

Joining the ACC Accredited Register

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After undergoing a rigorous process of assessment by the Professional Standards Authority, the Association of Christian Counsellors was granted accreditation of its new Register.

The ACC Accredited Register is open to all ACC practising counsellor and psychotherapist members meeting the specific criteria outlined in the routes to joining the Register, as summarised in Table 1 overleaf. Full details of all routes will be notified to members as they become available.

The route taken by each individual will depend upon prior training and experience. The flow chart, depicted in Figure 1, can be used to facilitate selection of the appropriate route.

Specific criteria

All applicants are required to meet the specific criteria outlined for one or more of the authorised routes to Registration. They will also be asked to answer routine 'Safe Practice' questions, and agree to a number of terms and conditions.

Applications will be processed by the Registrar in conjunction with members of the Accreditation Committee. The full list of Register 'Terms and Conditions' can be previewed on the ACC website.

Routes to joining the ACC register

The main routes to joining the ACC Accredited Register are outlined below and summarised in Table 1:



Association of Christian Counsellors

Accreditation Route

ACC counsellor/psychotherapy members who already have accreditation at Accredited Counsellor (AC), Accredited Counselling Supervisor (ACS), and



accredited register

to join the ACC Register.

Completion of the Re-accreditation form provides an up-to-date check on accreditation and the criteria for entry onto the Register (i.e. validation of CPD, supervision and insurance arrangements).

From 8 April (Day 1 of the Accredited Register 'going live') new applications for accreditation have the requirement to join the ACC Register.

Qualification Route

ACC counsellor/psychotherapy members who have completed a minimum Level 4 award or Diploma, Degree or Masters level qualification in counselling or psychotherapy (validated by a UK higher educational establishment), with a 100 hour placement as part of

the course, are eligible for entry onto the ACC Register via the 'Qualification Route'. Evidence of the award (certificates) will need to be provided, along with completion of the 'Terms and Conditions' and Register application form.

Experience ('Grand-parenting') Route

The experience route is open only to existing counsellor/

As part of its mission to be a 'catalyst for excellence in Christian care and counselling' the Association has encouraged its members in the use of sound ethical principles and Christian values to achieve high standards of safe and effective practice.

Accredited Counsellor Manager (ACM) categories are eligible for entry to the Register upon completion of the Re-accreditation process and Registration application form.

Those with accreditation at Accredited Counselling Practitioner (ACP) level (i.e. 250 hours training at minimum Level 3 award or Certificate level, plus 300 hours supervised practice experience) are eligible until 31 December 2017

psychotherapy members of ACC (up to and including those in membership prior to 8 April 2015). This route will remain open for a limited period (to 31 December 2017) to enable transition of members on the former ACC Voluntary Register of Christian Counsellors (VRCC) and others, meeting the relevant criteria, onto the Register.

Experience Route Criteria

The specific criteria for entry to the Register via the Experience Route are as follows:

- Complaint-free or complaint not upheld for a period of 2 years (being on the present VRCC for a period of 2 years or more is desirable but not essential)
- 150 hours of training (this can be mixed but should have at

- least one block of at least 50 hours)
- To have been in supervised practice for 5 years or more and/or have 250 hours of supervised counselling practice
- CPD – evidence of 10 hours/year for the last 3 years minimum and a commitment to meet the present annual requirement for CPD of 25 hours/year
- Supporting statement of competence and safe practice from supervisor
- Adequate professional indemnity insurance (in date at time of application)

Student Route

ACC is planning to list student members from ‘authorised’ counselling or psychotherapy

courses (leading to a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 award or Certificate/Diploma/Degree in Higher Education) from the Academic year 2015/16. Students currently on these courses may continue to join as a member of ACC without being on the Register at this time. Further details about the ‘Student route’ to the Register will be published at a later date.

Counsellors working under ACC Affiliated Organisations (Affiliate Route)

Counsellors or psychotherapists who have been working under the umbrella of an ACC affiliated counselling organisation or agency, prior to 8 April 2015, and still currently working with that organisation, may be eligible to join the ACC Register via the

‘Affiliate Route’. Further details about this route will be notified to ACC Affiliated counselling organisations and published at a later date.

Routes to joining the ACC Register (non-members)

From 8 April 2015 (Day 1 of the Accredited Register ‘going live’) all potential new practising counsellor and psychotherapist members of ACC must be eligible for and agree to join the ACC Accredited Register as a condition of membership. A minimum Level 4 award or Diploma in Higher Education will be required.

Students on counselling or psychotherapy courses leading to a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 award (or Certificate/Diploma/Degree in Higher Education) may join as a

member of ACC without being on the Register at this time. However, ACC is exploring the possibility of a ‘Student route’ to the Register that will become available to those on counselling and/or psychotherapy courses meeting specified criteria, from the Academic year 2015/16. Further details about the ‘Student route’ to the Register will be published at a later date.

Timescale for opening of the Routes to Registration and the ‘Transition Period’

Part of the agreement to hold an Accredited Register with the Professional Standards Authority, is to ensure that all those members who are eligible to join the Register do so within a specified time period. ACC has set this date as 31 December 2017.

The interim period is termed the ‘Transition Period’. All current ACC counsellor/psychotherapist members will therefore have until 31 December 2017 to join the Register through one of the routes specified in Table 1. Those who have not joined the Register by this date and wish to retain membership of ACC will be required to take up other categories of membership of the Association.

For more information about the ACC Accredited Register and the benefits of the Accredited Registers scheme, please visit the Register pages of the ACC website or contact the ACC Registrar Dawn Sherry (dawn@acc-uk.org or 024 7644 9694).

Table 1: Routes to joining the ACC Accredited Register (effective from 8 April 2015)

Routes to joining the ACC Accredited Register	Terms and Conditions / Safe Practice Agreements							Training & Practice Requirements			Fees
	Complaint free / not upheld for minimum 2 years	Acceptance of ACC Statement of Faith	Agreement to work under ACC Ethics & Practice and be subject to ACC Complaints Procedure	Adequate professional indemnity insurance (in date)	In supervised counselling and/or psychotherapy practice + minimum supervision requirements	Safe Practice Questions + Register Terms & Conditions (clearance provided by ACC staff)	Agreement to meet ongoing annual CPD & supervision requirement (25hrs for Counselling Practitioner/ Accredited Counsellor; 30hrs for Accredited Supervisor/ Manager)	ACC Accredited Member (all levels)	Minimum Level 4 award / Diploma with 100 hour placement	Minimum 250 hours and/or 5 years supervised practice + Minimum 10 hours/year CPD for last 3 years +	Payment of Register administration fee (includes entry on ‘Find a Counsellor’) + Membership & accreditation fees (if applicable) reset to single payment date
1. Accreditation Route	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	--	✓
2. Qualification Route	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	✓	--	✓
3. Experience Route	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	--	✓	✓
4. Student Route ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓ ³	✓ ³	✓	✓	--	--	--	✓ ⁴
5. Affiliate Route ²	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	--	✓	✓ ⁵

¹ Student enrolled on a counselling and/or psychotherapy course, leading to a minimum Level 3 award or Certificate in Higher Education with an integral 100 hour supervised practice placement;

² Counsellor and/or psychotherapist working under an ACC Affiliated Organisation prior to 8 April 2015 and transferring to individual counsellor/psychotherapist membership;

³ To be in place during supervised practice placement;

⁴ Fee incorporated into student membership fee;

⁵ Fee incorporated into affiliate counsellor membership fee.

Figure 1: Routes of Access to the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC) Accredited Register

Route 1: Accreditation Route

Are you Accredited with ACC ? (i.e. an Accredited Counselling Practitioner; Accredited Counsellor; Accredited Counselling Supervisor; Accredited Counsellor Manager) Please contact the ACC Registrar Dawn Sherry (dawn@acc-uk.org or 024 7644 9694).	YES	→
	NO	↓

Route 2: Qualification Route

Have you completed a minimum Level 4 award (e.g. OCN, CPCAB, etc.) or Diploma (validated by a UK Higher Education establishment) in Counselling and/or Psychotherapy with an integral placement of 100 hours ? Please contact the ACC Registrar Dawn Sherry (dawn@acc-uk.org or 024 7644 9694).	YES	→
	NO	↓

Route 3: Experience (Grand-parenting Route)

Were you in membership with ACC prior to 8 April 2015? AND Have you been in supervised counselling and/or psychotherapy practice for 5 years or more? and/or Have 250 or more supervised practice hours? AND 150 hours training & minimum 10 hours/year CPD for last 3 years?	YES	→
	NO	↓

Route 4: Student Route

Are you a student on a counselling and/or psychotherapy course leading to a minimum Level 3 award (OCN, CPCAB etc.) or a Certificate or Diploma validated by a UK higher education establishment? Further details about the student route to the register will be published at a later date.	YES	→
	NO	↓

Route 5: Affiliate Route

Have you been working as a counsellor and/or psychotherapist in an ACC Affiliated counselling organisation prior to 8 April 2015? AND Are you still working under an ACC Affiliated counselling organisation now? Further details about the affiliate route to the register will be published at a later date.	YES	→
	NO	Please speak to ACC staff for information about access to the Register

ACC ACCREDITED REGISTER