**Changes / clarification regarding Professional Standards / Course Accreditation Criteria ratified between July 2018 and December 2019:**

**Recognition of IAHIP senior accreditation status**

IACP acknowledged similar accreditation standards of IACP and IAHIP Accredited Members, and created a recognition process of IAHIP accreditation status, which allows IAHIP Accredited Members, who are minimum 5 years accredited to apply for IACP accreditation based on IAHIP accreditation Status, the same way we recognise accreditation from other Professional Bodies from Regulated Countries.

Amended wording re First Time Accreditation requirements ratified in March 2019:

As of 26th May 2017:

Students can start counting the 450 client hours towards accreditation after full completion of the currently required minimum 100 student placement hours, even if still in training on an accredited course. Students are not required to change their Supervisor while in training but they must change their Supervisor after graduation / completion of the course.

Students must have completed minimum of 2 academic years on the course and finished the required 50 hours of personal therapy before they start counting the 450 hours. It is Course's responsibility to manage all client work while in training. IACP recognise supervision with IACP, BACP or IAHIP Accredited Supervisors only.

**Change to Garda Vetting Process**

The IACP Garda Vetting has been a mandatory requirement for Members since 2015. The IACP Garda Vetting Policy provides for vetting to be carried out on a three-year cycle with the next cycle due to commence later this year. Considering feedback from members and mindful of impending state regulation, a review of the current policy was carried out. It has been decided by the IACP Board of Directors that in future, vetting will apply to new members to the organisation and in the event of members leaving and re-applying at some stage in the future for whatever reason.

This means that current members who have already completed the vetting process will not be required to go through any further Garda Vetting cycles with the IACP. This brings the IACP into line with the practice of the regulator CORU, which only requires Garda Vetting for entry or re-entry to their registers.

**CPD Requirements**

*Clarification re CPD requirements and counting of supervision as CPD:*

CPD – **Pre-Accredited Members** (10 CPD Points)

10 hours CPD activities as per IACP CPD Policy (of which up to 3 hours CPD could be Supervision received)

CPD -  **Accredited Members** (30 CPD Points)

10 hours CPD - Supervision received

20 CPD Hours – CPD activities as per IACP CPD Policy

CPD -  **Accredited Supervisors** (30 CPD Points)

10 hours CPD  -  Supervision received

10 hours CPD – CPD activities as per IACP CPD Policy

10 hours CPD – CPD activities specifically related to Supervision (not Supervision itself)

A Reminder to Students and Supervisors regarding Student: Supervision ratio

Frequency: Regardless of the number of client contact hours the student must meet their supervisor for at least 1 hour a month.

Ratio: The student is required to have a minimum of 1 hour of individual supervision for every 5 client contact hours.

Once the student has started seeing clients, this ratio remains for the full duration of the course (including after the minimum 100 student placement hours are completed), changing to a ratio of 1:10 when the course is fully completed and when the graduate changes to a new supervisor to complete the remaining hours towards accreditation.

**IACP Course Criteria**, updated points:

3.6 Core Trainers must be Accredited Members of IACP and appropriately qualified to teach and supervise the main elements of the course.

Core Trainers must possess and adhere to the following:

* Substantial experience of supervised counselling / psychotherapy for at least five years after accreditation, and be currently practicing
* Understand the principles of adult education, how adults learn
* Have trained as trainers\*
* At least 4 years’ experience in counselling / psychotherapy training
* Attend regular external supervision and external consultation on training work
* Have had Personal Therapy
* Commit to ongoing personal and professional development

\*Trainers who have not formally trained as trainers can be assessed by the Course Assessors through a grandparenting clause which includes all of the following:

* trainer must be a practicing member of the IACP
* trainer must be a supervisor member or has had training as a supervisor
* proven experience of training in the field of counselling & psychotherapy
* proven experience of group facilitation
* proven experience of delivering adult education
* understanding of adult learning
* 2 written references confirming suitability as a trainer

APPENDIX A: CRITERIA FOR COURSES APPLYING TO INCLUDE ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR CERTIFIED LEARNING

Courses applying for assessment of their accreditation of prior learning procedures as part of their application for course accreditation must ensure that they include evidence to demonstrate that the following criteria have been met:

1. In relation to the protection of the integrity of the cohort

(a) Courses must state the maximum percentage of a cohort that they wish to be accredited for prior learning on the course

(b) The rationale for this percentage must be given

(c) Courses must state how the internal consistency within the course will be maintained.

2. Selection process

The procedures for selection of students seeking exemption must demonstrate how courses assess:

(a) The student’s suitability for the training offered

(b) The student’s ability to demonstrate reflective practitioner qualities

(c) The student’s ability to form a working alliance with the course team and existing Student group

(d) The student’s skills levels.

3. Hours that can be exempted

(a) Only courses of a minimum of three years duration are eligible to consider APCL;

(b) The hours which can be exempt depend on the course structure and it is within the remit of the course provider to assess and recognise prior certified learning for the purpose of entry to accredited training course, as long as all academic and practical components of the course are met and match requirements listed in IACP course criteria.

4. Working with clients

(a) Each exempted student must undertake a minimum of 100 hours (120 from September 2020) of supervised client work whilst on the intake course and have a record of or completed minimum 50 hours of personal therapy

**Working with under 18s and First Time Accreditation**

IACP would like to remind members that we recently ratified the Standards for Working with Under 18s, which set requirements for our members who practice with minors.  
Based on this, the Accreditation Committee and the Board of Directors made a decision to allow for those working towards accreditation to be able to count up to 25% of 450 hours required for the purpose of First Time Accreditation with clients who are under 18, if all the criteria and competencies listed in the Standards for Working with Under 18s are met and in addition, there must be a proof provided of completion of a minimum certificate level additional qualification to work with children & adolescents that encompasses below modules/themes:  
Child Development  
Atypical psychology  
Neurodevelopment of the brain  
Play skills for the therapist and techniques for working with children  
Legal Training/Children’s Rights/Child Protection Policy/Child Welfare/Consent/Report  
Writing  
Systemic issues/working with parents/guardians/care-givers  
Personal therapy/Group process  
Working with disabilities/special needs clients  
Practical element in training required under strict supervision  
The onus would be on the applicant to comply with the Standards for Working with Under 18s if the applicant counts such hours towards the IACP Accreditation. A copy of the certificate will be required from an applicant at the time of applying for First Time Accreditation as a proof of holding additional qualification to conduct this type of work.

**Addition to CPD Policy – November 2019**

Completion of any relevant to Counselling & Psychotherapy post-graduate training meets IACP CPD needs for the year or if longer – for the duration of that particular training.