British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT)

LEVEL III

Hand Therapy Journal Article Publication Guidelines

Revised November 2026

This document replaces all previous versions.

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Introduction & Rationale

The British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT) Level III post graduate development process is designed for qualified Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists with proven knowledge in the field of hand therapy who have successfully completed BAHT level I & BAHT level II, gaining the required number of BAHT points & are a member of BAHT.

The learning outcome of level III & submitted for five BAHT accreditation points must be relevant to the post-qualification Hand Therapy education programme of BAHT. Level III promotes recognition of professional competence in a specialist aspect of hand therapy to improve the quality of patient care & to foster evaluation, audit & research in hand therapy.

It is anticipated that therapists with five or more years of practice within the speciality of hand therapy will consider applying for Level III while pursuing the goal of Accredited Hand Therapist (AHT). This document provides a summary of the different routes available for therapists to gain BAHT level III points.

British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT) Accredited Hand Therapist (AHT) Route

To achieve the award of Accredited Hand Therapist (AHT) clinicians need to have obtained 12 BAHT points. There are a range of different routes at BAHT Level I, Level II & Level III which clinicians can undertake to achieve the 12 BAHT points required for AHT – see table 1.

Please also refer to the British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT) website, educational section.

British Association of Hand Therapists - Education

Any queries regarding the BAHT level III process please email:

baht.level3@gmail.com

Post-qualification Hand Therapy Education Programme

LEVEL I

The Level I Course is designed for therapists with minimal or no experience of hand injuries or conditions, or for therapists who wish to refresh their basic knowledge of, & skills in, the field of hand therapy. It will promote recognition for professional competence & will improve the quality of patient care (BAHT Guidelines Level I Course). For therapists with more than 2 years' experience of hand therapy practice please refer to the Level I APL process (see BAHT level I guidelines).

One Point is awarded for successful completion of the Level I process.

LEVEL II

The Level II Course/Process is designed for therapists with proven experience in the field of hand therapy who have successfully completed an accredited Level I Course or APL route (therapists who have at least 2 years' experience in hand therapy). Level II courses promote recognition for professional knowledge in a specialist aspect of hand therapy; improve the quality of hand care; & foster evaluation & research in hand therapy (BAHT Guidelines Level II Course). BAHT strives to support therapists who wish to increase their experience & knowledge in specialist areas of hand therapy & there are a range of other routes, other than attending a BAHT Level II course, for the acquisition of BAHT Level II points. Routes for BAHT Level II points include: submission of evidence of prior learning (APL), educators points, or non-accredited MSc Modules. For the full range of routes available to gain BAHT Level II points please refer to the BAHT website education section &/or table 1.

Two points are awarded per BAHT Level II course & for a range of other BAHT Level II Routes on successful completion (see table 1).
6 Level II points are required at BAHT Level II.
Each two points must be gained in a different specialist area of hand therapy.

LEVEL III

This level offers members of BAHT a challenging opportunity to demonstrate their advanced knowledge of hand therapy. Five-BAHT points are awarded for successful completion of Level III. Level III points can be gained in a number of ways, see table 1 or refer to the BAHT Education Process on the BAHT website.

Five Points are awarded for successful completion of the Level III process.

The structure for education & training is set out in Table 1.

When candidates have achieved 12 points, they can apply to the BAHT Education Sub-committee (ESC) for AHT (see Becoming an Accredited Hand Therapist on the BAHT website) BAHT AHT Process

For ALL BAHT courses & routes see guidelines on the BAHT website

British Association of Hand Therapists - Education

For ALL level III queries please email baht.level3@gmail.co

BAHT Points can be achieved in the following ways:

TABLE 1: Progression of Post-qualification Education in Hand Therapy (BAHT)

For all Level I, II & III options in below table please refer to the specific guidelines for more detail on criteria & application process

Target Population	Content	Assessment Process	Outcome	Sum of points
		Level I		
OT/PT therapist ** see below	**Introductory course** **APL Route**	BAHT exam (short answer/MCQs) 2 years plus experience full time hand therapy	Certificate Value = 1 point Eligibility-Level II	*1*
		Level II		
OP/PT Therapist Eligibility via Level I Or Indicative experience via APL process ** see below	**Specialist BAHT course (17 hours contact teaching)** **APL (prior learning less than 3 years since completion)** **MSc Module (non-accredited) – completed less than 2 years prior to application** **Educational points route** **Associate PI Scheme**	Two forms of assessment during/after the course, e.g., examination & written assignment Written work assessed by 2 independent reviewers Via University assessment process & application to BAHT ESC for recognition of a non-accredited module Evidence of teaching / education of others Evidence of completion	Certificate Value = 2 points per Level II course / APL topic / Level II Route Maximum 6 points. Eligibility – Level III	*7*
		Level III		
OT/PT specialist Eligibility via Level II Or Indicative experience via APL process ** see below	**In-depth BAHT project** **MSc Modules (accredited & non-accredited) – completed less than 2 years prior to application** **Hand Therapy Journal article** **APL (prior learning less than 3 years since completion**	Written paper assessed by 2 independent reviewers Via University assessment process only for accredited modules *or* additional application to BAHT ESC for recognition of a non-accredited module Proof of publication & ownership statement Written work assessed by 2 independent reviewers	Certificate Value = 5 points	*12*

** **Note:** therapy students, therapy assistants, nurses & other AHP clinicians may attend BAHT courses at the discretion of the course provider

Target Population	Summary Of Routes	Assessment Process	Sum of Points
University route to AHT **Levels 1-3**	**1. Completion of University of Derby MSc in Hand Therapy.** 4 modules required: - Assessment of the hand and upper limb - Treatment modalities - Hand conditions and interventions - Hand therapy in practice **2. Completion of University of Essex Postgraduate Certificate Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice (Hand Therapy)** **3. Completion of PhD relating to Hand Therapy at UK University** **4. Completion of hand focused Advanced Practice MSc or ePortfolio** **5. Completion of Western University Upper Extremity Rehabilitation MClSc Canada**	Enter date of modules,ePortfolio and/or completion of the course. Evidence of completion of the course is required plus supporting digital badge or letter/testimony from course tutor All modules and courses submitted under this route must be predominantly focused on the hand and wrist to qualify for AHT application.	**12**

Methods of gaining Level III BAHT Points Hand Therapy Journal Article Publication

Five Level III points will be issued to candidates if they have met the following criteria:

- Therapists who have written & published a hand/upper limb related article in the BAHT Hand Therapy Journal within the past 12 months
- Completed the application form (see below)
- Submitted their CV
- Payment of £30 administration fee. Please note registration fee payment must be made before the ESC can consider your application.
- Submit a copy of the journal article
- Provide a statement that the article is 100% their own work, or co-authors can each submit two jointly published articles for consideration if both provide a signed statement to state that work was equally shared. NB in this instance it is expected that the two articles will relate to entirely separate research projects/studies as opposed to being two articles relating to the same study. Journal article applications will be considered individually.

Administration Fee

Please note that payment of the £30 fee must be made *before* an application can be considered. We are no longer able to accept cheque payment for fees so please provide relevant details for invoicing below & email back to: baht.level3@gmail.com & baht.escfinance@gmail.com

Invoice addressee name	
Contact e-mail address	
Contact phone number	
Postal address	
PO number (if applicable)* *If a purchase order is required, please ensure this is raised prior to submitting this application and quote the relevant number here.	

Please contact us if you have any queries regarding this via baht.level3@gmail.com & baht.escfinance@gmail.com

To avoid unnecessary delays in processing your application, please ensure you notify baht.level3@gmail.com & baht.escfinance@gmail.com when you make payment.

Receipts will not routinely be provided, please notify us if this is something you specifically require.

The above payment instructions can be found on the BAHT Level III Journal Application Form.

Appendix 1 – Statement of Ownership / Plagiarism Statement

British Association of Hand Therapists

Level III Statement of Ownership

Plagiarism is intellectual theft & is a serious form of cheating. It is the act of presenting as one's own, the ideas (including images & designs), discoveries or judgements of another person. To copy extracts without full acknowledgement (whatever the medium in which the text or image is stored), from someone else's work & to thereby convey the impression that they are one's own is plagiarism. So is the paraphrasing – restating in one's own words – of someone else's ideas without full acknowledgement. We all utilise the ideas of others; we have a most serious obligation to acknowledge them meticulously.

Plagiarism

A declaration of academic integrity

"I have read & understood the regulations on plagiarism & the work submitted is my own"

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Candidates Name: _____

Appendix 2 – Application for Level III points after publication of an article in Hand Therapy Journal

Name of Candidate: BAHT Membership number:

Contact e-mail:

Contact address:

Title of published article:

Date of Publication*:

*Only articles published within the **12 months prior** to application being made to the ESC can be considered for Level III BAHT Points.

Previously Acquired BAHT Accreditation Points

	Course / Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) - *Title & Venue*	Date
Level I		
Level II		
Level II		
Level II		
Others		

Application for Level III points after publication of an article in Hand Therapy Journal – Checklist

1. Application form completed □
2. CV □
3. Statement of ownership (appendix 1) completed □
4. Copy of published article □
5. Payment of £30 (see payment guidance) □

Please send electronic copy of your application & all required documents to:
baht.level3@gmail.com

I confirm that the article I am submitting is entirely my own work & I request that it be considered for five BAHT Level III points.

Signed: _____ Date:

Or

I confirm that the article I am submitting as co-author is 50% my own work & I request that it be considered for 2 ½ BAHT Level III points.

Signed: _____ Date:

Countersigned*:_____ Name: _____

*Counter signature must be that of the co-author to confirm their agreement that the applicant was responsible for 50% of the work for the article. If both authors wish to submit an application for BAHT points each should use a separate application form.

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