

Applying for ACTO Research Student Membership

Eligibility Criteria

We are very keen to engage with a conversation between researchers, including student researchers, and therapists for the good of the online profession, both in the private, NHS and third sectors.

To this end the ACTO Research Network actively seeks researchers, and student researchers, from all backgrounds, not just those who have a mental health training, so that this aim can be furthered.

If you can answer yes to all of the following, you are eligible to apply for **ACTO Student Research membership** with the use of the title '**ACTO Student Research Member**'.

- Are you currently involved in at least one project related to working therapeutically online? This could include the development of apps, AI, VR, platforms, as well as the therapeutically aspects and research.
- Has your project been granted ethical approval by your organization? Or is it in the process of applying for this?

Membership Benefits

As a Research Student Member you will have:

- ✓ Access to the Members' Area of the ACTO website
- ✓ Eligibility for our Members' forum
- ✓ Eligibility for all Research & Development working groups and networks that may develop
- ✗ *Please note ACTO Research Student Members are not eligible to advertise in the ACTO Directories*

Association for Counselling and Therapy Online

ACTO is the trading name Association for Counselling and Therapy Online Ltd; Registered address: 19B Front Street, Sacriston, County Durham, DH7 6JS United Kingdom. Registered in England; Company No. 10620417; Although our members may not all be resident within England and Wales any ACTO contract, and the work to which it relates, are subject to the jurisdiction of the laws of England & Wales.

Professional Conduct

ACTO Research Student Members are required to:

- Comply with the rules of their Professional body (if any).
- Accept and adhere to the ACTO Code of Ethics, which can be found here: <https://acto-org.uk/professional-conduct-code-ethics/>
- Accept the ACTO Terms and Conditions, especially those relating to research, and as itemised in the constitution, 24.9:

24.9. Research Student membership:

- 24.9.1. For those undergraduate and postgraduate students who are not in online therapy training but who are researching online therapy in some capacity.
- 24.9.2. A Research Student Member is not required to have professional liability insurance suitable for working therapeutically online and is not required to be a member of a Professional membership organisation with an ethical framework and complaints procedure, although this would be encouraged.
- 24.9.3. Research Student Members will have access to the Online Library and Forums.
- 24.9.4. Research Student Members may not use the ACTO list for asking for help with research either by recruiting for samples or for professional advice without the Research Student Member submitting their proposal to the Standards and Ethics Director of ACTO for approval. Research projects will only be considered once ethical approval has been granted within your academic organisation. There will be a limit of 10 acceptances per year to use ACTO Professional Members as samples, so that ACTO members are not overwhelmed with requests. Subject to approval, this will be on a first come, first served basis. The ACTO New Year begins of 1st April. Anyone found abusing the list will be expelling from ACTO forthwith.
- 24.9.5. The fee for Research Student Members is £19.00 from 1st April 2018, and will be subject to a small rise each year. Research Student Members joining in the middle of the financial year will be charged pro rata. The Directors reserve the right to increase or reduce the fees as required.
- 24.9.6. A Research Student Member will be included in the ACTO Research Network listing, showing as a Student Researcher. A Research Student Member is NOT eligible to go on the ACTO register of online therapists.
- 24.9.7. Should a Research Student Member withdraw from training then their membership is deemed to be cancelled and the student will need to reapply should they wish to be listed within a section.
- 24.9.8. No member may stay in this section for more than six months after completing their qualification. After qualification the research student may, free of charge for the rest of the ACTO year, joining the ACTO Research Membership section.
- 24.9.9. It is the responsibility of the Research Student Member to supply annual evidence of their status as a student with their membership renewal.

Documentary proof of your qualifications + Professional Body membership/s

Once you have completed this form please send it together with any attachments via <https://wettransfer.com/> to members@acto-org.uk.