



CRITERIA: 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.

Below outlines the qualifications we accept for each category of membership we offer to qualified practitioners:

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

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 learners understanding and knowledge in aromatherapy.

When applying for associate membership, please provide certificates which evidence that you have successfully passed **Aromatherapy, Massage (full body) and Anatomy & Physiology** to a minimum of a level 3 and have been assessed by an independent body.

*NB: *Please note courses delivered entirely by distance learning do not meet IFA requirements. Parts of the massage module and blending of products, 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 examining bodies in Aromatherapy will be accepted as **Associate Members**:

- ABC Level 3
- AEAJ (in Japan) Level 4
- CIBTAC (Confederation of International Beauty Therapy & Cosmetology) Level 3

- CIDESCO (Comite International d'Esthetique et de Cosmetologie) Level 3
- CITY & GUILDS Level 3
- HLT52315 - Diploma of Clinical Aromatherapy (Australia)
- IFPA (International Federation of Professional Aromatherapists) Aromatherapy Diploma (please note proof of diploma required - not membership*)
- ITEC (International Therapy Examination Council) 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

*We appreciate that qualifications have been discontinued that would have been equivalent at the time of attainment e.g. AAPA, APNT, BTEC, IHHT, NVQ for example. If this applies to you, please send a copy of your qualification to the head office for approval, accompanied by relevant evidence of professional bodies you have maintained in the interim and or CV.

Proof of membership of belonging to the following professional bodies will also be accepted as having met the requirement:

- CFA (Canadian Federation of Aromatherapy)
- CHP (Complementary Health Professionals)
- NARD (in Japan)

For those whose qualifications are not listed – you will need to supply evidence of having completed training equivalent to the Aromatherapy Core Curriculum in terms of contents, hours (300) and assessment methods e.g. by supplying the course syllabus – which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The list of qualifications we recognise is under continual review. The onus of supplying evidence rests on the applicant.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Completed the IFA Professional Aromatherapy Diploma - Please quote your student registration number as we will have your diploma on record.

The IFA recognise 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)

In addition, the following qualifications would have been equivalent to the IFA Professional Aromatherapy Diploma at the time of attainment. Please note the time constraints that apply*

- 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

For those whose qualifications are not listed – you will need to supply evidence of having completed training equivalent to the IFA Professional Aromatherapy Diploma in terms of contents (e.g. 70 essential oils), hours and assessment methods e.g. by supplying the course syllabus – which will be judged on a case-by-case basis. A mapping questionnaire is available upon request. The list of qualifications we recognise is under continual review. The onus of supplying evidence rests on the applicant.

During the review you may be referred to upgrade your qualification to be eligible for full membership, in which case 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](#).

PEOT MEMBERSHIP

Completed the IFA Professional Essential Oils Therapy (PEOT) Diploma

Please quote your student registration number as we will have your diploma on record.

As this is a fairly new qualification there are currently no equivalences on the market though we appreciate that some courses may be equivalent to components of it.

Applicants for equivalence would need to supply evidence of having completed training equivalent to the IFA Professional Essential Oils Therapy (PEOT) Diploma in terms of contents (e.g. 90 essential oils), hours, assessment methods e.g. by supplying the course syllabus **and** have a product making diploma. These will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The list of qualifications we recognise is under continual review. The onus of supplying evidence rests on the applicant.



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 A&P and Massage components:

MASSAGE QUALIFICATIONS

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

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

- Gill Tree Training – ASSOCIATE & FULL
- Level 3 or 4 A&P Qualifications provided by VTCT, ITEC for example

This list is not exhaustive – please provide a copy of your qualification for review.

HOW WE ASSESS YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

When considering what category of membership a qualification equates to, 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.

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.