

Guidelines for supervisors supporting applicants for Accreditation

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Introduction

Individuals are solely responsible for their applications for Accredited or Senior Accredited Membership. However, supervisors can play a key role in supporting people through the process. This document outlines key elements and principles of Accreditation whether for the psychosexual or relationship register to help supervisors provide the best assistance possible.

What is Accreditation?

Accredited and Senior Accredited Membership are for therapists with high-levels of expertise and experience. Applicants must meet stringent criteria and set the standards for the professions. Accreditation at either level indicates seniority and is sought after by service users, employers, and fellow professionals as a sign of quality.

What does Accreditation involve?

Accreditation comprises two elements – the provision of detailed documentary evidence, and the completion of rigorous assessment.

Proof training

Accreditation rests in part on proof of appropriate training in psychosexual and relationship therapy or relationship therapy. Applicants can build their application on a single eligible qualification, or a 'basket' of multiple qualifications. If the latter route is taken, there must still be a single main qualification around which others can be grouped. Supervisors can play a significant role in helping applicants critically examine their qualifications to determine if the requirements are met or not.

Period of specialised practice

To be eligible for Accreditation, an individual must meet strict criteria on their previous clinical practice within psychosexual and relationship therapy. The clinical hours requirement is 450.

Additional documentary evidence

Applicants must also provide the following core evidence when applying for Accreditation:

- Evidence of Insurance
- Evidence of use of title if applicable
- Copy of the applicant's Service User agreement
- Copy of the applicant's supervision agreement/s

Assessments

No individual is awarded Accreditation without successfully completing all parts of assessment. The aim of the assessment is to allow applicants to demonstrate their expertise in psychosexual and relationship therapy practice and theory.

Assessments are marked anonymously by members of an Accreditation Panel – not COSRT staff. A detailed marking schema is used to ensure uniformity across assessments.

It is obviously vital that any work is the work of the applicant. It is also important that the submission shows critical thinking and supports the seniority of the applicant. Supervisors can play a key role in helping applicants reflect on their work and experiences, to in turn provide compelling and high-quality assessment submissions.

Accreditation is about practice as much as training. Therefore, it is highly recommended that applicants use original materials in assessment, based on clinical practice and development. Supervisors can help applicants guard against revisiting case studies or other activities completed within training which will not reach the required standard.

Assessment 1 – Reflection and Insight

The applicant is required to complete four pieces of work as part of assessment 1. This section focuses on how the applicant has developed over time.

The topics are:

- Model of choice when working clinically
- CPD that has affected practice
- Supervision and use of
- Personal development

Successful applications share common traits – critical thinking, clarity of focus, and adherence to basic requirements on word limits.

Assessment 2 – Case Study

Applicants must submit a large case study drawing on a real-life example of their work with service user(s) to show their expertise. There is detailed guidance available to applicants on this case study.

Supervisors can support applicants to focus on the clearly articulated elements that must be demonstrated within the case study. Detailed guidance is available to all applicants on the website. COSRT recommends that

any supervisor helping an individual think about how they can show they meet Accreditation requirements reads this document.

It is inadvisable for applicants to re-use case studies or materials created for other purposes unless there is reflection of practice and theory in-light of consolidated experience commensurate with accredited status.

Provision of evidence logs

As part of the application, individuals must also submit the following logs that are assessed by COSRT staff:

- Clinical practice
- Supervision
- CPD
- Personal therapy

All the logs must be signed by the supervisor as verification. When providing this verification, supervisors should ensure that the supervision log marries up with the clinical practice log.

What do I need to submit as a supervisor?

If the applicant has had more than one supervisor, COSRT suggests that the clinical log and supervision log for each supervisor are completed separately so it can clearly be seen who supervised which clinical work. The logs must demonstrate the clinical practice as detailed in requirements documents available to applicants. A supervisor's report will be requested for all supervisors who have undertaken supervision of the applicant's clinical work.

Please note that when you complete this you are attesting to the supervisees suitability to be awarded Accredited status so, please be clear and honest.

You also need to supply a copy of your supervision agreement.

If there are any queries COSRT is always pleased to help, please contact jo.coker@cosrt.org.uk