

British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT)

LEVEL III

Summary of the BAHT Level III Routes



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This document replaces all previous versions.

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Introduction & Rationale

The 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 & II courses or Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL), gained the required number of British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT) points & are a member of the British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT).

The learning outcome of level III & submitted for 5 BAHT accreditation points must be relevant to the Post-qualification Hand Therapy Education Programme of the British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT). Level III promotes recognition of professional competence in a specialist aspect of hand therapy to improve the quality of patient care & 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.

Post-qualification Hand Therapy Education Programme

LEVEL I

The Level I Course is designed for therapists with minimal or no experience of hand injuries & conditions & 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 competence in a specialist aspect of hand therapy; improve the quality of hand care; & foster evaluation & research in hand therapy (*BAHT Guidelines Level II Course*). If a candidate wishes to submit evidence of prior learning to achieve two BAHT level II points information & evidence must meet requirements of the APL level II process (*BAHT Guidelines Level II APL*).

Two points are awarded per course/APL application for successful completion.

6 Level II points are required at 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 can be gained in a number of ways, described in more detail on page 6.

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

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

For ALL level III routes see individual guidelines on the BAHT website - [The BAHT Education Process \(Route to AHT\)](#)

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

LEVEL	Target population	Content	Assessment	Outcome	Sum of BAHT points
Level I	OT/PT therapist	Introductory course see Course Guidelines	BAHT designed exam. short answer/MCQs 1 hour	Certificate Value = 1 point Eligibility for Level II	1
Level II	OP/PT specialist Eligibility via Level I Or Indicative experience via APL process	Specialist course see Course Guidelines (17 hours contact teaching)	Two forms of assessment during/after the course, e.g. examination during course & written assignment submitted afterwards	Certificate Value = 2 points per Level II course Maximum 6 points. Eligibility – Level III	7
Level III	OT/PT specialist Eligibility via Level II Or Indicative experience via APL process	In-depth study MSc Modules (accredited & non-accredited) 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 <i>or</i> 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

Methods of Gaining BAHT Level III Points

1. **Project.** The proposed Level III project should be a completely NEW piece of work, at the time of application, relevant to the field of hand therapy & may take the format of a review paper, employment-based report or research study/audit. ***The level III project guidelines & application form*** describe in detail the process for gaining 5 BAHT Level III points via this route.
2. **Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL).** The APL route is for therapists who have ALREADY completed a project which equates in content & length to a Level III project. If therapists meet this criterion, they must use the APL route at Level III. ***The level III APL guidelines*** describe in detail the process for gaining 5 BAHT Level III points via this route.
3. **Publication of Journal Article in Hand Therapy.** Therapists who have written & published a hand/upper limb related article in the BAHT Hand Therapy Journal within the past 12 months can qualify for 5 points at Level III. Five Level III points will be issued to candidates meeting the criteria laid out by BAHT. ***The level III Journal Article guidelines & application form*** describe in detail the process for gaining 5 BAHT Level III points via this route.
4. **Accredited University MSc Module.** Delegates successfully completing relevant modules will automatically be awarded their Level III certificate (once the respective University notifies the ESC of eligible candidates). ***The level III Accredited University MSc Module guidelines*** describe the process for gaining 5 BAHT Level III points via this route. The current MSc Modules accredited are:
 - a. University of Nottingham MSc Module – Upper Limb Injection Therapy Module (level 7 20 credits).
 - b. University of Essex MSc Module – Leading Change in Healthcare Module (previously known as Work Based Learning) (level 7 30 credits).
5. **Non-Accredited University MSc Modules.** Therapists may have completed/wish to complete an MSc module outside of those affiliated 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. Five Level III points will be issued to candidates meeting the criteria laid out by BAHT & each therapist's application will be considered on a case by case basis. Modules completed by a maximum of 2 years prior to the date of application can be considered. ***The level III Non-accredited University MSc Module guidelines & application form*** describe in detail the process for gaining 5 BAHT Level III points via this route & provide clear guidance on the criteria required for such modules.

For ALL level III routes see individual guidelines on the BAHT website www.hand-therapy.co.uk

For ALL level III routes email baht.level3@gmail.com

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