



CORNWALL SCHOOL OF CRYSTAL & ENERGY HEALING

ACCREDITATION

What is accreditation? What does it mean? Do I need it?

A dictionary definition: the fact of being officially recognized, accepted, or approved of, or the act of officially recognizing, accepting, or approving of something.

To me, the word 'official' suggests that there is an external, independent body involved. Another definition which supports this is: the *independent, third-party evaluation* of a conformity assessment body against recognised standards.

When complementary and other therapies first started to be rediscovered some 40ish years ago, attempts were made to create good, responsible, thorough training. Most trainings were based on the two year standard. Some still are, such as counsellor training, healer training, and other therapies with honest, authentic, reputable organisations. This standard was not picked from the air! It was understood that this was the time it took for students to not only learn techniques, but to practice and experience the treatments and to discover themselves - their strengths and weaknesses and the places that they might find challenging when working as a therapist.

When I decided that it was time for me to teach a full training course - mainly because I had a waiting list of people wanting me to teach them - I looked to link up with reputable schools that were already teaching crystal healing. This was in the mid 1990s and I found an organisation called the Affiliation of Crystal Healing Organisations (ACHO). It was, at the time, a large organisation with many schools and many approaches to crystal healing - several coming from a spiritual healing background. It had been formed in 1988 by a group of crystal healing schools with the aim and intention of promoting professional standards in training and competence for crystal healing and to act as a nationally recognised representative body for crystal healing.

Over the years an immense amount of work was put in to create a professional training course that was agreed upon by all members. It was a two year course. As I've already said, most professional trainings were at least two years and, to their credit, most spiritual healing organisations still honour this.

This course became recognised by the Open College Network and the General Regulatory Council for Complementary Therapies (GRCCT). The latter is the federal regulatory body that regulates its members on behalf of the UK government. This two year course is still the only crystal healing course that has GRCCT recognition - and this is what the CSCEH Diploma in Crystal Healing is based on.

By the early 2000s, interest in crystal healing was growing enormously. Lots of people were wanting more than an introductory day or weekend but did not want healer training nor to commit to a 2 year course.



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Short courses are great to test the water and see if a subject calls to you, so rather than writing a whole new course, I decided to teach the 2 year diploma in 3 stages or levels. In fact, most people who started my Basic Certificate choose to go on to further courses - but that's a separate issue. The Basic Certificate prepared students to work with family and friends, not the public. It was not an accredited level and not an adequate professional qualification.

ACHO also brought in shorter courses. The difference was, however, that these were promoted as 3 levels of accredited professional training. This was very confusing to prospective students. On the one hand, ACHO continued to claim to be about upholding standards and continued to promote the 2 year course with the links to GRCCT, while simultaneously offering the option of a cut price option - an accredited, insurable, professional training after just 5 days teaching.

I did my best to challenge this ACHO claim for many years until I gave up. But to be very clear, ***anything other than the 2 year Diploma is accredited solely from within. To this day, only the 2 year Diploma course has external recognition and accreditation.***

So, why did an organisation that was established to promote professional standards decide that it no longer took 2 years to fully train people? What changed?

Well, the world changed. More and more people became interested in crystal healing and other complementary therapies, and this created a wonderful marketing opportunity that became the whole 'wellness industry'. Training organisations and training courses popped up everywhere. The focus changed from the student to the provider. ***Instead of promoting 'professional standards in training and competence' to enable students to be the very best they can be, the emphasis moved to creating quick courses that promise much and serve the course provider very well .***

You could train in massage, and gain a qualification, without ever laying a hand on a body. You could train to be a counsellor, and gain a qualification, without ever having seen a client and without any personal development work. You could then go on to specialise in bereavement counselling or addiction counselling, having watched some videos and answered a few multiple choice questions yet never sat with a client.

The next step was to make all these new training courses seem 'meaningful', so that when prospective students asked, they could be told that they were investing in an accredited course. The simplest way is to accredit yourself! Why not! With good enough marketing it can be done - and has been done - quite spectacularly in some cases. And you can always find someone, somewhere to provide insurance! A slightly more complex route is to get together with a group of other people and call yourself an accreditation body. That way you can validate your own members' work or make money by charging others to validate their work.



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There's a huge advantage to the teacher/trainer/school in having short courses. You can get a lot more bums on seats for much less effort and it is proportionally much more lucrative. Now there's another, newer level of the industry with teaching/training organisations that train people to be trainers!

With all this competition, there was a fear that some crystal schools would become unsustainable. Rather than holding fast to providing 5 star courses, the choice was taken to reduce standards.

But surely it is common sense to see that you cannot possibly learn as much or have a comparably deep experience from a quickie course as a longer, more intensive course. So the next question is - how much do you actually need to know?

How much do you need to know if you are to set yourself up as a healer, with the possibility of very sick, and sometimes desperate, people coming to you for help? I do not believe that it is possible to train people to be able to deal with whatever clients bring to them, competently, responsibly and safely, without a full and proper training. I know that I cannot train healers quickly. Much of the work is done by the students themselves, and this takes time. I am sure that I can't train healers online. I can teach people about crystals online, but I can't do real, authentic healer training. What I have realised over the years is that anyone who thinks they can work as a crystal healer, or train crystal healers after a short training, are not doing same crystal healing that I do and teach. I know 100% that anyone who completes my crystal healing diploma course and does the required work will be able to go out and practice competently, responsibly, and safely. I have a karmic responsibility when I give someone a diploma. It isn't just about business and money.

So, back to accreditation, CSCEH teaches the Diploma in Crystal Healing that is recognised by GRCCT and the Federation of Healing Therapists (FHT).

You will receive a school certificate from CSCEH for the other courses but they are not recognised by any external body - so internally accredited, much the same as any other course from any other school.

A related question is that of insurance. Do I need insurance? I'd say that in the world as it is right now, you do. The way to get insurance used to be to study a proper accredited course. I've been with the same insurer since the mid 1990s and they do not accept short courses as adequate professional training and will not insure. They do offer student insurance to my students and those on other diploma courses. The truth is, however, that nowadays you will always find someone willing to insure anything for a fee.

The bottom line is whether you are willing to invest in something worth having! A full and proper training that will adequately prepare you to work as a professional healer will take time, investment and a lot of work on your part. I expect my students to work hard. I expect them to practise, to practise more and more again. You get out what you put in. If you complete a full 2 year training, in the old way, not only will you have an authentic, properly accredited qualification, you will have grown and changed from the person you were when you started and truly be able to do the job.



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If you want to test the water - come on one of our Introductory Days. You will learn more in one day than many short courses and most online courses. If you choose to progress to further training, some of the cost of that day will be deducted from your fees.

If you want to look at other schools, and I suggest you do to get a 'feel' for the right course and the right teacher for you, ask a few questions.

How long is the course and what does it cover?

How much does it cost? Are there any other additional fees?

Is the course accredited? What is the accreditation body?

How much work will I need to do to qualify?

How much practice will I need to do to qualify?

When I finish this course, will I need to do further study?

When I finish this course will you be confident that I will be able to do the job.

What support is there for me when I start to practice?