



# International Association for Counselling

## IAC Certification

### Education Programmes/Courses



### Value of IAC Certification

- Demonstrates High Standards of International Counselling Education and Ethics
- High Marketability - Strong Appeal to International Students
- Communicates Your Values to Students, Faculty, Partners and Stakeholders
- Elevates and Distinguishes your Programme from Others
- Assures Quality of International Programme
- Opens Access to Wide New Markets
- Brand Value of Prestigious Partnership with IAC
- Low-Cost and User-Friendly Online Application

### IAC - Connecting Counselling Educators Worldwide





# International Association for Counselling

## Introduction

The International Association for Counselling (IAC) is an International Non-Governmental Association (NGO) with UN consultative status. Since 1966, we have worked to advance the development of counselling through practice, education, research, and advocacy initiatives. IAC advances the development of counselling in order to improve people's lives and well-being.

**Our Vision:** A world where counselling is available to all.

Counselling changes lives for the better and reduces suffering. IAC's humanitarian movement advocates for more access to counselling worldwide. IAC lobbies and influences governments and international organisations to have counselling better recognised as a profession. IAC is working to advance the counselling profession worldwide and we invite you to join us in our mission.

## What is IAC Certification?

Certification is awarded in recognition of a validated commitment to raising counselling standards through: international learning and exchange, respect for diversity, and the promotion of cross-cultural awareness. In many cases, counselling/psychotherapy/psychology educators and leaders want to outwardly showcase their institution's commitment to the international dimension of counselling. Many also wish to raise the appeal of their education programmes to potential students - including the burgeoning international student market. In addition, recognition by a prestigious international counselling body, assists in bringing deserved, additional, credibility to high quality programmes. For IAC, raising the standard and quality of education programmes worldwide, through awarding our certification, directly aligns with our central aim of advancing counselling worldwide.

IAC Certification brings with it multiple benefits that go far beyond the enhanced status of successful certification. These include the creation of multiple opportunities for international collaborative research, networking, internship and exchange.

### Ongoing IAC Activity:

- International Counselling Journal (since 1976)
- World Mapping of Counselling Activity
- Specialist Roundtables and Forums
- Advocacy to UN/WHO and Governments
- Major Annual Conference
- International Projects, Webinars, Newsletters, and Partnerships





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## How to Apply for IAC Certification

### User – Friendly Application Process

In order to obtain IAC certification, you must complete our application process. We have attempted to make the process as user-friendly as possible and it should take no longer than 30 minutes (in total) to complete. If you require any assistance please email: [ceo@iac-irtac.org](mailto:ceo@iac-irtac.org)

**Step 1:** Become an IAC Education Institute Member. This is done through a simple two-step online process (Registration and Payment).

**Step 2:** Read a copy of the **IAC Certification Application Form** (all details below) and gather PDFs of any materials (your programme brochure, code of ethics you work to, other programme certification held) that you may need to upload as part of the application process.

**Step 3:** Fill in the online IAC Certification Application Form. The online form is available in the IAC Member's area of the website only. The member's area can be accessed following completion of Step 1 (Membership) above.

**Step 4:** Pay the certification application fee (\$325 USD). **This fee covers two full years from the date of certification.** Finally, submit the application form.

**Step 5:** The review and approval process will be complete within one month of the date of submission. Your application will be approved or you will receive constructive feedback on how you might meet our criteria.

**Step 6:** If your application is approved, you will receive a high quality **Downloadable IAC Certificate PDF** – customised with your Education Programme's details. Your Education Programme will also be listed on the IAC website as an IAC Certified Programme.



[www.iac-irtac.org](http://www.iac-irtac.org)





# International Association for Counselling

## What Are the Eligibility Criteria?

**General Eligibility:** To apply, your Education Institute must be a provider of education programmes in one or more of the following areas of IAC Certification:

- Counselling
- Psychotherapy /Counselling Psychology
- School and Guidance Counselling
- Counsellor Educator and Supervisor Training
- Mental Health / Well-Being

*“IAC Certification gave our programmes a distinct international advantage”*

## Application Form Questions (Specific Criteria)

The user-friendly online application form contains two sections (A & B).

### Section A:

- **Basic Contact Information** (Education Institute name, name of education programme, contact person, email address, website, and postal address).
- **Programme Description and Details:** You are asked for a short description of your programme and to advise of pre-existing local/regional certification (if any). PDF files can be uploaded at this point to support your application (e.g. programme brochure, code of ethics to which the programme subscribes, copy of local certification - if any).

### Section B - Eligibility Criteria:

This core section of the form contains nine questions and a space for the provision of further information (if any).

Questions one to eight are declarative (Yes/No answers). Questions nine and ten require elaboration and the online form contains space in which to provide text. All application form questions can be seen overleaf.



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## Application Form Questions

1. Is there a demonstrable commitment to teaching about international developments in counselling/psychotherapy? **Yes/No** (Please note: IAC Education Institute Membership is an example of commitment).
  2. Do you subscribe to the principles underlying the **United Nations Declaration of Human Rights**? **Yes/No**
  3. Do you use textbooks or other education materials from other continents? **Yes/No**
  4. Are international students offered counselling or other psychological supports? **Yes/No**
  5. Does your programme allow for discussion and recognition of local or indigenous helping/healing counselling practices? **Yes/No**
  6. Do programme staff take steps to understand the political contexts and relationships in the international students' countries? **Yes/No**
  7. Do programme staff receive any training on inter-cultural communication or cultural sensitivity? **Yes/No**
  8. Do your programme staff occasionally attend at international conferences and disseminate the information learned? **Yes/No**
  9. Do you promote inclusion and support diversity of students, and student families, from different religious and cultural backgrounds? **Yes/No**  
If Yes, please describe (up to 300 words) how this is promoted: **Examples** might include: *Faculty meetings include discussion of relevant student support; having an 'Equality and Diversity' statement; Equality based student recruitment practices; and promotion of the policy/practices at the Education Institution.*
  10. Is there demonstrable commitment to the welfare of international students, including the international student experience in the classroom setting? **Yes/No** If Yes, please describe (up to 300 words) how this is achieved: **Examples** might include: *Language supports; welcome and induction practices; mentor or "buddy" systems; having clear channels for discussion and support of students; access to a welfare officer; and student counselling/psychological support services.*
- Additional Information:** A space to add any further information or to give details of any plans for development of the international dimension of your programmes is also provided.



Online Application



Approval





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## Application Costs



### Two Year Certification

Certification is awarded for a Two-Year period and costs \$325 USD (total price) for 2 years. Education Institutes must firstly become **IAC Education Institute Members**. Membership costs \$235 USD per year and provides significant, separate, benefits to the Education Institute.

- **Two-Year Certification Application Fee:** \$325 USD
- **Annual IAC Education Institute Membership:** \$235 USD

#### **Payment Methods:**

Payment is made at time of online application – by Credit Card.

International Bank Transfers are also facilitated.

Please see all details in the payment area of the website *Certification* section.

**Refunds:** Your application will be approved or you will receive constructive feedback on how you might meet our criteria through re-application. First-time re-application is free of charge. If re-application is unsuccessful, \$175 of the application fee will be reimbursed. Membership is unaffected by application outcomes.

**IAC is a non-profit organisation and we attempt to keep certification fees to a minimum. Certification income contributes towards our operational and developmental costs.**

**Questions / Assistance?** We are pleased to assist applicants with the application process. Please email: [ceo@iac-irtac.org](mailto:ceo@iac-irtac.org) with any questions you may have.

#### **IAC Certification:**

- Demonstrates High Standards of International Counselling Education and Ethics
- High Marketability to International Students
- Communicates Your Strong Values
- Elevates and Distinguishes your Programme
- Opens Access to Wide New Markets
- Highlights a Prestigious Partnership
- Low-Cost and User-Friendly Application



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