Rejoining membership policy

Rejoining the British Acupuncture Council

Thank you for considering rejoining the British Acupuncture Council (BAcC).

The re-joining process is designed to be as straightforward as possible and support practitioners back into membership. At the BAcC, we believe the profession of acupuncture is at its strongest when fully trained traditional acupuncturists come together as a united community.

As you might expect, there is a slightly different process for those who have been out of membership for a longer period, compared to those who only had a short break. A **reinstatement** is for those practitioners who have been out of full membership for less than three years. **Returners** are those practitioners who have not been full members for more than three years.

If you are a graduate of a British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB) college, who never joined the BAcC as a full member, then please use your graduation date to calculate how long you have been out of membership.

Reinstatements

If you have been out of Full membership for less than three years, and you would like to reinstate your membership, you will need to email the membership team with your request. You will then need to confirm compliance with the Mandatory Declaration via email. This process is quick and simple.

Returners

If you have been out of membership for more than three years, then you will be required to complete the returners self-assessment form (Appendix 1).

The self-assessment form requires you to reflect on the Standards of Practice for Acupuncture (SPA). This reflection helps you identify any areas of knowledge or practice that may need to be updated or refreshed. To support you, we provide a wide range of resources covering safe practice, acupuncture theory, communication, and reflective practice. You may also find mentoring or supervision valuable as you transition into membership.

By engaging in this process of reflection and ongoing professional development, you not only strengthen your own practice but also help reassure the public and the profession that you meet the BAcC's standards of safe and effective acupuncture.

The self-assessment form will be reviewed by the membership manager and a practitioner who is either a staff member or a member of the governing board. A commitment to continuing professional development is a condition of membership set out in the code of professional conduct. The BAcC believes that practitioners are best placed to evaluate their own learning needs. However, on occasions we may make recommendations for returning members. In some circumstances, there may be conditions. For example, specific continuing professional development (CPD) that must be undertaken, or a requirement to complete six mentoring/tutorial sessions. The necessary CPD identified in your self-assessment form and any recommendations or conditions made by the BAcC become your pathway for returning to membership.

This process has been designed to support you, please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Can I be refused membership?

Ordinarily, this will not happen. The reinstatement process is very similar to joining directly after graduation. The process for returners is designed to be supportive.

Possible exceptions to this rule are:

a **Professional conduct or fitness to practice:** If a practitioner left the BAcC following a complaint from a member of the public, or any other issues that might affect fitness to practice, this will need to be considered using our standard processes.
b **Non-payment of fees:** If a practitioner left the BAcC owing a significant amount in membership fees and we are unable to agree a payment plan.
c **Failure to agree a returning to membership pathway**

If membership is refused because of a failure to agree to a payment plan (b) or returning to membership pathway (c) the assessors will provide you with a written explanation. You have the right to appeal, please see below.

Financial support in restarting your practice

We appreciate restarting practice, like starting for the first time, can be a difficult time financially. This is why the BAcC offers reduced fees to recent graduates. The reasons for leaving BAcC membership are many and varied. Some practitioners stop practice for childcare, caring for elderly relatives, or other personal reasons. Some practitioners join other organisations. If you have been in continual practice, you will be required to pay the fee level equivalent to your years in practice. Practitioners who have outstanding fees will need to agree to a payment plan prior to rejoining. The minimum level that you can be offered is equivalent to the new graduate fee.

The British Acupuncture Council is a company limited by guarantee. By joining the BAcC you become a shareholder in the company. You have voting rights. This is a collective endeavour, and your membership fee contributes to all BAcC activities.

The appeals process

Professional conduct or fitness to practice:
Issues of professional conduct and fitness to practice (a) will be considered using the same procedures that are in place for current members.

Failure to agree returning to membership pathway or payment plan

Applicants have the right of appeal in the event their application is unsuccessful. The appeals process is as follows:

a) Within 28 days of their application being unsuccessful, an applicant should write to the BAcC's Chief Executive Officer explaining their case and why they feel the outcome of the assessment process is unfair. Letters and emails should be headed 'Confidential'.
b) The Chief Executive Officer will confirm the applicant's letter/email has been received within seven days and nominate a member of the BAcC's Governing Board to chair and convene an appeals panel. The appeals panel will consist of three people: a Chair and two assessors who were not involved in the initial assessment.
c) The panel will then consider the self-assessment form; and any other documentation submitted by the applicant; the proposed payment plan and/or returning to membership pathway; any relevant communications, such as emails.
d) The appeal panel will establish a final payment and/or returning to membership pathway which must be accepted.

Please note, the ruling of the appeals panel is final.

Appendix 1

Returning to membership

Self-assessment form

This form is for acupuncturists returning to full membership of the BAcC after a break of over three years; or graduates from BAAB-accredited programmes applying to membership more than three years after their graduation.

Introduction

Thank you for considering membership with the British Acupuncture Council (BAcC).

At the BAcC, we believe the profession of acupuncture is at its strongest when fully trained traditional acupuncturists come together as a united community.

The membership process for practitioners returning after three or more years—whether you are re-joining us after a break or joining for the first time since graduating—is designed to support you in your professional journey.

As part of this process, you'll be asked **to reflect on** the **Standards of Practice for Acupuncture (SPA)**. This reflection helps you identify any areas of knowledge or practice that may benefit from updating or refreshing. To support you, we provide a wide range of resources covering safe practice, acupuncture theory, communication, and reflective practice. You may also find mentoring or supervision valuable as you transition into membership.

By engaging in this process of reflection and ongoing professional development, you not only strengthen your own practice but also help reassure the public and the profession that you meet the BAcC's standards of safe and effective acupuncture.

1 Returning to practice

Please tell us why you wish to join the BAcC, whether for the first time, or after a break from membership and/or from practice.

If you are willing to, please include the reasons why you left / did not join the BAcC on graduation.

Please tell us about your current practice or the practice you are planning.

2 Standards of Practice for Acupuncture

Please read the BAcC Standards of Practice for Acupuncture (SPA) before completing this section.

In the spaces provided please tell us:

a How you have maintained your ability to meet the Standards of Practice during the time that you were not a member of the BAcC.
b Describe any knowledge and skills related to the Standards that require strengthening.
c Any continuing professional development that you intend to undertake to ensure that you can meet all the BAcC Standards.

Practice context
Acupuncture practitioners recognise that they work within a specific context, or set of contexts, and that this necessarily plays a part in shaping their practice and influencing their relationships with patients, carers, colleagues and other healthcare professionals.

Diagnosis and treatment
Acupuncture practitioners make a diagnosis, formulate a treatment plan and treat patients using needles and other techniques that meet the specific needs of each patient.

Communications and interaction
Acupuncture practitioners maintain high standards in a range of communications skills in their interactions with patients, carers, colleagues and other healthcare professionals, according to the BAcC Codes of Professional Conduct and Safe Practice.

Safety
Acupuncture practitioners ensure safety for patients and themselves within a therapeutic relationship, according to the BAcC Codes of Safe Practice and Professional Conduct.

Professional development
Acupuncture practitioners engage in professional development to improve their practice, based on the examination of, and reflection upon, their work. They participate in the Continuing Professional Development Programme of the BAcC.

a Please outline the steps you have taken to maintain your ability to meet the Standards of Practice during your time away from BAcC membership?

b Describe any knowledge and skills related to the Standards that require strengthening.

c For the items listed in b) - please detail how you intend to strengthen these to ensure you meet all the Standards – for example, what continuing professional development do you intend to undertake?

Do you have any concerns or areas where you feel you may not meet the Standards and would like some help on?

3 Declaration

The information given in this form is a true reflection of my self-assessment against the British Acupuncture Council standards of practice for acupuncture.

I will practice acupuncture in accordance with the British Acupuncture Council professional codes and agree to comply with the Mandatory Declaration.

Name	
Signature [please type in]	
Date	

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