

Accreditation of Prior Learning for UKCP Pathway to Registration through BeeLeaf Institute

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is a process through which an individual may be awarded credit for informal and formal learning experiences.

Benefits for individuals

- Recognition of learning from experiences, existing strengths, which would not normally be included in a CV. e.g. a person who has a child with autism gains learning from relevant life experience from caring for that child, which would otherwise be unrecognised;
- A person who has worked as a mental health worker for ten years may be deemed to have a first qualification.
- To enable access to courses when you have no formal training.
- To gain credit for equivalent formal training either to a first qualification or to aspects of a BeeLeaf course so that they can enter the course at a relevant point, other than a Foundation Year.
- Helps ensure maximum learning from investment of time and expense.

What does APL involve?

- Identifying what someone already knows and can do.
- Equating what that person knows and can do against standards e.g. learning outcomes of a course unit (determining equivalence).
- Assessment of that person's learning against course learning outcomes.
- Exempting a trainee from some units of training based on the person's prior learning.

Key features of APL

Enables individuals to identify and build on existing strengths, through an exploration of experience and prior learning, rather than ask them to undergo repetition of learning experience.

The underlying principle of APL is that all learning which can be judged to be at a higher education level can be quantified in terms of academic credit. Sources of learning might include professional qualifications, short courses and prior experience (particularly experience gained at work).

Before starting the APL process

Before considering whether the APL process is of use to you as a student, first read through the course units available on the website and consider for which units you believe you may be able to evidence equivalent learning already achieved.

Preparing a considered list and evidence of such previous learning will greatly smooth your application and help you to gain a clarity and timeline of your possible qualifying pathway.

Upon submission of application for a qualifying training unit, such as Diploma or Advanced Diploma, include a note that states which elements of your prior learning and experience you believe may be eligible for APL.

An assessing tutor on the course you are interested in will take part in assessing award of APL. The tutor will recommend which aspects of the course may be creditable. Also an order of units may be suggested to make your joining of the BeeLeaf pathway smooth and relevant to your current stage of learning.

Supporting entry for those who have not studied formally for a first degree

Some people will be particularly interested in being assessed as ready to participate in our postgraduate level training although they may not yet have a first degree from a university.

In such cases, as well as considering your accumulative work or training experience, you may choose a piece of written work you have completed which demonstrates your good use of written English, use of relevant texts or data and critical analysis of information to make appropriate judgments or draw conclusions.

If you do not have such a piece, we can offer you a suitable writing task which will be assessed for a fee of £60.

Limits to award of APL

The process of APL is to support your best process towards participating in training and achieving qualification. It is not always to a trainee's advantage to miss units of training, especially if their previous training was in another context or some time ago.

In addition to these considerations, BeeLeaf Institute is limited to how much a trainee can be awarded of APL, in accordance with standards and guidelines determined by the College of Hypno-Psychotherapists of UKCP.

Some units of training, such as Clinical Practice and Comparative Psychotherapy, Ethical Practice and Research Dissertation, will not normally be considered for APL as involvement in these units forms integral elements of the learning and assessment processes for safe and effective practice.

In any instance, the maximum award of APL cannot exceed 50% of the training pathway and will not normally reduce the duration of qualifying training by more than 24 months, so that a trainee will be a member of and known to BeeLeaf Institute for not less than 2 years of the normal 4 years of required training.

Trainees who are joining the BeeLeaf pathway having trained with other counselling or psychotherapy organisations and who are already in Clinical Practice will not normally be admitted onto the BeeLeaf Clinical Practice unit of training until they have attended a minimum of 4 days of experiential training with BeeLeaf. After this probationary period another face to face interview will be attended to confirm the suitability of the practice pathway for the candidate to address any adjustments that may be necessary to ensure the suitability for the individual and for safe and ethical practice.