

- Assessment of applicants for suitability before being selected onto course
 - Minimum age 23 for course entry
 - Certification of having satisfactorily completed course
- N.B. Courses may not be combined to make up a core course

After training an applicant must:

- Have completed 450* hours of individual client work with evidence of one hour of supervision for every 10 hours of counselling / psychotherapy, of which at least 75% must have been in one-to-one supervision. Supervision of these 450 hours of work must not be undertaken with a supervisor who either supervised the applicant while a student during training, or was involved in any way with the core course.
- Have been in ongoing supervision in Ireland with the same supervisor for one year immediately preceding application.
- Engage in supervision with an IACP accredited supervisor or an IAHIP accredited supervisor

Applicants for accreditation with validated appropriate training and supervision may submit couple counselling, family counselling or group counselling hours as 25% part of their post training 450 hours requirement. The other 75% of hours will be individual counselling. Supervisor's report/ reports on all work covering the 450 hours must be submitted with Application.

** This 450 hours of client work must cover a variety of presenting problems*

It is at the discretion of the Accreditation Committee to invite any applicant for an interview as part of the accreditation process.

Non-Recognised Course Criteria

If the core course is not an IACP recognised course, it is essential to include with the application the course brochure giving the course details, which show that its criteria are equivalent to the IACP current criteria for course recognition. The details required of the applicant's core course include:

- Name of the course and the training organisation
- Starting and ending date of course

- Entry requirements for the course
- Qualifications of staff
- Number of hours of theory and skills training
- Number of contact hours on the course
- Number of supervised client hours as part of the course
- Assessment methods used by the course
- Requirement of 50 hours personal therapy

Standards

The IACP continues to develop high standards in the profession of counselling / psychotherapy. It is the largest regulatory body in Ireland for the development of counselling / psychotherapy and the protection of clients and therapists alike. The IACP has established a comprehensive Code of Ethics and Practice available on the IACP website www.iacp.ie under 'Information'.

Supervision

The Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy see supervision as vital to the process and ongoing maintenance of a therapist's competency and continued accreditation. All IACP members working as therapists are bound by the IACP Code of Ethics and Practice to monitor their work through regular supervision to ensure that their standard of therapy is competent and continues to develop.

N.B. Criteria for training & accreditation are subject to change.

Check the IACP website for all current criteria.

The criteria for training & accreditation published in this leaflet are correct at time of print.



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A Guide to Professional Accreditation and Membership

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Who we are

Established in 1981, the Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (IACP) is a national organisation which sets, maintains and develops standards in the practice of counselling and psychotherapy. IACP is a registered Charity (CHY 6615) representing over 3,250 members.

IACP MISSION STATEMENT

IACP identifies, develops and maintains professional standards of excellence in counselling and psychotherapy through education, training and accreditation. In promoting best practice and the professional development of its members, IACP holds at its core the protection of the public.

IACP VISION STATEMENT

A future where people who are in need of care and support can achieve greater wellbeing through the use of regulated professional counselling and psychotherapy services. Our vision is one where counselling and psychotherapy are an integral part of healthcare provision.

IACP CORE VALUES

The underlying values which guide our work are as follows:

- Integrity
- Respect and Inclusivity
- Valuing the Individual
- Professional and Ethical

What we do

We represent the interests of both client and counsellor/psychotherapist in Ireland. We are a link between those who are looking for counselling/psychotherapy and those who provide counselling/psychotherapy. In addition, we provide information and set and maintain practice and training standards. We represent counselling/psychotherapy at both national and international level.

Benefits of IACP Membership

By becoming a member of IACP you will be demonstrating to the public, potential employers and fellow practitioners that you are dedicated to practicing responsibly, ethically and to the highest of standards. In addition to the principal benefits, that of offering an ethical framework within which to work via the IACP Code of Ethics and Practice, and that of monitoring standards of counselling/psychotherapy training and practice via the IACP accreditation schemes, IACP offers the following benefits to its members:

- Representation by IACP at both national and international level
- Inclusion of accredited members in the IACP directory
- IACP negotiated professional indemnity insurance scheme
- Information and support on membership criteria and professional practice matters
- Receipt of the IACP quarterly journal *Éisteach* and newsletter
- Access to the online Members Forum
- VHI Group Scheme
- Reduced subscription for membership of the European Association for Counselling
- Notification of workshops, IACP events and other information relating to counselling/psychotherapy
- Reductions on the entry price of IACP workshops
- Eligibility for election to IACP's Executive Committee
- Influence IACP policy by participation on IACP's sub-committees and panel

Categories of Membership

- Accredited Supervisor
- Accredited Member
- Pre Accredited Member
- Student Member
- Affiliated Member
- Recognised Course Member
- Associate Organisation Member
- Approved Organisation Member
- Inactive Membership for Accredited Members
- Inactive Membership for Accredited Supervisors

Why Accreditation?

Accreditation helps to ensure that practitioners are appropriately qualified and work to recognised standards of professional competence. Accreditation also assures the client that the practitioner will work within an agreed ethical framework and code of practice. It takes approximately five to six years to achieve accreditation as an IACP registered counsellor or psychotherapist.

What is required to apply for IACP Accreditation?

Applications are accepted only from those resident and/or practising in the 32 counties of Ireland.

An applicant must fulfil the criteria below:

- Submit a completed IACP Application Form with necessary documentation and original certification
- Accept and work within IACP's Code of Ethics and Practice
- Provide evidence of ongoing professional and personal development (eg: participation in further courses, study, personal therapy and by attending workshops on counselling/psychotherapy theory and practice)
- Be a fully paid up member of IACP

AN APPLICANT MUST:

Have completed a core counselling/psychotherapy course — a minimum of two years duration (full or part time) — which satisfies the criteria for course recognition by IACP including the following:

- A minimum of 100 hours of supervised individual client work during core course
- A minimum ratio of supervision:client work of 1:8 hours
- A minimum of 450 course hours of staff-student contact, including skills, theory and self-development
- A detailed study of at least one major school of counselling/psychotherapy with an introduction to other schools/models of counselling for comparison and contrast
- A minimum of 50 hours of personal therapy during training