

QUALIFICATIONS WE RECOGNISE

The International Federation of Aromatherapists (IFA) is an Awarding Body as well as a Professional Body for aromatherapists. This means that whilst we offer our own vocational qualifications in aromatherapy, which automatically entitles successful candidates on completion to FULL/PEOT/CARER membership, we also acknowledge and register those with qualifications from other providers and recognise 'of equal' qualifications. This enables practitioners from different academic backgrounds to join the IFA and come under the umbrella of our professional network.

ACCEPTED QUALIFICATIONS

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The IFA recognise qualifications that have met the UK [National Occupational Standards \(NOS\)](#) and [Aromatherapy Core Curriculum](#) requirements as **Associate Members**.

- **National Occupational Standards (NOS)** - these are statements that describe the minimum an individual needs to be able to do, know and understand in order to be safe and competent to practice.
- **Aromatherapy Core Curriculum** - these define the minimum overall aims and learning outcomes, module/units, practice hours, case studies and assessments to measure the students understanding and knowledge in aromatherapy.

When applying to the IFA for associate member, please provide certificates which evidence that you have successfully passed **Aromatherapy, Massage and Anatomy & Physiology** to a minimum of a level 3 standard.

*NB: *Please note courses delivered entirely by distance learning do not meet IFA requirements. Parts of the massage module, as a minimum, must have been undertaken face to face (supervised) in order to verify the student has correctly applied the techniques they have been taught.*

Qualifications awarded by the following professional bodies 3 in Aromatherapy will be accepted as **Associate Members**:

- AEAJ Level 4
- CIBTAC (Confederation of International Beauty Therapy & Cosmetology) Level 3
- CIDESCO (Comite International d'Esthetique et de Cosmetologie) Level 3
- CFA (Canadian Federation of Aromatherapy)



- HLT52315 - Diploma of Clinical Aromatherapy (Australia)
- ITEC (International Therapy Examination Council) Level 3
- NAHA (National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy) Level 3
- NCFE (National Advisory Council for Further Education) Level 4
- SCOTEV & SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority) Level 4
- VTCT (Vocational Training Charitable Trust) Level 3 or 4

If you want to know if the course, you intend to undertake will be recognised by the IFA please ask your training provider who the awarding body is.

Proof of full membership belonging to any of the following membership organisations will also be accepted for associate membership:

- AIA (Alliance of International Aromatherapists) - Advanced Practice Clinical Aromatherapist
- CHPA (Complementary Health Professionals)
- CTHA (Complementary Therapy Association)
- FHT (Federation of Holistic Therapists)
- IAAMA (International Aromatherapy and Aromatic Medicine Association) - Accredited Professional Membership

Applicants who hold one of the following qualifications or memberships, please scan a copy of your certificate to office@ifaroma.org and you will be sent the registration link.

- We do understand that qualifications have been discontinued but would have been equivalent at the time of attainment e.g. AAPA, APNT, BTEC, CITY & GUILDS, IHHT, NARD, NVQ for example. If this applies to you please send a copy of your qualification to the office for approval and for qualification 'mapping' purposes.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

We accept the following qualifications as 'of equal' to the IFA Professional Aromatherapy Diploma level of attainment as FULL members:

- Neals Yard Remedies - Aromatherapy & Essential Oil Science Diploma
- The Institute of Traditional Herbal Medicine and Aromatherapy

- SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) Level 8
- University Degrees (UCAS, BSc etc.) in Complementary Medicine and have a massage qualification e.g. Napier University Edinburgh - Bachelor of Science in Complementary Therapies (Aromatherapy)

Please note some time constraints apply to the following qualifications as they would have been equivalent to the IFA Professional Aromatherapy Diploma at the time of attainment.

- IAAMA (International Aromatherapy and Aromatic Medicine Association) - before 2008 (Formerly IFA Australia branch).
- ISPA (International Society of Professional Aromatherapists) - before 2002
- RQA (Register of Qualified Aromatherapists) - before 2002
- Melbourne College of Natural Medicine - before 2008

**Please note this list is not exhaustive and is under continual review*

PEOT MEMBERSHIP

Ecole Francais d'Aromatherapie Integrative (EFAI) and
Naturapathe et Aromatherapeute

QUALIFICATIONS ATTAINED FROM MULTIPLE PROVIDERS

We appreciate that some practitioners take modules comprising an Aromatherapy Diploma with different providers. Below you can find qualifications we can accept for each component:

AROMATHERAPY QUALIFICATIONS

As above

MASSAGE QUALIFICATIONS

- AMTA (American Massage Therapy Association) – ASSOCIATE & FULL
- ABMP (Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals) – ASSOCIATE & FULL

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

- Gill Tree Training – ASSOCIATE & FULL

**This list is currently being reviewed and will be added to shortly as our curriculum content is currently being updated.*



WHAT IF MY QUALIFICATION IS NOT LISTED?

If your qualification was not awarded by any of the above-named bodies (which is not unusual for qualifications attained outside the UK), you may still be able to join as an

member. Please forward a copy of your certificate(s) attained and state the number of guided learning hours. You may also complete the [online form](#) which breaks down the core curriculum requirements.

If certificates are unclear as to what has been studied, please attach a transcript of study or supply a link to the course outline.

HOW WE ASSESS YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

When considering whether your qualification equates to associate or full membership, we take into consideration course content (accredited prior learning - APL), including: Aromatherapy, Massage, and Anatomy & Physiology (like-for-like), the depth of content covered during training and breadth of study which includes the number of hours dedicated to training.

The IFA Aromatherapy Diploma is 37 credits (1 credit = 10 hours), which entitles graduates to be eligible for full membership. Qualifications pitched between 25 - 36 credits entitle graduates to associate membership.

SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE

AWARD/CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA

Each module of a course is awarded a particular number of credits and is dependent on the number of guided learning hours. 1 credit = 10 hours. Guided learning hours include an estimate of the time that might be allocated to contact hours with the tutor or other means of structured learning time i.e., directed assignments, assessments, or other means of supported individual study and practice etc. The credit system is also designed so credits can be transferred and reduce repetition. For example, if you require an upgrade course and have already completed Anatomy & Physiology you would not be required to re-sit this module.

These hours determine if the level you have achieved is an Award, Certificate or Diploma for example:

Award = 1-12 credits

Certificate = 13 - 36 credits



Diploma = 37 credits +

The credit system is set by a variety of past and present government led boards in the UK such as:

- QCA – Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
- QCDA – Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency
- QCF – Qualifications and Credit Framework
- NDAQ – National Database of Accredited Qualifications
- NQF – National Qualifications Framework
- NOS – National Occupational Standards
- OFQUAL – Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation
- RRQ – Register of Regulated Qualifications

Previously QCA accredited qualifications and approved awarding organisations. Qualifications run by these awarding organisations were also on the NQF. The QCF has now taken over from the NQF and is the government framework for recognising qualifications. The QCDA is the government framework for reforming qualifications and OFQUAL regulates examinations and assessment. Accredited organisation qualifications are registered on the RRQ which was previously known as the NDAQ.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO UPGRADE FROM AN ASSOCIATE TO FULL MEMBER?

To upgrade your qualification to be eligible for full membership, you will need to enrol on an upgrade course to bridge the gaps between your current qualification and the IFA Diploma. For more information [click here.](#)

For more information, please contact www.ifaroma.org

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