



# WHAT ARE ETHICAL BODIES?

## What's the difference between an awarding body and an ethical body?

An **awarding body** is an organisation that sets the criteria of your course and appears on your certificate when you graduate.

An **ethical body** is an organisation who sets the ethical standards that protect the general public and offer support to practitioners. This can include access to updated research, continual professional development (CPD) and support for ethical and legal issues.

If a complaint is made by a member of the public against a practitioner, the ethical /professional body can investigate and if wrongdoing is found, sanction or strike off the practitioner.

## How many ethical bodies are there?

At the last count 14. (See the list below.)

- [British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies \(BABCP\)](#)  
The BABCP is a multi-disciplinary interest group for people involved in the practice and theory of behavioural and cognitive psychotherapy.
- [British Association for Counsellors and Psychotherapists \(BACP\)](#)  
The BACP is the leading accrediting body for UK counsellors and psychotherapists.

- [British Psychoanalytic Council \(BPC\)](#)  
The BPC is an association of psychoanalysts, analytical psychologists, psychoanalytic psychotherapists and child psychotherapists.
- [British Psychological Society \(BPS\)](#)  
The BPS is the representative body for psychology and psychologists in the UK.
- [Counselling and Psychotherapy in Scotland \(COSCA\)](#)  
COSCA is Scotland's professional body for counselling and psychotherapy.
- [College of Sexual and Relationship Therapists \(COSRT\)](#)  
COSRT is a national charity which has been established for over thirty years.
- [Federation of Drug & Alcohol Professionals \(FDAP\)](#)  
The FDAP is the professional body for practitioners in the substance use field.
- [Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy \(IACP\)](#)  
An association responsible for developing and maintaining professional standards of counselling and psychotherapy in Ireland.
- [The National Counselling Society \(NCS\)](#)  
Ethical body of counsellors and psychotherapists which aims to support the counselling profession.
- [United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy \(UKCP\)](#)  
The UKCP is a comprehensive register of UK psychotherapists.
- [United Kingdom Association for Humanistic Psychology Practitioners \(UKAHPP\)](#)  
The UKAHPP is a national accrediting organisation for all those who apply the theories of Humanistic Psychology in their work.
- [The Association of Child Psychotherapists \(ACP\)](#)  
The Association of Child Psychotherapists is a professional body for psychoanalytic child and adolescent psychotherapists in the UK.
- [The Association of Christian Counsellors \(ACC\)](#)  
The ACC provides a register of Christian counsellors.
- [The British Association of Art Therapists \(BAAT\)](#)  
The British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT) is the professional organisation for art therapists in the United Kingdom.

### Do I have to join an ethical body during training?

Most training providers will insist that as part of your acceptance onto a training program, you commit to joining an ethical body

### Can I be a member of more than one professional body?

Yes, you can.

### Can I change my ethical body?

Yes, you can, but bear in mind that some ethical bodies will only allow you to join if you have specific training or are working in a specific speciality or interest. UKCP, the FDA and CORST are examples. Some are region-specific such as COSCA and IACP.

### When I qualify, do I have to join an ethical/professional body?

As of the date this podcast is published, there is no legislation that requires a practitioner to join an ethical body in the UK. However, human resource departments and directory websites expect those who apply for jobs or advertise their services to be a member of an ethical body that is registered with the Professional Standards Authority under the Accredited Voluntary Register Scheme.