

British Psychodrama Association Requirements for Registering Practitioners who Qualified Outside of the UK

Adopted 5th April 2025

*This policy was drafted by Anna Chesner and Clark Baim.
It was approved by the TAC in March 2025
and ratified by the Full BPA Executive on 5th April 2025.*

Overview of the policy:

The BPA allows practitioners who move to the UK and who are qualified psychodrama practitioners in other countries to apply for registration as BPA practitioners in the UK. Such accreditation will allow them to become registered as psychodrama psychotherapy practitioners with the BPA and the UKCP.

For people with psychodrama qualifications from a European training institute:

Applicants seeking registration as practitioners with the BPA who gained their qualification with a European training institute which is a member of FEPTO, PaFE, EAP or the equivalent, are required to send:

- A completed practitioner application form, with evidence of the current BPA membership, e.g. ordinary membership. These should be submitted to the BPA Administrator (administrator@psychodrama.org.uk), the Training and Accreditation Committee Chair, and a member of the TAC who has been in liaison with the practitioner as their mentor / sponsor.
- A copy of their current registration certificate as a practitioner in their home country. Applicants must be on the current register in their home country. In cases where their membership in their home country has lapsed, this lapse must not be more than one year.
- A copy of their diploma / qualification in psychodrama. This diploma will need to indicate whether the candidate has achieved a level of competence and training equivalent to the qualification in the UK as a psychodrama psychotherapist.
- A copy of their National Umbrella Organisation (if there is one) certificate.
- A full CV, including details of clinical practice experience of at least 450 hours.
- A reference from either their original training organisation or a BPA registered Senior Trainer who has first-hand knowledge of their work.
- A reference from a recent supervisor who must normally be from their home country or based in the UK.
- If English is not their first language, a certificate of language proficiency in English (see further information below).

IMPORTANT: All documents submitted (including certificates) which are not in English must be accompanied by a translation in English. Both the original and English translation should be sent.

Applicants who qualified beyond Europe seeking registration with BPA:

Applicants who qualified outside of Europe seeking registration with BPA should supply all the above evidence, as relevant, and in addition provide a detailed description of the course they followed to become a psychodrama psychotherapist. This should include training contact hours, clinical practice, personal therapy, and supervision. These must approximate BPA standards.

Other information:

After acceptance onto the BPA practitioner register: If the candidate will be practicing within the UK, they will be required to register as practitioners with the UKCP and the BPA, and to maintain their registration each year to both organisations.

All applicants must disclose and provide relevant information about any prior criminal convictions or if they have any criminal proceedings pending in any country or jurisdiction. In addition, candidates must disclose any formal complaints made against them which have been upheld by a professional body, or which are pending at the time of submission of the portfolio. Such complaints include complaints made in the context of paid as well as voluntary / unpaid work, in any country or jurisdiction. Failure to disclose convictions and complaints at the application stage may jeopardise the candidate's status with the BPA as a Psychodrama Practitioner in the future.

Legal frameworks: In addition, if an applicant is going to be working as a psychotherapist in the UK, they need to develop an understanding of the legal framework that underpins the practice of psychotherapy in the UK, including the Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act, DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards), safeguarding adults and children, and Duty of Care. This must be evidenced, such as a report from a mentor, or attendance certificates from appropriate training courses.

Language proficiency: Candidates must be able to speak and read English to the following level: 7.0 IELTS score in the reading, listening and speaking sections, 6.5 in writing, and 6.5 overall.

If, for some reason, an applicant cannot meet the above requirements, then they will need to be mentored by a BPA registered Senior Trainer who will then supply a report when they have undergone whatever additional training, supervision or clinical practice might be deemed necessary.

The decision on registration will normally be taken by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee in consultation with one other member of the committee, who is not well known to the applicant. If the assessors have any major doubts, then the decision can be referred to the next meeting of the Accreditation Committee.