

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies

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What is Mind Medicine Institute’s Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies?

The Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies (CPAT) has been developed primarily to meet the anticipated demand for trained therapists to provide regulatory-approved and research-backed psychedelic-assisted therapies for the treatment of mental ill-health in Australia. It is also expected that trained clinicians will be needed to work in research trials as they expand in Australia.

CPAT will give qualified clinicians the additional skills and awareness they need to safely and successfully facilitate medicine-assisted psychotherapies. Instruction will focus on a standardised approach to medicine-assisted psychotherapies that can be integrated with clinicians’ existing psychotherapeutic experience and training. CPAT will include a mix of face-to-face and online learning components.

What qualifications and experience are required to be accepted into the course?

Applicants must have as a minimum a Bachelor level degree in a field relevant to mental health, plus at least three years of documented, supervised practice in a mental health field. On this basis, people with the following qualifications may apply:

- General, Counselling and Clinical Psychologists

- Psychiatrist and Medical Practitioners
- Occupational Therapists
- Social Workers
- Mental Health Nurses
- Registered Psychotherapists and Counsellors

Acceptance onto the course will rest on three main factors:

- Basic qualification
- Documented supervision (as above)
- Interview selection process

I don't meet the eligibility requirements, what courses should I undertake to qualify for CPAT in the future?

Courses at a bachelor's level or above specific to counselling, mental illness, psychotherapy, with some experience of doing therapy under supervision.

A more general course *Fundamentals in Psychedelic Therapies* is also available through our training institute and does not have the same rigorous entry criteria.

How long is the course? Can I undertake it alongside my professional work?

Yes. The course is part-time and takes place over a period of four months. The timetable provided will allow you to plan around the online classes (1 per week) and organise your time for self-learning / readings. Additionally, you will need to schedule time for the intensive and 2 residentials.

Is this an accredited course?

While not providing a qualification of any kind, attendees can obtain non-accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) certificates (related to your professional registration) for attending. The course is endorsed by the College of Mental Health Nurses if you are a member. They provide one CPD point per hour.

How will the course be delivered?

The course will be delivered via a hybrid learning model called blended learning which involves both online and face to face attendance. Students will commence with an orientation week where access and support with the online learning portal will be provided and an introduction to the course and Mind Medicine team will occur. Students will commence study online completing pre readings prior to the first online class.

There are three face-to-face attendance requirements, a 3 day intensive and 2 residentials. Currently these are run in both Victoria and New South Wales. Upon acceptance into the CPAT course students can choose to be allocated to the Victorian and New South Wales cohort.

Assessments will consist of exercises in the learning platform plus evaluation of performance throughout the course.

What hourly commitment per week is the course? Is there a timetable?

The weekly online classes over the four months are equivalent to 90 hours of presentations, breakout sessions and Q&A (around 5-6 hours a week). Materials provided for each week are to be pre-read prior to the class, so this self-learning time is additional to the 5-6hrs a week.

What happens if I am unable to attend the intensive and residentials?

Attendance is compulsory for the face-to-face components of the course being the intensive and residentials, noting there is also a minimum 80% attendance required for the online classes. All online webinars will be recorded and uploaded to the learning management system for later viewing. However, we can defer your attendance of the intensives to another semester.

What times are the intensives and for how long? Is there a timetable?

- A weekend in Melbourne or Sydney (Friday to Sunday afternoon) to consolidate the basic learning and help relate this to your own practice.
- A weekend of Holotropic Breathwork in Victoria or New South Wales (Friday to Monday afternoon, providing the potential opportunity to experience an altered state without psychedelics, to care for someone else and to experience being taken care of.
- One week intensive in Victoria or New South Wales, (Thursday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon) with primary focus on practical learning and consolidating of therapeutic skills, working with videos of real sessions, role play, feedback on skills learning and further development guidance.

What happens if I can't continue the course halfway through?

The course would need to be repeated in another intake. At least 80% attendance is required for certificate on completion.

Do I need to have taken psychedelics to do the course?

No.

When can I incorporate this qualification into my therapeutic practice?

There are two possibilities in the near term.

1. If our rescheduling application is approved by the TGA, psychiatrists and specialist addiction physicians should be able to obtain approvals from the State or Territory Government's where they reside to be able to prescribe these medicines (MDMA and psilocybin) to be used as part of therapy.
2. The TGA is already giving approvals at the Federal level under the Special Access Scheme. This will mean that trained therapists will be needed, and prescribing doctors will be looking to graduates of our course to do the therapy work. We already have a lot of interest in this from clinical groups. Secondly, there will be increasing demand for trained therapists for trial work.

What are the fees?

- There is a non-refundable administration fee of \$250.
- The course costs \$8000 when paid upfront or \$9000 across part-payments. Payment terms are negotiable.

The fee includes all the online sessions, three intensive residentials and other support.

By comparison, below are fees of other **Psychedelic Therapy Courses**. You can see that our course is extremely good value for money, and we also have by far the best Faculty of any course in the world.

1. **Synthesis Retreats** – Holland - Psychedelic Practitioner Training AU\$31,065

2. **Mind Foundation** – Germany - APT – AUGMENTED PSYCHOTHERAPY TRAINING AU \$22,847
3. **CIIS** – California, USA - Certificate Program in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies and Research AU\$13,398
4. **MAPS** – Canada \$7,202 (AUD) and is a shorter course than our CPAT course, is only online (no residential) and focuses on MDMA Assisted Therapy
5. **Naropa University** – Colorado – Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies AU\$14,400
6. **Vital Psychedelic Training** – Digital AU\$17,277

Are concessions available?

We offer a significant amount of Financial Assistance places (up to 50% off the course cost) and payment plans to practitioners who need financial support (e.g., single Mums, those who work in indigenous and rural communities etc.)

Please contact our enrolment team at: cpat@mindmedicineaustralia.org

What do our students and graduates say?

[Please read testimonials from graduates here.](#)