

Higher Education Capacity Building Process 2026 – Health and Social Care Professions

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Scope of the 2026 call

- 1. Counselling Psychology is not listed among HSCP professions providing support for disability and health services. Graduates are specifically trained for the HSE and disability services. On this basis, will EOIs for Counselling Psychology be accepted under this call?***

The list of disciplinary areas / professions for the 2026 Expression of Interest (EOI) process, including psychology, was provided to us by the Department of Health, HSE, and NEPS on the basis of their assessment of skills needs.

On receipt of this query, we again sought clarification on Department of Health/HSE requirements. The Department of Health, and the Department of Children, Disability, and Equality, in consultation with the HSE, have reverted to confirm that Counselling Psychologists are required for the disability therapy sector.

Submissions in respect of Counselling Psychology can therefore be included under this EOI. An update will be issued to HEIs in the coming days.

- 2. Are there plans for the inclusion of Dental Hygiene in future Expression of Interest calls?***

The list of professions included in the 2026 EOI was provided by members of the Interdepartmental Group, which was established with the support of the Cabinet Committee on Disabilities to expand HSCP professions in priority areas for the Health, Disability and Education sectors, and is informed by national and regional data in Health on workforce planning requirements. The current call is limited to these professions, and the scope of future EOI processes has not yet been discussed.