

International Genetic Counselling Credentialing: a Working Group of the TAGC

Template for Comparing Credentialing/Registration

Country	UK
Date of completion	5 th August 2016
Name of Credentialing Body/Registration Board	Genetic Counsellor Registration Board (GCRB)
Website/Address	http://www.gcrb.org.uk/
Is there a separate credentialing/registration process for nurses? If yes, please give details of nursing credentialing group	The GCRB registers genetic counsellors from both a nursing background and an MSc in Genetic Counselling background.
Eligibility criteria to apply for certification/registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Genetic Counselling (Set A) • Nursing qualification and experience (Set B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plus counselling training ○ Plus Human Genetics course • Two years full time role or equivalent as a genetic counsellor
Required criteria to apply for a Masters degree in Genetic Counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st or Masters Degree in a science subject • Experience in a caring role
If there is a Masters Degree in Genetic Counseling, is this accredited? If so, by whom?	MSc in Genetic Counselling programmes are accredited by the GCRB
Minimum length of time between completing the training requirements and applying for certification/registration	2 years in a clinical role
Number of cases used in Masters in Genetic Counseling course that can also be used in registration	0
Is there a written examination? Yes/no, please give details	No
Who is examination assessed and ratified by? Please give details or say if not applicable	N/A
Portfolio of work submitted for certification/registration? yes/no (n.b. this question relates to certification/registration and not to a portfolio of work needed to complete a Masters degree in Genetic Counseling)	Yes
Portfolio assessed by independent assessors? yes/no/not applicable	Yes: each portfolio is assessed by 1 GCRB member and one other Registered Genetic Counsellor assessor
Portfolio ratified by the Registration Board? yes/no/not	Yes

applicable	
Candidate has an interview as part of the credentialing/registration process? yes/no	No
What work is done for certification/registration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections on 60 hours Continuing Professional Development (CPD) over 2 years • Log of involvement in 50 cases, varied • Record of evidence of competence, using GCRB competencies • Reflective record of 2 genetic counselling sessions with patients, with a counselling supervisor • Three case studies of 2000 words: 1 Counselling, 1 Scientific and 1 Ethical • One essay 5000 words or published paper • All Signed off by Sign-Off Mentor (SOM) • References from 1. SOM including comments on 5 observed genetic counselling consultations and 2. Manager
Core competencies for practice as a genetic counselor, these are the skills that are assessed in the certification/registration process (and not only in the MSc course)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and maintain a relationship with clients through effective communication, which promotes clients' goodwill, trust and confidentiality and shows particular concern for their personal beliefs and values. 2. Take a flexible and client centred approach to identifying and responding to emerging needs, working with the client to facilitate and support decision making. 3. Maintain comprehensive, accurate and objective records of all client contact in a systematic manner that facilitates best practice and manage care to maximise the use of local, regional and national resources. 4. Promote knowledge and understanding of the impact of genetics on health and facilitate access to genetics services through effective communication and education. 5. Seek at all times to maintain and improve service delivery and professional standards by promoting evidence-based practice for oneself and others through continual professional development.
Is Genetic Counseling Supervision required, post-MSc completion, in order to obtain certification/registration? Please see Clarke et al (2007)¹ for a definition of Genetic	Yes

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Clarke A, Middleton A, Cowley L, Guilbert P, Macleod R, Clarke A, Tran V (2007) Report from the UK and Eire Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors (AGNC) supervision working group on genetic counsellor supervision. J Genet Couns. 16(2):127-42

<p>Counseling Supervision (i.e. this is different from clinical supervision with a geneticist, or peer supervision with another GC or manager, counseling supervision is with a counseling therapist/psychologist and focuses on counseling issues)</p>	
<p>Are certified/registered genetic counselors regulated? If so, by whom?</p>	<p>Genetic counsellors in the UK have Accredited Regulation (AR) through the Professional Standards Authority http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk achieved in May 2016. They do not have statutory regulation.</p>
<p>What requirements exist to maintain certification/registration? How frequently is certification/registration maintained?</p>	<p>Registration is renewed every 5 years. It is done by showing evidence of 1) having worked in a role that is of direct relevance to the practice of genetic counselling (e.g. clinical, education or research) for a minimum of 1500 hours in the previous 5 years, 2) 30 hours CPD annually, and 3) 2 satisfactory references</p>
<p>Do you have an international policy on registration of genetic counselors trained outside your country? If so, please provide a link to this</p>	<p>Yes, we do have a policy which is being updated in 2016. See http://www.gcrb.org.uk/overseas-applicants/ for current situation, or contact us at enquiries@gcrb.org.uk for more information.</p>
<p>Please briefly summarise what is required of international genetic counselors wanting to register/certify in your country</p>	<p>Registration for international applicants depends on which country they are coming from and is either by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full portfolio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – as if UK applicants • Reduced portfolio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CPD 5 years – Log of involvement in 5 cases, varied – Reflective record of 2 genetic counselling sessions with patients, with a counselling supervisor – Case study 2000 words – Essay 5000 words – References from SOM, UK and overseas managers <p>Applicants will also have worked as a genetic counsellor in the UK, the amount of time dependent on previous experience. An Evaluation of Eligibility to Register Form http://www.gcrb.org.uk/prospective-registrants/ should be submitted for more exact information about personal situation.</p>