

April 2020

Dear trainee counsellor

I wanted to contact you to reassure you that BACP is working very closely with accredited courses to ensure that the impact of the pandemic on your studies is kept to a minimum. As the situation has developed, I know it must be extremely challenging for you to find that client work and teaching are temporarily ceased or carried out remotely via online platforms.

We all find ourselves in an exceptional set of circumstances and we'd like to thank you for your patience during this time, while we have worked to develop our responses to the Covid-19 outbreak. I hope you have been able to access some of the resources, guidance and information that we have produced – and are regularly updating – on our [website](#).

We are currently working very closely with training providers and other key stakeholders to support courses to find ways to enable students to continue with their studies whilst maintaining professional/accreditation standards. With this in mind, we have introduced some flexibilities in our requirements for course accreditation to minimise the disruption during these unprecedented times as much as possible.

Any adjustments that your course makes to the assessment, teaching and/or practice elements of the course are based on a set of mutual principles that we have developed in collaboration with training providers. These include:

- Being as flexible as possible while maintaining a standard
- Making decisions about individual students based on evidence
- Acting in the best interest of clients
- Working collaboratively with trainers, students, placements and supervisors

Each course will apply these principles in different ways depending on a range of factors, and these might differ for each training provider, and on an individual case-by-case basis but these agreed principles are there to underpin any decision making.

We have taken these steps to ensure that that your course's accreditation is not adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and so if you are in your final year of study, you will qualify with a BACP accredited award provided you are able to meet the assessment criteria for your course. This includes any extensions that your course has put in place to support you to complete the necessary tutor contact and placement hours.

We will continue to liaise with accredited courses as the situation develops so please feel reassured that if any further changes are needed, your training provider will be kept informed.

If you have any queries or concerns, please could you direct these to your training provider in the first instance. Equally, please also refer to our FAQs on our website.

Warm regards

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Caroline Jesper
Interim Head of Professional Standards