

Practitioner accreditation

Frequently asked questions

Who can apply to be an Accredited Practitioner?

Practitioners who have at least one year's experience of restorative practice and have carried out at least five restorative processes including at least three face to face meetings.

Practitioners' skills and knowledge must meet the four core restorative practice [National Occupational Standards \(NOS\)](#).

The Restorative Justice Council's free [self-assessment tool](#) will help you to decide if you are ready for accreditation, and highlights your strengths and areas for development.

What are the benefits of achieving Practitioner Accreditation?

Practitioner Accreditation is a quality mark offering independent recognition of your experience. Accreditation shows the public that you have the right skills and experience to provide the service, and assures commissioners and organisations that a high quality and safe restorative service will be delivered.

You will have a full profile listing on our Practitioner Register as an Accredited Practitioner. You will receive a certificate celebrating your achievement and can display the Accredited Practitioner logo. You will also be able to use the designation letters APRJC (Accredited Practitioner Restorative Justice Council).

What are the standards to which Accredited Practitioners must practice?

Assessment of practitioners is mapped against the [four core restorative practice NOS](#):

- Unit 1: Assessment - Assess the circumstances of an incident towards identifying a restorative response
- Unit 2: Preparation - Engage with and prepare participants for a restorative process
- Unit 3: Facilitation - Facilitate participants' interaction within a restorative process
- Unit 4: Evaluation - Evaluate the outcomes from a restorative process

How will I know when I am ready to apply for accreditation?

Our free [self-assessment tool](#) will help you to determine whether you are ready. Once completed, you will receive a report that highlights your strengths and areas for development. You can return to the self-assessment tool as many times as you like.

What are the routes to accreditation?

The [journey to accreditation](#) diagram show you the possible options. There are two ways to become an RJC Accredited Practitioner: You can complete an [RJC recognised qualification](#), or apply to become accredited based on your [skills and experience](#).

What is the process of obtaining direct accreditation?

The direct accreditation process is completed online, following these steps:

1. Online self-assessment
2. Access guidance to develop your practice
3. Apply and pay application fee to begin the formal assessment process
4. Initial conversation with your assessor
5. Develop online portfolio
6. Professional discussion
7. Final assessment
8. Achieve direct accreditation

You will provide a portfolio of evidence which will be independently assessed by an RJC Practitioner Accreditation assessor. Your portfolio will include case studies based on cases you've worked on, examples of your work products, information about your experience and supervision arrangements, references, and a professional discussion.

My online self-assessment shows that I am not quite ready for direct accreditation. What do I do next?

If your self-assessment shows that you are not yet ready, the report you receive will highlight suggested areas for you to work on in developing your practice. You can re-take the self-assessment as many times as you need until you are ready to apply.

Contact the RJC Standards Team on 020 7831 5700 or at register@restorativejustice.org.uk for further advice and support.

How long will it take to become directly accredited?

The time it takes from initial sign up to final assessment is largely set by you, but we suggest that it takes an average of six weeks.

What happens if my application needs further work?

The report you receive after your self-assessment will tell you what you need to develop further. You may be asked to provide further information, revise your case studies, or submit new case studies as part of your application. You will have eight weeks in which to submit this.

If your revised application still does not meet the accreditation criteria or you do not submit within the eight-week timeframe, you will not have successfully completed the direct accreditation assessment process. If you would like to re-apply for accreditation, you can do so after three months. You will need to begin a new application process, and pay a further application fee.

What if my application is not approved?

If your application is not approved, you will receive a report telling you why. You may also request further feedback. You can re-apply for accreditation after three months. The new application will need to be based on the work you have conducted since your application was not approved.

How can I gain accreditation through a qualification?

You can become an RJC Accredited Practitioner on the Practitioner Register by achieving a qualification in restorative practice that has been approved by the RJC. Find out more about each one:

- [City and Guilds Level 4 Diploma in Restorative Practice](#)
- [ProQual Awarding Body Level 4 Diploma in Restorative Practice](#)
- [University of Greenwich Level 5 Certificate in Restorative Practice](#)
- [University of Ulster Certificate in Restorative Practices](#)

How long does the practitioner accreditation last?

Your initial accreditation will last for two years and you will then be required to complete the accreditation renewal process every year, within two weeks of expiry.

You will need to confirm your case supervision arrangements, evidence of your learning including one example from a restorative case you have worked on, and any Continuing Professional Development activities you have undertaken. Read more information about the [renewal process](#).