

Summary Information About Becoming an Accredited Counsellor With ACC

Requirements for accreditation as an Accredited Counsellor:

- ✓ agreement with ACC's "Statement of Faith".
- ✓ agreement to work within the terms of ACC's "Ethics and Practice" document and other practice guidelines that are published by ACC.
- ✓ completion of a minimum of **450 hours training**. The bulk of this training must be on a recognised counselling and/or psychotherapy based course of **minimum Level 4 or Diploma/Degree** from a UK based educational establishment. If the training is not ACC recognised or from a training college that integrates faith and counselling from a Christian Worldview, then a **2000 word reflection/essay** entitled 'How my Christian faith informs my counselling practice' will be required.
- ✓ evidence of at least **450 hours of supervised counselling practice** (a photocopy of a *minimum* 100 hours of counselling logs, plus summary sheets showing the total practice hours, endorsed by the supervisor).
- ✓ evidence that the applicant has been and is currently in supervision (a photocopy of supervision logs to coincide with the supervised counselling practice logs submitted is required).
- ✓ a reference from the applicant's supervisor. This must be on the pro-forma currently approved by ACC and must reflect the experience, competence and good practice of the applicant.
- ✓ a reference from the applicant's Church/Fellowship Leader (or similar person) who will confirm that the applicant is a maturing Christian and in fellowship with other Christians. This must be on the pro-forma currently approved by ACC. Where an applicant is between Churches for example, then we request a reference from a Christian 'referee'.
- ✓ **one case study** (approx. 2000-3000 words) taken from the last year of practice.
- ✓ agreement to undertake appropriate **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** in line with ACC guidance (i.e. 25 hours per annum from January 2015).
- ✓ agreement to keep counselling and supervision records (including client code, venue, date, length of session, session number and issues covered) and total practice hours.
- ✓ photocopies of certificates for the training courses completed.
- ✓ evidence (photocopy) of adequate professional indemnity insurance.

Joint Accreditation

This level of accreditation is considered to be equivalent to other forms of accreditation provided outside of the Association. For this reason, ACC also offers a Joint Accreditation Route for those members who have already obtained equivalent accreditation status with another professional body for counselling and/or psychotherapy that holds an Accredited Register approved by the Professional Standards Authority. Different standards are in place across the different bodies, so the transfer route is currently operational for Registered Accredited members of BACP, COSCA and UKCP; and Accredited members of BABCP.

Accreditation Renewal

Certification lasts for 1 year. At this point an Accredited Counsellor can renew their accreditation at the same level for a further year by completing the online re-accreditation renewal procedure (available by logging into the Members' Area and providing a list of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities undertaken over the previous year, in line with ACC guidelines. If the applicant is selected for audit, a more detailed professional development statement is requested to show evidence of a full CPD cycle for each activity listed (i.e. explaining the type of CPD chosen, the learning outcomes and any modification in practice arising from the CPD experience).

It is anticipated that practitioners will be providing a minimum of 75 hours supervised counselling per annum although extenuating circumstances and/or a notified break in practice will be taken into account. If you are thinking of taking a break from your counselling and/or psychotherapy, please contact the ACC's Registrar to discuss your options for maintaining accreditation during the break.