

What is needed?

Training to become an acupuncturist requires considerable commitment, not only of time and effort but also to embrace a very different way of looking at health and disease. Trainee acupuncturists must be open, willing to be challenged, and prepared to undergo personal change through critical self-reflection.

Courses accredited by the BAAB are set to undergraduate degree-level standard and teach traditional acupuncture based on the principles of Chinese medicine. The training prepares you to work independently as a qualified healthcare professional. If you are studying full-time, courses will be no less than three years; part-time study will take longer.

What support will I receive?

During your course you can apply for free student membership of the British Acupuncture Council (BAcC). The BAcC can provide you with plenty of support and resources including a student website and forum with up-to-date information, a student services co-ordinator, and dedicated student events.

What is the British Acupuncture Council?

The BAcC is the leading self-regulatory body for the practice of traditional acupuncture in the UK. It is a member-led organisation and BAcC members enjoy a wide range of services, including: :

- expanding awareness of traditional acupuncture and how it works
- establishing and maintaining the highest professional standards of practice for acupuncture in the UK
- funding evidence-based clinical research on the benefits of traditional acupuncture
- promoting evidence-based research to the public, the media and other healthcare provider
- working with the Department of Health towards the statutory regulation of acupuncture in the UK
- promoting integrated healthcare and contributing to the development of national healthcare policy.

For more information about the BAcC and the benefits of membership go to www.acupuncture.org.uk

Why study at the BAAB accredited college?

Acupuncture courses may or may not be accredited by the BAAB. At the moment, acupuncture is regulated only by the professional associations, not regulated by law. The BAAB works closely with the British Acupuncture Council and is held in high regard by the Department of Health. A BAAB accredited course denotes certain standards both in terms of acupuncture content and practice, and educational delivery. Graduates of fully accredited courses are eligible to join the BAAB.

You can find contact details for all BAAB accredited acupuncture courses by going to the training page on our website www.baab.co.uk or contact us on baab@acupuncture.org.uk or 020 8735 0466.



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Two decades
of developing
and promoting
high standards
of Acupuncture
Education



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Celebrating 20 years



Since 1990 the BAAB has been accrediting degree-level courses designed to produce new practitioners who are worthy to join the acupuncture profession. The BAAB has

helped unify the profession of traditional acupuncture and won widespread respect from both internal and external sources for its own rigorous and collaborative approach to accreditation. The BAAB has helped foster high educational standards for the BAcC (British Acupuncture Council), so that graduates can feel confident that they have the tools to be reflective, safe and competent practitioners. The BAAB was held up as a model of good practice in the 2000 House of Lords Select Committee Review of Complementary Therapies.

The accreditation of any profession's teaching institutions and courses is a significant milestone on that profession's journey to public acceptance. It is the way in which a new profession can demonstrate its political as well as its educational maturity. In 1990 there were only a few colleges offering a professional acupuncturist qualification, but in 2010 there are 15 teaching institutions running acupuncture courses either fully accredited by the BAAB or in the process of becoming so.

The BAAB has always been developmental in its focus, so that course providers new to accreditation can be fully supported in their journey towards achieving the appropriate educational standards, while those already fully accredited are encouraged to continually review and improve their courses. Feedback from the teaching institutions with which the BAAB works is always very positive, even though all of them have found the accreditation process and the BAAB's demands very challenging at times.



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Why study acupuncture?

Acupuncture is a tried and tested system of healthcare devised by the Chinese and other eastern cultures which has been developed, researched and refined for over 2,000 years. Acupuncture is now widely used and accepted all over the world. In the UK more and more people are finding out what acupuncture can do for them. If you are thinking about training to become an acupuncturist then you are at the start of a very exciting journey.

You need to have a real interest in people and to enjoy working with them on a one-to-one basis. You will also need a willingness to carry on learning and deepening your skills; Chinese medicine can take a lifetime to master.

What will I study?

Courses accredited by the BAAB will give you a thorough understanding of the philosophy and theory of Chinese medicine and teach all practical aspects of acupuncture, including point location and the practice of administering acupuncture needles safely. Courses also include a high content of conventional/western medicine, including anatomy and physiology and the signs and symptoms of potentially serious disease which require referral to a medical doctor.

In your final year you will undertake a significant amount of clinical work under the supervision of experienced tutors. Through working with patients in the teaching clinic you will learn to understand the theory in more depth, to reflect on and develop your practice and to become competent and confident in your abilities as an acupuncturist.