British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT)

# LEVEL III

# MSc Module (accredited) Guidelines

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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.com

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<br><br>** see below | **Introductory course**<br><br>**APL Route** | BAHT exam (short answer/MCQs)<br><br>2 years plus experience full time hand therapy | Certificate Value = 1 point<br><br>Eligibility-Level II | *1* |
| | | Level II | | |
| OP/PT Therapist Eligibility via Level I<br><br>Or<br><br>Indicative experience via APL process<br><br>** see below | **Specialist BAHT course (17 hours contact teaching)**<br><br>**APL (prior learning less than 3 years since completion)**<br><br>**MSc Module (non-accredited) – completed less than 2 years prior to application**<br><br>**Educational points route**<br><br>**Associate PI Scheme** | Two forms of assessment during/after the course, e.g., examination & written assignment<br><br>Written work assessed by 2 independent reviewers<br><br>Via University assessment process & application to BAHT ESC for recognition of a non-accredited module<br><br>Evidence of teaching / education of others<br><br>Evidence of completion | Certificate Value = 2 points per Level II course / APL topic / Level II Route<br><br>Maximum 6 points.<br><br>Eligibility – Level III | *7* |
| | | Level III | | |
| OT/PT specialist Eligibility via Level II<br><br>Or<br><br>Indicative experience via APL process<br><br>** see below | **In-depth BAHT project**<br><br>**MSc Modules (accredited & non-accredited) – completed less than 2 years prior to application**<br><br>**Hand Therapy Journal article**<br><br>**APL (prior learning less than 3 years since completion** | Written paper assessed by 2 independent reviewers<br><br>Via University assessment process only for accredited modules *or* additional application to BAHT ESC for recognition of a non-accredited module<br><br>Proof of publication & ownership statement<br><br>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**<br><br>**Levels 1-3** | **1. Completion of University of Derby MSc in Hand Therapy.**<br>4 modules required:<br>- Assessment of the hand and upper limb<br>- Treatment modalities<br>- Hand conditions and interventions<br>- Hand therapy in practice<br><br>**2. Completion of University of Essex Postgraduate Certificate Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice (Hand Therapy)**<br><br>**3. Completion of PhD relating to Hand Therapy at UK University**<br><br>**4. Completion of hand focused Advanced Practice MSc or ePortfolio**<br><br>**5. Completion of Western University Upper Extremity Rehabilitation MClSc Canada** | Enter date of modules,ePortfolio and/or completion of the course.<br><br>Evidence of completion of the course is required plus supporting digital badge or letter/testimony from course tutor<br><br>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 MSc Module (accredited)

Five Level III points will be issued to candidates meeting the criteria laid out below for BAHT MSc accredited modules.

BAHT MSc accredited modules are modules that have already been reviewed & deemed to be equitable with five BAHT Level III points by the BAHT education subcommittee (ESC).

Delegates successfully completing all aspects of the relevant BAHT MSc accredited modules will automatically be awarded their Level III certificate & BAHT level III points (five points), once the respective University notifies the ESC of eligible candidates.

The current MSc accredited Modules are:

- University of Essex MSc Module – Leading Change in Healthcare Module (previously known as Work Based Learning) (level 7 30 credits).

**Therapists may have completed/wish to complete an MSc module outside of the BAHT MSc accredited modules listed above. If this module is specifically relevant to their learning & development within Hand & upper limb therapy practice it may be suitable for Level III accreditation. In these circumstances therapists can apply to have their module considered by the ESC by completing an application form & reflective piece of work – see BAHT level III MSc non-accredited module guidelines.**

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