

Student Membership

Welcome to IACP

The IACP welcomes you to the student information page.

The IACP accredits and monitors counselling and psychotherapy courses in order to promote and uphold excellent standards of learning in a field which is both theoretical and practical.

It is very important to IACP that students have as good an experience as possible in their student years. Counselling and Psychotherapy courses are very demanding both financially and personally. There is a considerable time commitment for the duration of the course which will include your attendance on course days, your studies and personal therapy and at a certain stage, your client practice work and supervision.

The IACP hopes that you will be as fully informed as possible before making your final decision and paying your fees.

General Information

- Research thoroughly your career expectations and the current job opportunities in the field of therapy.
- Be clear about the costs involved (see section on costs).
- Read all the course information carefully and clarify any issues when attending the course information talks or your interview.
- Visit the course centre and check its convenience for you.

Costs

Courses are expected to give full information to their applicants about fees and additional costs. Additional costs will include personal therapy and may include supervision fees.

Please take into account

- Travel costs to training venues
- Overnight accommodation where necessary
- Unpaid leave from work where necessary
- The time commitment for client practice hours and possible travel costs incurred
- The time and financial commitment for supervision of client practice hours.

Personal Therapy

You will be expected to attend personal therapy throughout the duration of your course. The minimum attendance is 50 hours of which 25 hours must be completed before beginning your client practice work.

Personal therapists must be IACP accredited or have equivalent accreditation acceptable to the Course

Client Practice

It is responsibility of the course to access appropriate client practice work for their students. You will be expected to do a minimum of 100 practice hours.

Private practice work is not appropriate or allowable for the practice hours and students should never be alone in practice centre when seeing clients.

Supervision of Client practice work

Supervision is one of the most important elements of your course. Your course will

- Include a module on clinical supervision which will help you understand and make good use of supervision.
- Provide a list to help you access an appropriate supervisor who must be accredited as a supervisor with IACP, IAHIP or BACP.

Be sure that you understand the nature of the contract with you Supervisor who will be expected to furnish reports to the course at least once a year.

It is the responsibility of the course to ensure that you have met and discussed a contract with your Supervisor before beginning your client practice hours.

You will be expected to do a minimum of 1 hour of supervision with an external supervisor for each 5 client hours.

For more information please refer to the Supervision section of the IACP website <http://www.iacp.ie/iacp-supervision-overview>.

If Difficulties arise on your Course

Courses are expected to exemplify the philosophy of the core model of therapy being taught and should form a community where difficulties can be discussed and dealt with in an appropriate manner. You are entering a profession where you will be encouraged to think about any difficulties or dissatisfactions and deal with these problems in a mature and thoughtful way which will enhance your awareness and personal development.

Complaints

All IACP accredited course must have an appropriate complaints procedure. If you wish to complain please refer to the Course Provider's complaint process. A complaint should be resolved through this internal process.

Where a Training Course is in breach of the IACP Course Accreditation Criteria, a complaint can be made through the IACP Complaints procedure <http://www.iacp.ie/iacp-complaints-procedure>.

The IACP Course Accreditation Criteria can be found on the IACP website

<http://www.iacp.ie/course-accreditation-criteria>

IACP Membership Accreditation Process

Following the successful completion of an IACP Accredited Training Course you can apply to become a Pre-Accredited therapist.

In order to become an IACP Accredited therapist you will need to;

- Be a pre-accredited member of IACP
- Complete 450 hours of appropriate client work
- Attend 1 hour of supervision for each 10 hours of client work (for those doing a small number of client hours the minimum supervision attendance is 1 hour a month).

It will be your own responsibility to access appropriate client work. This can be paid work or voluntary work. You should be aware that much of the client work being done by pre-accredited therapists is being done on a voluntary basis.

IACP Course Accreditation Process

The IACP was established to promote a standard and quality within the profession. IACP Course Accreditation is in place to ensure that there is a standard for counselling and psychotherapy training in Ireland. The IACP Course Accreditation process ensures that a course adheres to the Course Accreditation Criteria, which can be downloaded from this link <http://www.iacp.ie/course-accreditation-criteria>.

The Course Accreditation Criteria is a document that was written to address all aspects of training and to ensure that within each aspect a minimum standard is set. This standard ensures that trainees are experienced and adept in all aspects of counselling and psychotherapy practice.

It is hoped that the opportunity to acquire 'Accredited' status will encourage the staff of training courses to monitor and develop their performance in ways which are creative and which lead to an enhancement of the quality of training on offer.

IACP Course Accreditation Assessment process

There are two stages to the Course Accreditation assessment process;

1. The Application Form: Course Provider must complete the Course Accreditation Application Form which can be downloaded at this link <http://www.iacp.ie/Course-Accreditation-Process>.

2. The Course Assessment Visit: If the Course Accreditation Officer is satisfied that all course has provided sufficient information that adheres to the Course Accreditation Criteria, the Course Accreditation Officer will arrange a Course Assessment Visit with the Course Provider. This Course Assessment visit will comprise of a number of elements to verify that the course being assessed adheres to the Course Accreditation Criteria.

Once these two elements of assessment have been successfully completed and the Course Accreditation Officer and the Course Assessor are satisfied with the course a final report will be written for the Executive Committee to recommend the course is awarded accreditation. The Executive Committee must ratify the recommendation for accreditation of the course in order for the course to be awarded IACP accreditation.

IACP Course Accreditation Officer & Course Assessor

The Course Accreditation Officer and Course Assessor are employed by the IACP to monitor and implement the various stages of the Course Accreditation Process, Annual Monitoring, Re-Accreditation and Maintenance of accreditation.

What is the benefit of doing an IACP accredited course?

Students attending an IACP Accredited Courses will be assured that the course is sufficient for entry as a Student Member of IACP. Graduates of IACP Accredited Courses will be assured that the course meets the training/educational requirement for individual IACP Accredited Membership.

Can course providers advertise that they meet IACP requirements or that they have applied for IACP course accreditation?

No. Only courses who have completed the accreditation process and have received written confirmation of their accredited status may include the words "IACP Accredited Course" on their publicity material or use words that imply the same meaning. Organisations engaged in training should not state or imply in any publicity material that they intend to apply or that they have applied for accreditation by IACP.

Please refer to the IACP student section for other relevant FAQ's <http://www.iacp.ie/student-faq>.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us info@iacp.ie or 01 2723427.