



Joining BACP:
**working together
through your studies**



bacp

British Association for
Counselling & Psychotherapy

Supporting you at each step of your journey

As a student on a counselling and/or psychotherapy course you are at the beginning of an incredibly exciting and meaningful journey towards becoming a practitioner.

We understand that at times you may also feel a little under pressure with course work, essays and placement requirements.

Studying for a qualification to be a counsellor is a rewarding yet challenging undertaking, and one that BACP can guide and support you in.

At BACP we believe in high standards of training, robust ethics, and quality professional development, values that you'll share and want to develop.

You're perhaps still holding down a full time job while attending tuition, or maybe even had to give up paid employment altogether to be able to study full time.

It's not an easy time; therefore knowing that the professional body you're a member of can provide you with tools, information and support, will reduce some of the anxieties you'll be experiencing.

**We believe in
high standards
of training, robust
ethics, and
quality CPD**





We provide an extensive range of **member benefits**

BACP will become your first port of call to assist you with the complexities of being a student. We are committed to supporting your professional journey by providing an extensive range of benefits:

- Professional credibility
- Good practice guidance
- Creating opportunities
- Providing support
- Expanding your knowledge and skills
- Building connections.

One of the best decisions you can make is to join BACP at the earliest stage of your career. Please take some time to read through this leaflet and discover just how BACP membership will be advantageous to you during your studies.



Recognition and encouragement through your career

Our membership categories provide a clear path for you to take as you progress through your career. Right from the beginning, as a Student member, BACP membership gives reassurances to tutors, clients and placement providers of your quality standards and commitment to ethics.

Student Member

Just embarking on your counselling and/or psychotherapy course*

* Your counselling and/or psychotherapy course must be a minimum of one year full time, or two years part time with a supervised placement of a minimum 100 client hours, integral to the course.

You successfully complete and graduate from your counselling and/or psychotherapy course

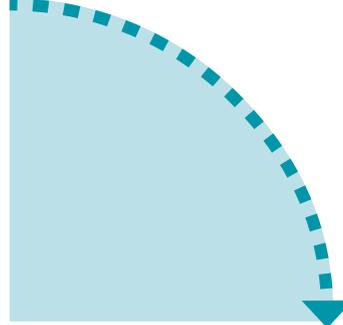
Individual Member





Registered Member MBACP

Within 24 months you progress to our practising category, the minimum recommended standard that the public should expect in a therapist



With experience you can demonstrate your capacity for independent, competent, ethical practice



Accredited Member - Registered Member MBACP (Accred)

Professional credibility

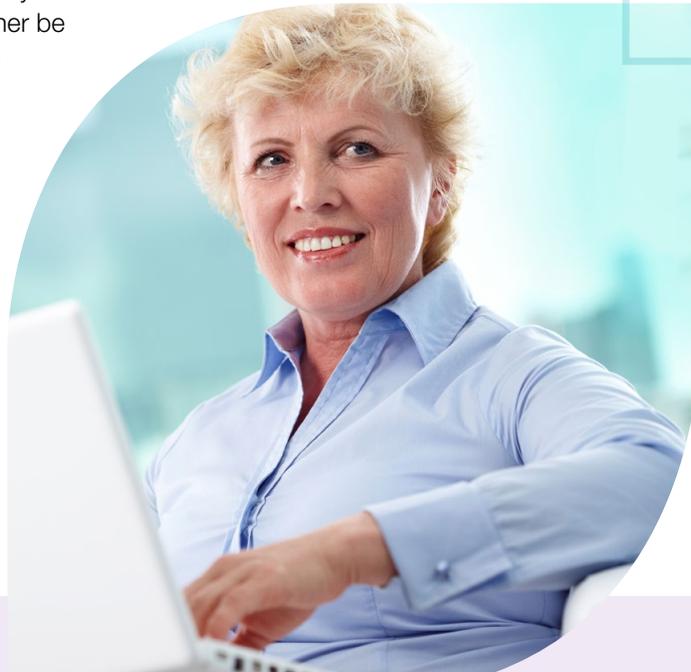
As a Student member of BACP you'll appreciate the need for standards within the profession. Through our *Ethical Framework* and the BACP Register we demonstrate our commitment to safeguarding clients and making sure that they have access to competent ethical practitioners.

Many within the profession see our *Ethical Framework* as essential to attaining this goal. Your tutors, placement providers, and ultimately your clients can be confident that as a BACP member you are accountable for your practice, even as a student.

You may well have already started seeing clients, or perhaps this is on the horizon, but we're sure that you'll believe that they deserve the best from their practitioner. This is why once you're qualified, we ask all practising members to either be working towards, or be a Registered member. This is the level of membership that BACP promotes as the minimum standard clients should be looking for.

Membership of BACP will give you professional credibility throughout your studies, and your career, demonstrating your commitment to ethics and standards.

The BACP Register **demonstrates our commitment** to safeguarding clients





Ethical Framework

The *BACP Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling and Psychotherapy* is vital for the protection of the public, the reputation of the profession and in upholding the standards of good practice within the profession; providing a protective yet flexible core frame of reference for BACP members.

As a BACP member you'll be agreeing to abide by the *BACP Ethical Framework* which gives you guidance in your studies, placement and, after graduation as a qualified practitioner.

From 1 July 2016 all our members will need to work to the *BACP Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions*. This is our new Ethical Framework which has been revised to ensure that it remains relevant and effective for the profession.

BACP Register of Counsellors and Psychotherapists

As a Student member, once you have successfully graduated we will upgrade your membership category to Individual member with just a copy of your graduation certificate. From here you then have up to 24 months to work towards meeting the requirements of the BACP Register, and progress to our Registered Member MBACP category.

Your journey through our membership categories reflects your career progression, validating your commitment to high standards and giving the public confidence that the practitioner they choose is trained and qualified, and maintains their standards of practice through continuing professional development. Registered Member MBACP is the recommended level of membership the public should be looking for when seeking a therapist.

Once listed on the BACP Register you'll have the use of designatory letters 'Registered Member MBACP' and a distinctive logo reflecting the status of registrant.

For members who haven't graduated from a BACP accredited course, then passing our own Certificate of Proficiency after graduation will demonstrate awareness of the knowledge, skills and abilities that are involved in being a counselling professional.

Further information on the current routes to registration can be found on the BACP Register website: www.bacpregister.org.uk.

Our Ethical Framework
guides your practice and reassures clients



Good practice guidance

Whilst you train, you'll be looking for guidance and information to support you with your studies and your placement. With BACP membership you can be confident of finding researched and reliable resources that have been written by experts.

Our range of good practice resources and the new *Good Practice in Action* guidance will be of great significance to you throughout your studies, and when you become a qualified practitioner.

We've taken the inconvenience out of searching for information to support your course modules. Delivered straight to your door, BACP's *Therapy Today* journal with cutting edge articles will help keep you informed.

When writing essays or dissertations for your course you'll find *Therapy Today* often contains contact details of the article author enabling you to make contact, or perhaps our Dissertation Database will point you in the right direction for that elusive bit of research.

The BACP website remains a vital tool when searching for information, resources, and guidance. Much of the information detailed here can be found at www.bacp.co.uk however, some areas are accessible to members only.

**Researched
reliable guidance**
to support you
with your
studies and
placement



Good practice guidance

As a student member of BACP you will be able to access for free, further guidance on specific areas of the counselling professions through our *Good Practice in Action* resources.

Written by expert practitioners, our developing range of resources helps you engage with the new *Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions*, and will educate and equip you in your studies, course work and dissertations.

Included are a number of legal resources in respect of safeguarding, supervision, confidentiality, and counselling in schools.

Also available are fact sheets and commonly asked questions about supervision, working online, and social media, with many more planned for the future.

Therapy Today

As part of BACP membership you will receive our professional journal *Therapy Today*, which will help you stay informed on current practice methods and issues within the psychological therapies field.

Current Student members find the broad range of therapy related subjects supportive of the many aspects of their course work, with up to date thinking in the field, current research development, topical national news, a placement noticeboard and job adverts.

BACP Dissertation Database

Should your course require you to undertake an essay or a dissertation then the BACP Dissertation Database can assist you. Our database offers searchable abstracts of Masters and PhD dissertations in counselling and psychotherapy which in many cases include the contact details of the author, giving you the opportunity to get in touch for further information.

Keeping you informed on current practice methods and research





Counselling
changes
lives



Creating opportunities for members

From talking with many of our Student members, we appreciate that finding your integral placement is difficult and often the biggest worry. To help you with this dilemma we created our Student Placement Database which can help you locate a provider near to you.

Once you approach graduation we know your thoughts will turn to employment. Finding that first paid position can take time so to aid you with job hunting BACP offers *JobsOnline*, giving you access to the latest counselling and psychotherapy vacancies. Our journal *Therapy Today* is also a good place to start looking with many employers advertising their latest vacancies here.

As a student, you're at the beginning of a professional journey which our membership grades recognise. Travelling through our grades we'll acknowledge your experience with the use of designatory letters and unique logos.

Progressing through your career we're sure you'll be aiming to achieve Accredited member status as an ultimate goal.

Employers, and clients, are not only expecting their practitioners to be on the BACP Register but that they achieve the higher standard of an Accredited member. This may feel a long way off, but we'll help you get there.

We recognise
your experience
and maturity
**with designatory
letters**





Student Placement Database

Student placements are becoming increasingly difficult to find as the demand for a placement far exceeds availability. BACP created a database specifically to help you find that all important placement which is vital for completing your qualifications.

You can locate details of placements within your local area from a listing of providers in various settings before discussing the opportunity with your tutors to ensure the placement is appropriate to your training.

JobsOnline

JobsOnline is our online recruitment facility to assist you in searching for your first job. The number of opportunities for paid employment in the counselling and psychotherapy field by no means meets the need from those who are professionally qualified; with many of these positions part time.

JobsOnline provides access to the latest counselling and psychotherapy vacancies for anyone in search of employment within the field. Available through the members' section of our website, you can register for details of new local jobs to be sent to you directly, at no extra cost, as soon as they are advertised.

JobsOnline provides access to the latest counselling and psychotherapy vacancies

Accreditation resources

New interactive accreditation resources are available to help you to understand the requirements and assist you through our accreditation process.

These resources are free to access, and return to, once you're ready to work towards accreditation, helping you to reach that ultimate goal.



Providing support

Knowing who to turn to when you experience an ethical dilemma, or require guidance on the interpretation of the *Ethical Framework*, can be confusing.

Your tutor or supervisor can offer their thoughts but we're also here at BACP to listen to your issue and present you with a perspective to help you find a resolution.

Your course will teach you the theoretical and practical sides to being a practitioner, but not all courses cover how you transition from a student to a qualified practitioner.

Our experience has shown that students can struggle when they move from a highly supportive environment to being a fully-fledged practitioner, who is accountable for their own practice.

You'll find the BACP low cost biennial Student Conference and Exhibition a great place to discover all you need to know.

We want **you**
to think of us
when you need
support and
guidance



Student event

You'll find the biennial BACP Student Conference and Exhibition a great place to gather advice in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere where we aim to 'bridge the gap' on the information available to you, as you progress on your journey from student to qualified practitioner.

Here we offer a safe environment to explore the options available to you when you graduate, such as which sector you could look to work in.

This low cost day is purely for our Student members and evolves following feedback from previous delegates, with workshops on various topics relevant to your studies, placement, the profession, and your future career.

You will compile your own unique schedule of workshops with a number of different titles to choose from. You also have the opportunity to book one-to-one appointments with some of the exhibitors and attend taster talks being delivered in the main exhibition area.

Ethics helpdesk

The BACP Ethics helpdesk provides an objective sounding board should you have concerns around ethical practice and the interpretation of the *Ethical Framework*. They support you in making decisions autonomously using the principles of the *Ethical Framework*.

The Ethics Officers cannot offer advice; however they can offer an impartial perspective on the issue you present, for discussion with your supervisor or tutor prior to taking any course of action. They can also signpost you to other helpful and appropriate organisations, publications or good practice guidance.

www.bacp.co.uk/student

BACP's website has a section for students who are either looking to start training, are currently training, or have recently graduated.

Through the student web pages you will be able to gather information and resources that will assist you with your training or career.



**Gather advice
in a friendly
and relaxed
atmosphere**



Expanding your knowledge and skills

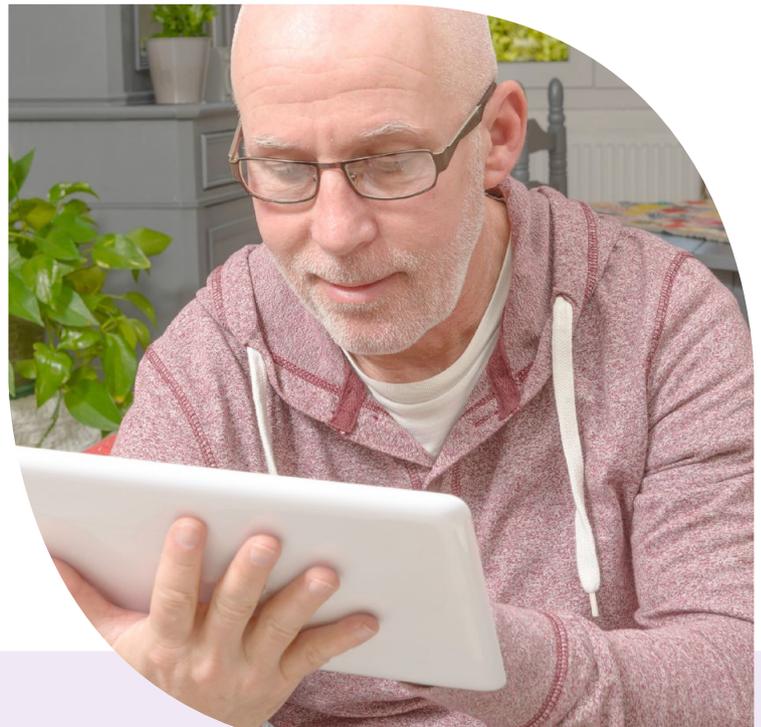
As a committed professional you'll appreciate your responsibility to keep your knowledge and skills up to date, not only for the benefit of your own training and practice but as a requirement of the Register and Accreditation.

BACP recognises the importance of continuing professional development (CPD) and provides opportunities for all levels of members to participate and improve their learning, helping you build your portfolio of CPD.

Knowing where to look for good CPD can be difficult and expensive. Often, finding your own CPD comes with no guarantees that what you're paying for will be of any value or substance. Our online learning and Professional Development Days offer content that has been validated by BACP with assurances that it will meet the necessary standards for your growing CPD portfolio.

They also give you convenience, by allowing you to choose between learning from the comfort of your own home or in a group environment.

Knowing where to look for good CPD **can be difficult and expensive** – but we can help!





Professional Development Days

To help you with good quality CPD opportunities at a reasonable cost BACP has developed our own range of Professional Development Days.

With clearly defined outcomes our PDDs deliver valuable CPD to help you grow your practitioner skills in specified areas. The days are interactive, enabling delegates to gain maximum benefit, and are delivered by expert tutors, selected by BACP.

As well as informing your practice these PDDs can form part of your required portfolio of CPD for BACP Registration and Accreditation.

E-learning

We are aware of a growing demand for online learning and have responded to this need with a series of online learning modules.

Each module comprises a single theme and you are able to dip in and out of the learning, saving work as you go along. To complement our Professional Development Days we are developing a range of practice based e-learning modules.

Each module can add to your CPD portfolio and is accessible for a small fee through the BACP website, with members gaining access at a reduced fee.

Interactive learning
to grow your practitioner skills

Creating connections

Experience shows us that some training courses are small in size making students feel disconnected from their new profession. Others are larger courses giving students many peers to discuss issues with, but perhaps not offering the anonymity that may be desired.

For all of our members we have BACP Connect where you can join communities, set up a community, ask a question or join an ongoing discussion. Here you'll also find our qualified practitioner members and can become immersed in the profession.

Linking up with students and practitioners within your area can be difficult, often with costs involved, and uncertainties around the professionalism of those involved. BACP's free Making Connections events will put you in touch with other BACP members and provide you with the environment to discuss important issues, knowing you'll be heard by peers and BACP.

We also have seven sector specific Divisions whose Executive Committee is comprised of BACP members experienced in their own arena. They create a sense of community amongst their divisional members who work within these sectors by organising networking groups.



Share best practice and support by **joining networks and communities**

Run by members for members to find mutual peer support these network groups allow you to share experiences, make new contacts and gain CPD through speaker based and discussion meetings.

Sector specific divisions

BACP has seven Divisions established to promote ethical, effective and professional practice within their sector and equip members with knowledge and guidance through specialist information and support. They aim to create a sense of community amongst their members working within these sectors and act as experts giving support and direction to their members.

Each Division produces its own quarterly journal with articles unique to their sector to keep you up to date and informed on current practice methods. BACP's sector specific divisions are: children and young people, coaching, healthcare, private practice, spirituality, universities and colleges, and workplace.

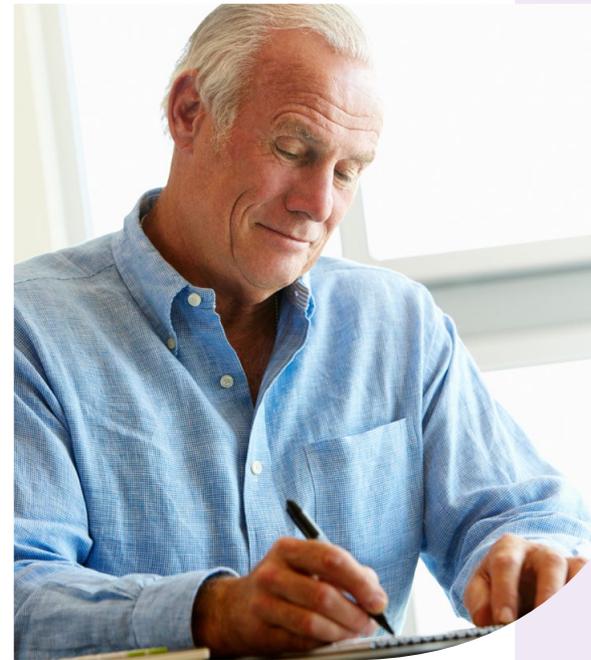
Making Connections events

These free to attend events offer you the opportunities to not only connect with BACP, but also with practitioners and students, in your local area. Here you can discuss the issues that you're currently facing, or concerns that you have with the profession.

You'll meet members with differing experience and a myriad of interests, giving you the chance to form networks to support you in your studies and once qualified.

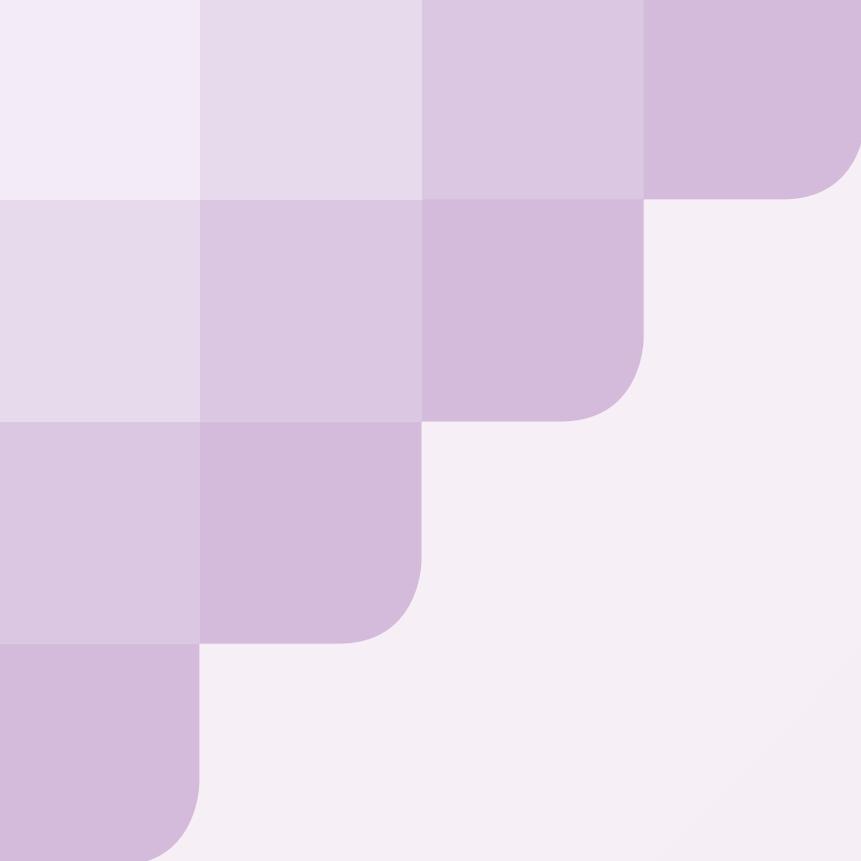


Discuss professional issues or concerns directly with BACP



Join BACP so that

we can support and guide you on your journey to becoming a qualified practitioner



Counselling changes lives

bacp

British Association for
Counselling & Psychotherapy

BACP House

15 St John's Business Park

Lutterworth LE17 4HB

t: 01455 883300

f: 01455 550243

e: bacp@bacp.co.uk

w: www.bacp.co.uk

Company limited by guarantee 2175320

Registered in England & Wales

Registered Charity 298361

© BACP February 2016