

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS, CATEGORIES AND RULES

Introduction

The Amatsu Therapy Association Ltd (ATA) is in the process of becoming the UK governing body for Amatsu therapy. The ATA was inaugurated in August 2001 and in May 2010 it became a company limited by guarantee (not for profit). There are currently around 80 members. The executive committee with effect from 1st October 2010 (EC) consists of:

- Chair - Dennis Bartram
- Vice chair - Lucy Anning
- Secretary - Uli Kloffel
- Treasurer - Claire Knott
- Education officer - Karen O'Connor
- Press officer - Suzanne Harding
- Continuing professional development (CPD) Officer - Kirsty Dawson
- Membership secretary - Carolyn Austin

Benefits

Membership of the ATA is fundamental because the legislative changes in 2006/7 began the process of regulating complementary therapies. These changes do not affect Amatsu as yet. However, the ATA aims to be prepared for government regulation and has already begun to voluntarily self regulate. For example, members can now benefit from:

- A website providing the public with information regarding Amatsu
- Practitioners, students and teachers profiles are shown on the ATA website.
- Standardised client consent forms
- A code of ethics
- Policies for examinations and membership
- A recognised syllabus for training Amatsu practitioners
- A marketing pack for newly qualified practitioners
- Setting minimum standards for continuing professional development (CPD)
- A thorough and ongoing syllabus for training ATA approved teachers
- A corporate brochure

In the future it is planned to develop specific Amatsu courses for members' CPD, raise the profile of Amatsu via marketing and referring to other professional bodies and to continue to raise the quality of the profession by adopting National Occupational Standards (NOS). Other benefits and advantages of belonging to the ATA are:

- An executive committee working collaboratively to improve professionalism
- Access to other Amatsu training schools and courses
- Group discounts negotiated by the ATA for various Amatsu related products
- An individual vote on how the professional body represents members
- Ongoing work to improve the profile and public recognition of Amatsu

The ATA exists for its members and will only be as successful as the members who commit to making it work. Any member can volunteer to contribute to the ATA workload.



Categories

There are six membership categories: full, student, overseas, teacher, non-practising and lapsed.

Full member – a fully qualified (Anma and Seitai) practitioner; who resides and has a clinical practice within the UK.

Student member – an individual who is currently undertaking (Anma or Seitai) Amatsu training with an ATA approved school in the UK.

Overseas member - a fully qualified practitioner who resides or has a clinical practice outside of the UK (non-domicile). An overseas member cannot be elected to the EC, unless otherwise invited to do so by the EC. The ATA is unable to provide any regulatory endorsement or validate the qualification of any overseas member. The ATA recommends regulation by a domicile Amatsu association where possible.

Overseas members will be entitled to attend and speak at and are entitled to vote on ATA matters and count in the quorum at annual general meetings, with the exception of voting on matters relating to UK self regulation or ATA policy amendments. This is because the ATA is unable to deal with non-UK legislation and a percentage of the membership fees are ring-fenced to deal with possible costs of government or self regulation. The fee for overseas members is therefore lower than the full membership fee. With effect from 1st April 2011 Overseas members who belong to either the Amatsu Association of Ireland (AAI) or the Amatsu Therapy Ireland (ATI) can apply for a discount of their ATA membership fees, proof of membership of the sister association must be provided.

Approved teacher member – a fully qualified Anma, Seitai and Shinden practitioner with a clinical practice within the UK, who has successfully completed the teacher assessment procedure, residing and teaching in the UK either individually or with other approved teachers, forming an approved school following the joint syllabus and adhering to all ATA policies and regulations.

Non-practising member - a fully qualified practitioner who is not currently practising due to ill health or maternity leave. This category requires EC authorisation prior to the non-practising period commencing. Their details will be removed from the ATA website and they will not be permitted to use any ATA documents. A reduced membership fee will be charged. Access to ATA training or CPD opportunities shall be permitted, but only at the level to which they were qualified prior to becoming non practising. Non-practising members may attend and speak at but are NOT entitled to vote on any ATA matters or be counted in the quorum at annual general meetings.

Lapsed member – any member, who has not paid the relevant membership fee, completed CPD requirements or whose insurance is unpaid or invalid at any time during the membership year. Lapsed members will be given no more than one calendar month to rectify the lack of paperwork and a late payment fee of £50 will also be levied. Lapsed members are required to return their membership certificate, their details will be removed from the ATA website and they will not be permitted to use any ATA documents. Access to any ATA training or CPD opportunities shall be only at the EC's discretion. Lapsed members may attend but are NOT entitled to speak or vote on any ATA matters or be counted in the quorum at annual general meetings.

Rules

It is obligatory for all members to have malpractice, professional indemnity and public liability insurance. As insurance companies do not generally provide this cover to individuals, membership of an umbrella organisation is a pre requisite for joining the ATA.

There are two umbrella organisations which accept Amatsu practitioners and students as members:

- The British Register of Complementary Practitioners (BRCP) is a part of the Institute for Complementary and Natural Medicine (ICNM). The BRCP has negotiated a block scheme with an insurance company called Balens. Practitioners pay direct to Balens for insurance and direct to the BRCP for membership.



- The Complementary Therapists Association has a similar scheme with their insurers Holistic Insurance services.

It is the members' responsibility to ensure that their insurance policy is current and covers the level of Amatsu that they practise. Membership of the ATA is dependent on a current Insurance policy, should the insurance policy lapse, the membership of the ATA will also lapse.

During training the student's insurance and membership of the umbrella body and the ATA is paid by the training school, subsequent annual fees are the responsibility of the individual.

Teachers of approved schools will apply for their student's membership; this will be granted on payment of the student membership fee and proof of student insurance.

Teachers of approved schools are required to certify/endorse practitioners who have recently qualified from their schools; confirm that they achieved more than 65 per cent in both Anma and Seitai examinations and completed all the necessary coursework relating to the training. Membership will then be granted on payment of the appropriate fee and proof of practitioner insurance.

Before commencing clinical work, practitioners must complete a first aid course which includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training. This certification must be maintained and regularly renewed.

It is recommended that a criminal records bureau (CRB) reference is obtained by the practitioner, especially if clients include children or vulnerable adults.

All members must familiarise themselves with and abide by all the ATA policies and regulations. (CPD, code of ethics, complaints procedure etc) For example: members must engage in post graduate studies annually to ensure compliance with new knowledge and/or developments and skill acquisition.

Should any member break or contravene any international, national or local regulations or laws the ATA accept no legal responsibility.

Members are required to submit an application on the approved registration form, complete a CPD summary form and pay the appropriate membership fee annually.

Students are required to maintain copies of course homework, case studies and competency sheets to ensure that these are available for examination prior to being awarded practitioner status.

Any students, who have not completed their training, whether they failed an exam or didn't complete case studies, competency sheets or homework, may apply to join the ATA on condition that all outstanding requirements and the teacher's endorsement are completed within six months of the original examination date.

Anyone who has not completed all requirements within six months of the original examination date will be considered a lapsed member. Should they wish to re-apply for membership they will be assessed prior to membership being granted; conditions such as re-sitting the exams, completing additional case studies/CPD or re-taking one or two years training may be required to ensure that their knowledge and skills are current.

Any individual who did not complete Amatsu training with an ATA approved school will be required to provide proof of CPD since qualifying or the last three years whichever is the greater OR provide recent (within the last six months) school qualification certificates and case studies, homework and competency sheets. Evidence of CRB and/or other references may be requested. Applicants must be prepared to undertake a review of skill and best practice, should the EC feel this is necessary.

Any individual who completed their training with an ATA approved school and has subsequently let their membership lapse and wishes to re join the ATA will be required to follow the procedure laid down in the separate lapsed members' policy document.



Any costs incurred in association with gaining membership shall be entirely borne by the applicant. Members are not entitled to any refund of membership fees should membership lapse during the membership year.

The membership certificate and all ATA documentation remains the property of the ATA and must be returned should membership lapse or be withdrawn.

Election to membership shall be at the discretion of the EC. The EC, as the management team of the ATA reserves the right to revise membership criteria with suitable notice to the membership.

These procedures will be reviewed formally every three years by the EC or sooner if required.

Written: April 2009

Updated: May 2010 minor text amendments / June 2010 watermark added, updated footer, limited company details included / Aug 2010 new EC titles and TBC entered until new members elected/volunteered. Overseas category extended.

Current version: Sept 2010 new members of EC wef 1st October 2010 listed

