cosrt

College of Sexual and Relationship Therapists

Membership Categories Supporting information

Contents

Application, Fees and Renewal 3

COSRT Assessments 4

Moving Between Categories 5

Designatory Letters, Logo and COSRT Name 6

Journal of Sexual and Relationship Therapy 7

COSRT's Register and Supervisor Register 8

COSRT Find a Therapist 9

Application, Fees and Renewal

How to Apply

All applications for COSRT membership are made electronically. This is through electronic application forms and (subject to availability) an online application process accessed via the COSRT website.

For more information on applying click here.

How to Pay

Membership fees cover a calendar year from 1st January to 31st December. Anyone joining during the year pays a reduced pro-rata fee to cover the full months remaining. For example, Bill applies and his application is accepted on 20th March. Bill will become a member and pay fees covering April to December inclusive.

Fees are paid by Direct Debit or BACS. The former can either be monthly or annually.

Reduced Fees

If an applicant or current member is in receipt of income-related state benefits they are eligible for reduced fees. Appropriate benefits are:

- Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disability Allowance
- Universal Credit

Applicants for reduced fees must provide a copy of formal notification of benefits from the relevant agency. COSRT must be informed within 7 days if benefits are ended and the member will be moved to full fees. Failure to disclose the end of benefits will result in the member being subject to conduct proceedings and liable for legal action.

Renewal

Membership is renewed each year. Members will receive notification of renewal including fees between one and two months prior to the year end.

COSRT Assessments

Overview

COSRT requires that certain applicants for membership complete an assessment of their professional skills and competencies. This is to ensure maximum protection for the public and other professionals alike. Any assessment is in addition to other requirements such as formal academic or vocational qualifications.

Third-party Registrant Entry

People who are already in accredited professional registers held by third-party organisations can enter COSRT. They may do so at times and at COSRT's discretion, by demonstrating specialist skills and expertise through assessments specific to the category they are applying for:

- COSRT Professional Competence Registered Assessment in Psychosexual and Relationship Therapy (Registered Member applicant)
- COSRT Professional Competence Registered Assessment in Psychosexual and Relationship Therapy (Accredited Member applicant)

These are detailed case study-based assessments with applicant responses reviewed and judged by COSRT's Professional Standards Board. Case studies focus on diverse aspects of relationship and psychosexual therapy and require people to show a high degree of expertise gained over a significant period.

Supervision

Applicants to be Registered Supervisors must demonstrate their relevant skills through the COSRT Supervisor Assessment. This uses case study scenarios and wider reflective questions to allow applicants to demonstrate the skills and experience required to undertake effective supervision. Applicant responses are reviewed and judged by COSRT's Professional Standards Board.

Senior Accreditation

Senior Accredited Member status is reserved for practitioners with the very highest levels of experience and expertise. In order to demonstrate this, applicants are required to undertake a reflective exercise exploring and using both theory and practice. The aim is to show not just expertise, but also true critical thinking based on experienced and knowledge gained over a long period of time. Applicant responses are reviewed and judged by COSRT's Professional Standards Board.

Moving Between Categories

Voluntary Changes

Progression through COSRT membership categories is voluntary except for certain circumstances. Members may apply to move into different categories subject to them meeting the requirements. Applications will be assessed by COSRT and any decision to transfer a member across categories is made at COSRT's discretion.

Compulsory Changes

There are certain circumstances where members must move categories upon notice from COSRT:

- Student members graduating and being moved to Professional Associate or Registered Member status
- Retired Members moving back to Professional Associate or other category after re-entry into work
- Member categories being changed as a result of Conduct Proceedings

Designatory Letters, Logo and COSRT Name

Overview

COSRT allows members to use specified designatory letters when they are in certain categories:

- Registered (and supervisor)
- Accredited (and supervisor)
- Senior Accredited

Limited and defined use of COSRT's logo and name is also granted to members according to their category. Full details can be found in "Terms and Conditions of Membership and Accreditation" plus the information document "Using Designatory Letters and Marks".

Journal of Sexual and Relationship Therapy

Overview

Sexual and Relationship Therapy: International Perspectives on Theory, Research and Practice (SRT) is COSRT's academic journal bringing together high-quality theory and evidence on sexual and relationship issues. SRT is an international, peer-reviewed journal, attracting authors from all over the globe published by Taylor and Francis.

As well as publishing original research, the Journal brings to its readers leading comments, controversial debate topics, literature and science updates, book reviews, a comprehensive calendar of events, editorials and clinical cases.

More information on the journal can be found here.

Member Access

All COSRT members (except Fellows) receive free access to the journal. This will happen without members doing anything. COSRT provides Taylor and Francis with member details throughout the year. The journal publishers then provide members with electronic tokens to access the journal through the relevant links directly.

COSRT's Register and Supervisor Register

Overview

COSRT's Registers are online listings of all COSRT members sitting within registered categories. The aim is to provide a simple way for any third-party to check the status of a practitioner. The key function of the Registers is to help protect the public and uphold professional standards.

Format

The Registers are simple and easy to understand. Information is limited so that every relevant member has the following information publicly available in the COSRT Register:

- Name
- Membership number
- Town and postcode (where they are based)
- Membership status (category)

The Supervisor Register is based on this model but with the addition of information on their supervisor registration status

Who Maintains Them?

COSRT is responsible for keeping the Registers up to date. Members do not complete or amend the Registers at any point.

COSRT Find a Therapist

Overview

Find a Therapist is an online search engine to allow third parties to search for a therapist from within COSRT's membership. This is voluntary and can include anyone practicing including students and any relevant professional associates.

Profiles

Profiles will include as a minimum:

- Name
- Membership number and status
- Email and/or phone number
- Town
- Postcode
- Biography (max 100 words)

Optional fields that members can choose to complete include:

- Photograph
- Website
- Languages spoken
- Forms of therapy used
- Issues dealt with
- Type of client
- Rates and discounts

Completing Profiles

Members complete their profiles themselves. COSRT staff review all profiles and remove any which are incomplete or inappropriate, informing the member of required changes if so.