

UK Council for Psychotherapy

Guidelines for UKCP membership applications January 2011

Introduction

This guidance aims to address enquiries from individual applicants and requests from UKCP organisational members.

UKCP must provide a straightforward means of becoming a full individual UKCP member to practitioners who trained and qualified elsewhere to a standard comparable to UKCP's Standards of Education and Training (SET). Providing fair and transparent routes to UKCP membership and accreditation is also an access and equality concern.

This guidance intends to clarify UKCP's position on applications for membership from colleagues who qualified abroad or with institutions not accredited by UKCP. It is paramount that application processes cater not only for trainees in the process of qualifying or for recently-qualified practitioners. Our application processes should not unfairly disadvantage applicants who may have practised for many years and trained abroad or hold non-UKCP accredited qualifications. We must take into account periods of training and professional experience completed since an applicant obtained their initial qualifications. In addition, many practitioners who qualified a decade or more ago would struggle to demonstrate how they meet every single SET criteria applicable to current training courses and it would not always be fair or appropriate to expect them do so.

This document is intended to address the situations of those two groups of potential applicants. It has been developed in line with current UKCP CPD policies; key stakeholders have been consulted; and it has been agreed with the Colleges and Faculties Committee (CFC) and the Service Development Committee (SDC).

Assessment of applications for UKCP membership and registration

UKCP delegates the gate keeping to the UKCP register to its organisational members (OM's) and colleges. On behalf of UKCP, they assess that an applicant's qualifications and practice are consistent with the practice of the modality and identify any disparities with UKCP SETs. This assessment should consider all aspects of the applicant's professional skills and experience such as number of years practised, professional publications, research projects, teaching experience, further training or CPD.

1. Applications from recently-qualified practitioners

Applicants with less than five years post-qualification practice would normally be expected to demonstrate how they meet the current UKCP SETs and modality requirements of the organisation and College they apply to. Minor disparities of training curricula or queries about comparability of modality practice may be compensated for through an adaptation period (typically six months, or more if appropriate) of practice under supervision. This should be with a supervisor recognised by the organisation who will provide a report at the end of the agreed adaptation period.

2. Applications from practitioners with more than five years post-qualification practice

UKCP welcomes applications from practitioners who completed a substantive and indepth psychotherapy training course comparable to other contemporary training courses available for the modality at the time of qualification. Their qualifications and skills should be assessed in conjunction with all aspects of their professional practice and experience such as the length and extent of clinical practice, professional publications, research projects, teaching experience and further training as described in the UKCP Continuing Professional Development guidance (September 2009). Applicants should clarify how, in overall terms, their current practice meets the modality descriptors of the College or organisational member they apply to.

If the assessment identifies substantial gaps in the applicant's training or relevant experience, or queries about their modality practice, they should be given the choice between two procedures:

- a) An 'adaptation period' of practice under supervision (typically six months, or more if appropriate) with a supervisor recognised by the organisation and a report from the supervisor.
- b) Additional training, practice or experience as specified by the organisation to address particular disparities identified during the assessment of the applicant's qualifications.

Applicants should normally meet requirements of the five-yearly re-accreditation process of the College or organisation they apply to.

3. Applications from ECP holders

The award of a European Certificate for Psychotherapy (ECP) constitutes a qualification. We would like all committees, colleges, organisational members and heads of training to take note that UKCP already recognises the ECP as equivalent to our accredited standards. All applicants for individual membership to (any college of) UKCP who hold an ECP and are of good standing are normally eligible for full UKCP membership. This recognition is confirmed by UKCP bye laws, therefore all organisational members and colleges are asked to adjust their procedures, where necessary, to accommodate applications for membership from ECP holders who qualified and work in their modality. We recommend that ECP applicants should meet the requirements the five-yearly re-accreditation process of the College or organisation they apply to.