

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SHIATSU SOCIETY

Who is eligible for membership?

Membership of the Shiatsu Society is open to anyone over the age of eighteen who is studying Shiatsu, either as a special interest or with the intention of becoming a fully qualified Shiatsu Practitioner. Joining the Society is a good way of keeping in touch with what is happening in the world of Shiatsu and of making contact with other like-minded people.

What is the Shiatsu Society?

The Shiatsu Society was originally set up in 1981 to facilitate communication within the field of Shiatsu and to make the benefits of this form of healing more widely recognized in this country. The Society has since grown to become the most widely recognized, independent Shiatsu body within the United Kingdom, with a current membership of around 1,700. Throughout the development of Shiatsu in this country the Society has maintained links to many other Shiatsu organizations worldwide especially in Japan. Our Constitution and Code of Ethics has been used as the basis of many European Shiatsu associations. We are recognized as one of the few complementary medicine associations that manages to keep differing styles and methods of Shiatsu within one umbrella organization.

What are the aims of the Society?

The Society aims to provide a focal point for everyone interested in Shiatsu treatment and training, whether they are teachers, practitioners, students, the media or members of the public. During the last 15 years the need to protect both the reputation of Shiatsu as a therapy and the needs of the public has become apparent. As a result the Society has taken on a self-regulating role of maintaining professional standards of practice and training and is now the main professional association for practitioners, teachers and training establishments within the United Kingdom. As part of this brief the Society compiles a Practitioners Register of qualified therapists, who have passed both the theory and practical examinations set by the Shiatsu Society's Independent Assessment sub-Committee.

Newsletter

Members are encouraged to keep abreast of up-to-date developments within the Society and the world of Shiatsu through the quarterly newsletter. The newsletter is the Society's main method of communication providing a forum for lively discussion on Shiatsu and related topics, through letters and articles. The newsletter also provides current information on Shiatsu courses and seminars held throughout the United Kingdom and internationally.

Annual Congress

The Annual Residential Congress, which is open to students, practitioners and teachers, usually takes place over a weekend in the summer. The congress provides an opportunity to meet other Society members and take part in discussions and workshops on Shiatsu and related matters.

Publicity and Political Liaison

A great part of the Society's role is disseminating information on the benefits of Shiatsu to the public and the media. As a result, it has grown to become the main information point on Shiatsu treatment and training in this country. The Society represents the therapy on various bodies and maintains contacts with many organizations which lobby on behalf of complementary medicine in general. In 1992 the Society became one of the founder members of the European Shiatsu

Federation which is lobbying the European Parliament on the role of Shiatsu within the European Community.

Student Insurance Scheme

In the third year of training, students are required to take out professional indemnity insurance. The Student Insurance Scheme is available to all third year students enabling them to work on members of the public under the guidance of a Registered Teacher (identified by the letter (T) as in MRSS(T)—see below.

Practitioner Insurance

The Society also provides professional indemnity insurance cover for Shiatsu practitioners which is available to all practitioners who are current members of the Society. The Society has arranged favourable rates and terms with an established insurance company.

Shiatsu Society Assessment

Students on the scheme may present themselves for Assessment after they have been members of the Shiatsu Society for two years, and fulfilled a number of other criteria, following graduation or completion of their training. Successful applicants are then entered onto the Shiatsu Society Register of Practitioners and may use the letters MRSS after their names. Their names are then made available in response to requests from the public for registered practitioners.

The Shiatsu Society Assessment sub-Committee is made up of independent Registered Teachers. It is their role to ensure high standards of professional practice within the Society. Applicants must meet certain standards relating to their training and professional competence, including 500 hours of study leading to graduation from a three year training course at a Shiatsu School with Registered Practitioners and/or Teachers (T) in the UK, or completion of an acceptable training with recognized teachers outside the UK. (Students who have trained abroad may be assessed on a case-by-case basis.)

To join The Shiatsu Society as a Student Member, please print off the file [New Membership Form](#) and send it with the appropriate payment to the address below.

If you are not currently involved in Shiatsu training or practice, but would like to keep abreast of developments in the world of Shiatsu, you can take out a [Reader Subscription](#) to receive the quarterly magazine Shiatsu Society News.

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