

Equivalence guidance for Member Institutions

May 2025

Introduction

The simplest route to the BPC register is to have completed one of our accredited trainings. However, it is possible for people to apply to become a registrant by equivalence with a Member Institution.

This means going through a process to confirm that the training the applicant has undertaken is equivalent to a BPC accredited training and that their standard of psychotherapy practice is comparable.

Equivalence Process

The MI will have an application form for equivalence which collects the relevant information from a potential registrant. There will be a scrutiny committee in place to make the decision. Advice may be sought from the BPC Registrar who may themselves sit on the committee. The scrutiny committee members will all have access to the application form in advance of deciding on equivalence. A written record of how the decision was made will be kept and the outcome shared with the potential registrant in a reasonable time frame. The MI will have a simple appeal process in place.

Those who have not met equivalence and are unhappy with how this decision was made should only contact the BPC if they have exhausted communications with the MI in the first instance.

Equivalence Criteria

The essence of equivalence is to assess the training the applicant has undertaken and the standard of psychotherapy practice to ensure that they are equivalent to those of the BPC. The precise training activities of the MI need not be replicated but the MIs must view the BPC's training criteria to have an understanding of what is considered equivalent to a BPC accredited course. MIs may develop their own process of assuring equivalence, which can vary according to circumstances but it must be clear and transparent.

The outcome should be based on the professional judgement of the scrutiny committee as to whether the applicant is functioning at an equivalent professional standard to other BPC registrants in the relevant category. All BPC Registrants must have had an appropriate personal therapy, in accordance with BPC guidelines.