthiness

- The trainee must embody the ethical values of respect, responsibility, competence and integrity in their work practices, as outlined in the extant PSI Code of Professional Ethics.

h) Behaviour throughout placement

- The trainee is required to behave in a professional manner throughout their placement, this includes adherence to appropriate standards of punctuality and personal deportment.

i) Teaching and learning

- The trainee is required to demonstrate satisfactory performance in each of the competence areas as outlined in the relevant Placement Handbook.

3. Health

Professional setting and practice will require the student to maintain a level of physical, emotional and mental health to ensure that placement providers and service users are not adversely affected by any health condition which may arise or be encountered. As part of the Faculty of Education's extant Fitness to Practice Code and Procedures, the College may require trainees to undergo screening, vaccination, or other forms of health assessment with a view to ensuring that the trainee can meet the placement requirements.

Students undertaking programmes with a vaccine and/or health requirement will be required to comply with the vaccination and/or health requirements of the College, as may be updated from time to time.

In addition, students undertaking programmes with an external placement will be required to comply with the vaccination and/or health requirements of the external placement provider, as may be updated from time to time.

Declaration

By signing this statement, you are declaring that you:

- have read and agree to abide by the requirements of this Fitness to Practise Statement for the duration of this placement
- can undertake safe and effective practice and meet the standards of professional competency and responsibility and health noted in the statement.
- are aware of your professional responsibility, to bring to the College’s attention as soon as practicable any issues which arise during the placement, that are likely to affect your capacity to engage fully with the placement.

Placement Details

Placement	
Module Code	
Dates	From _____ to _____

Note: False declarations in the Fitness to Practice Statement will be regarded by the College as a matter for referral to the Disciplinary Committee and /or immediate withdrawal from professional placement.

Signed: _____

Date: _____