

Accredited Registers

Condition Review: British Psychoanalytic Council (BPC)

3 January 2023

1. Outcome

- 1.1 We assessed whether the British Psychoanalytic Council (BPC) had met the following Condition, issued at its previous full assessment in April 2022¹:
- 1.2 ‘Current routes to registration should be set out in clear, published documents within six months. This should make clear how each of the BPC’s Member Institutions (MIs) determine competence (for example through training or qualifications), including key course information such as expected duration of training courses. There should be clear information on how equivalence for applicants applying outside of the normal training routes is determined by the MIs. This will provide clearer information about routes to registration pending more substantive work to clarify education and training criteria.’
- 1.3 We found that the Condition had been met.

2. Background

- 2.1 We assess registers against our *Standards for Accredited Registers* (‘the Standards’).² Where a Register has not met a Standard, an Accreditation Panel can issue Conditions. A Condition sets out the requirements and the timeframe that a Register must meet.
- 2.2 We issued three Conditions at the BPC’s last assessment in March 2023. The first of these, set out at paragraph 1.2 above, was due by 6 October 2022. This concerned the BPC’s registration processes.
- 2.3 To be eligible for registration with the BPC, practitioners must have completed training with one of its Member Institutions (MI) or determined by one of the MIs to have equivalent skills and experience. During our assessment we had identified concerns about whether the BPC’s website provided clear information on how to apply for registration and how applications would be assessed.
- 2.4 Although the BPC accredits the training delivered by the MIs, for most areas its criteria for education and training were in development. The only core component set out in the criteria we saw was that a practitioner should have had substantial personal therapy. This meant that it was difficult to determine how the BPC assures itself that the training delivered by MIs meet its requirements for registration.
- 2.5 To address this, Condition 1 was issued:
‘Current routes to registration should be set out in clear, published documents within six months. This should make clear how each of the BPC’s

¹ https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/accredited-registers/panel-decisions/bpc-2021-22-renewal-assessment.pdf?sfvrsn=dc657120_20

² https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/accredited-registers/standards-for-accredited-registers/standards-for-accredited-registers.pdf?sfvrsn=cc2c7f20_6

Member Institutions (MIs) determine competence (for example through training or qualifications), including key course information such as expected duration of training courses. There should be clear information on how equivalence for applicants applying outside of the normal training routes is determined by the MIs. This will provide clearer information about routes to registration pending more substantive work to clarify education and training criteria.’

- 2.6 The BPC submitted its evidence for the Condition by the deadline:
- a) The BPC’s reported actions about what it had done to meet Condition One
 - b) Relevant information published at <https://www.bpc.org.uk/>

3. Assessment

- 3.1 The BPC has updated its website to include further information about joining the register, practice and theory requirements; and how it will assess applications based on equivalent experience.
- 3.2 The BPC’s new Joining Our Register page³ states that people wishing to join its register must:
- Have completed an accredited training or having met equivalence requirements with an MI
 - Register with an MI who will then provide the BPC’s application form
 - Agree to be subject to the BPC’s Code of Ethics, Duty of Candour, CPD and other register requirements.
- 3.3 This page links to the BPC’s Practice and Theory requirements webpage⁴ which states the psychoanalytic and psychodynamic competencies that registrants must demonstrate. Practice requirements include, for example, the ability to ‘Make and maintain therapeutic relationships’ and ‘Hold appropriate boundaries and provide secure settings’. Theory requirements highlight that the ‘mode of clinical practice and theory taught to Registrants is that of the British clinical tradition’ based on the theories of practitioners such as Freud, Jung and their successors.
- 3.4 The BPC’s ‘guidance on completing our New Registrant Form’⁵ page provides screenshots of its application form and guidance for each section. This highlights that applicants will be required to adhere to the BPC Code of Ethics and equal opportunities policy, commit to completing CPD, confirming insurance, and making any relevant fitness to practise declarations. The guidance states that applications will be checked with the relevant MI.
- 3.5 The BPC has published ‘Training and Training Therapist Criteria’ setting out the competencies held for each of the BPC’s modalities (for example Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Training Criteria and Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Training Criteria).
- 3.6 We noted that the criteria includes key information for MIs, including:

³ <https://www.bpc.org.uk/professionals/registrants/joining-our-register/>

⁴ <https://www.bpc.org.uk/professionals/registrants/practice-and-theory-requirements/>

⁵ <https://www.bpc.org.uk/professionals/registrants/guidance-on-completing-our-new-registrant-form/>

- Pre-application requirements
 - expected duration of training
 - training components including academic teaching, clinical work, personal therapy requirements, approved supervision and regular assessment
- 3.7 We checked that samples of individual MI's training requirements aligned with those of the BPC.
- 3.8 The BPC has set out its equivalence process for those wishing to register without having completed an approved MI training. The BPC's guidance directs applicants to contact MIs relevant to their modality for information about their equivalence process and any specific criteria. The practitioner's training will be compared to its stated training criteria and practice and theory requirements.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 We found that BPC has set out its routes to registration in clear, published documents within the timescale set. It makes clear how each of the BPC's Member Institutions (MIs) determine competence (for example through training or qualifications), including key course information such as expected duration of training courses. There is clear information on how equivalence for applicants applying outside of the normal training routes is determined by the MIs. This provides clearer information about routes to registration, pending further work to clarify education and training criteria.
- 4.2 We therefore found that Condition One has been met. The remaining two Conditions are due in April and October 2023 respectively.