

The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK)
Membership Admission Procedure and Standards
(Revised October 2007)

Procedure

1. All applicants must fill in the application form and send the form to the ATCM Registrar, together with an application fee of £60.00, and proof of their professional qualification(s). They must nominate two referees, preferably ATCM members. The referees should send a reference letter to the ATCM Registrar, stating the suitability of and reasons for the applicant to become an ATCM member.
2. On the receipt of the application form, proof of qualification(s), application fee payment, and the reference letters, the registrar will advise the applicant to attend an interview which is normally held in London but on occasions can be arranged at locations near where the applicants live. The interview is usually chaired by the Registrar or an ATCM Council member with at least one more member of the admission committee. The Registrar can delegate a senior ATCM member to chair the interview if necessary.
3. During the interview, all applicants will be required to take an examination on the knowledge of TCM first, which lasts for 45 minutes. Following this, applicants are interviewed individually, during which ID document (usually passport) of the applicant, original qualification certificate(s) or authorised notary copies must be inspected. The applicants will have to answer questions on TCM knowledge, their professional training, experiences and legal requirements for practising in the UK. The interviewer will fill in the Interview Form and make a recommendation that the applicants have passed or failed the interview.
4. For those applicants who have attended and passed interview, all their application materials will be reviewed by the Registrar, and passed to the Council. A decision will be made by the Council if the application for ATCM membership is accepted or declined.
5. For those applicants who have been offered an ATCM membership by the Council, they will receive an ATCM Membership Registration Form to fill in and they are at this point required to pay a subscription for their membership fee. Copies of Code of Practice, Code of Professional Conduct, and ATCM Constitution will be sent to them with the Registration Form. They are required to pay a premium for the ATCM Block Insurance to cover their practice at this point.
6. When filling in the Registration Form, new members must make declarations to abide by the ATCM Constitution, be bound by and comply with the Codes at all times. On receipt of all the forms and fees including insurance premium, an ATCM Membership Certificate will be issued and sent to the new member within two weeks.

Entry Requirements

As detailed in the Articles of Association of the ATCM, Ordinary Members in Category I, II, III must:

1. be practitioners of TCM; and
2. possess qualifications of a university or college or institution of TCM in one or more aspects of TCM such as Herbal Medicine, Acupuncture, Tuina and so on; or
3. be qualified in western medicine but have received training in TCM to a standard acceptable to the Council of the Association; or
4. possess qualifications and experience in TCM or any aspects thereof to a standard acceptable to the Council of the Association.

The ATCM Council has specified the above standards into three criteria for admission of membership:

The applicants can be admitted as Full Members of ATCM only if they

1. are currently practising TCM (more than one aspect) in the UK.
2. possess qualifications of at least 4 years full time training from China's university/college of TCM, or university/college of modern medicine with TCM training acceptable to the Council of ATCM, or equivalent training in the UK or other countries.
3. attend and pass the admission interview.

For associate membership, the length of training on one aspect of TCM is required to at least 6 months (full time) with practising experience for more than one year.

Communication skills

If the applicant's has met all the above entry requirements, but his/her native language is not English or he/she was trained in a non English speaking country, the applicant must prove his/her English language is fluent and communicable by providing a certificate of ILETS 6.5 or equivalent level before he/she is admitted as an Ordinary Member of the ATCM. If he/she is unable to provide a certificate of ILETS 6.5 or equivalent level, but has met all other entry requirements, he/she will be offered:

- a. a two-years provisional membership if ILETS is at 6.0 or equivalent; or
- b. a two-year provisional membership provided that the applicant is enrolled to a formal English language training course.

During the provisional period, the provisional member will be required to achieve ILETS 6.5 or equivalent level in the English language in order to upgrade his/her provisional membership to full membership.