

SHIATSU SOCIETY (UK)



**New Route
to joining the professional
practitioner register of the Shiatsu
Society (MRSS)**

October 2007

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Dear School Principal,

As you know the Ratification Sub-Committee has been working for some time on getting the 'New Route to MRSS' up and running. The 'first tranche' of ratifications was in June 2006 (ESS, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Northern, London College, and Edinburgh from pilot). In October 2006, the AGM approved the further New Route proposal. The 'second tranche' of ratifications was in December 2006 (Shiatsu College with 5 Branches, University of Derby, Genki, Devon, Bristol, British School of Shiatsu-Do with 2 Branches), making a total of 11 full ratified Schools (since ESS did not renew in 2006).

The above-mentioned Schools, that are currently ratified, will have further Verification Visits from Shiatsu Society Verifiers to observe their 3rd year students towards the end of their training period.

The Shiatsu Society continues to offer further opportunities for Shiatsu Schools to apply for practical ratification. The process is two-stage, with an initial submission of a file about Practical Assessment Procedures intended to occur in the first quarter of the 'School year', with a verification visit due to occur in the last quarter before final assessment/ graduation of students from their School.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the full documentation for the 'New Route'. The Schools' Section is Part 2, which we would urge you to read carefully so that you know what Schools will have to do. Obviously, you will find it helpful to read Part 1 (for the Society Office and Verifiers) and Part 3 (for the Graduates), to get an overview of the system from all points of view.

For us to proceed with implementing the new system as soon as possible it would be helpful to know

- a) Whether you wish to participate in the scheme (hopefully you do since your School's Theory paper is ratified).
- b) How many students you have in your 3rd year.
- c) What are the dates of your 3rd year classes are in the last three months of your 3rd year course, until they have their final assessment (so that we can schedule Verification Visits).

If you wish to proceed with Practical Ratification we would like you to send in your Application for Practical Ratification (document 2.1) as soon as possible, and your portfolio for Practical Assessment (including material specified in Checklist for Ratification of Schools Practical Assessment procedures – document 2.2) by 17th December 2007. Please note that you should submit three copies of your portfolios. These are retained for Society records, and annual verification visits. We strongly advise you to keep an additional copy for your own records.

For Schools which run branches we would anticipate that you could submit one single portfolio, provided the Practical Assessment procedures were the same for each branch. However, there would be a Verification Visit for each branch where there is a final year class (and therefore we would need dates, see above).

Regarding finances, the cost of ratifying each School will be £415 + VAT £72.63 (total £487.63 inc VAT) (£120 + VAT for initial Ratification of portfolio and £295 + VAT for the Verification Visit). The Society recommends that you charge not more than £60 to Graduates for 'signing them on' and 'signing them off' the PGY. The fees you charge for any supervision, tutorials or treatments you offer to Graduates on the PGY is up to you. On application at the end of the PGY to join the professional register, Graduates need to pay a small fee - presently £25 plus VAT (£29.38)

New Route to MRSS - October 2007

If you have any questions about the New Route, please feel free to contact Catherine Scanlon (Chair of Education) or any of the Ratification Sub-Committee: Carol Dean, Laura Davison, Veronica Howard, Elaine Liechti, Anne Palmer.

Best Wishes

Catherine Scanlon

Chair of Education

&

The Ratification Group

Education SubCommittee

The New Route to MRSS – An Overview

The 2005 AGM of the Shiatsu Society voted in favour of establishing a ‘new route to MRSS, and the 2006 AGM accepted the proposals put forward by the Ratification Working Group of the Education SubCommittee to implement the change to the way in which Graduates can become Members of the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society. This process began with the setting up of a Working Party in January 2002 and various presentations to members over the last few years. A meeting of the Principals of Shiatsu Schools in September 2003 was instrumental in crystallising the ethos and format of the ‘New Route’. The New Route provides a workable system which will serve us as a Society and as individual Members for the long-term future.

What is the ‘new route’ to MRSS?

Under the Assessment route used to date, students take a Theory Assessment and a Practical Assessment in their School before obtaining their Diploma. After this, they have to sit a further Shiatsu Society Assessment in order to be admitted to the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society. Under the ‘New Route’ the procedures used in the School’s *Practical* Assessment are ratified by the Shiatsu Society (many Schools’ *Theory* Assessments are already ratified), and thus the Schools’ theory and practical exams stand in place of the Shiatsu Society’s current MRSS Assessment. The Graduate will then undertake a Post Graduate Year (PGY) during which they will have to fulfil certain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) criteria, and at the end of the PGY they will automatically be granted Membership of the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society.

What are the advantages of the New Route?

For Graduates it provides a smooth and harmonious means of entering the Register of Practitioners without having to jump through the additional hoop of a further Assessment. The PGY provides the space for Graduates to obtain the necessary practical experience that Shiatsu Society Assessors have often found was lacking in MRSS Assessment candidates. It also facilitates Graduates keeping in contact with mentors and teachers during that crucial year following graduation as they make the transition from student to practitioner.

For Schools it provides a formal link between Schools and the Shiatsu Society, in which the Schools’ role in training students to the Society’s required level of competence is formally acknowledged. With this acknowledgement comes the advantage to Schools that they can market their courses as providing a full package for students, from beginner level to full MRSS designation.

For the Society it will eventually do away with the current cumbersome Assessment procedure; it will encourage more Members to progress to MRSS; and it will foster greater communication with and between Schools.

Are there any disadvantages?

As with any new system, there will initially be more work in setting things up and new procedures might seem challenging, but these are not disadvantages as such.

For Schools there is a portfolio and checklist to complete (comprising details of Practical Assessment procedures etc.) followed by a visit from a ‘Verifier’ from the Society’s ‘Ratification Team’ [see below for terminology] later in the year to verify that agreed procedures are being followed.

For the Society there is the task of setting up and explaining the new system to Members, training Ratification Teams and Verifiers, liaising with Schools and Graduates.

For Graduates: none. They can still join the professional register (MRSS) by means of the Assessment Route if they choose.

Some questions which may arise from individual Members

'I run a small Shiatsu School and I can't see the point in all the effort to put together a portfolio for Ratification for my theory and practical exams'

If you run a course that covers the Core Curriculum and you assess both Theory and Practical aspects at the end of it, then it could be to your advantage to apply for Ratification. Although preparing the Theory and Practical Procedures portfolio may be daunting if you have never done that kind of thing before, it can be a useful exercise in making you look at exactly how you assess different aspects of your course. Practical Ratification is a more person-to-person process and involves one or more Verifiers visiting you and looking at how you assess your students' practical abilities. Those of us who participated in the pilot studies found visiting and being visited by fellow Shiatsu Teachers to be very interesting and supportive, and helped us to look at our own way of assessing practical work in a different light. However, you do not have to follow the New Route if you do not wish to. The present MRSS Assessment Days will continue, and your students can follow that route if you wish.

'I am on the Assessment Panel and really enjoy Assessment days when I meet other Teachers and get to see how students from different schools work. I feel this helps me keep standards up in my School. Can I get this experience under the New Route?'

Yes. Under the new system the Practical Assessment procedures will be looked at in the Schools, rather than individual students' performances being assessed. For this reason the Society will be looking for people to join the Ratification Teams, to look at Schools' portfolios and visit Schools to verify the procedures used by each School [see below for terminology]. As part of a Ratification Team, you and another Teacher (not from your School) would look at a School's portfolio detailing its practical assessment procedures. One of you would visit the School in the later part of the academic year and look at how they assess their students' practical abilities. Discussions and sharing of good ideas will help to maintain and even raise the standard of Assessment procedures that you are already familiar with due to your involvement in the Assessment Panel. Presently, some of the Assessors' training days incorporate training in the Ratification process and briefing on how to be a Verifier.

'I graduated ages ago but have never dared to go for MRSS - will the New Route help me?'

The New Route contains a clause whereby once the School from you graduated is ratified, you are eligible to commence your PGY. This would be dependent upon your School getting Ratification for its Practical Assessment Procedures. In the case where your School no longer exists, it might be possible for you to go to a Ratified School and re-take a Practical Assessment and then proceed to the PGY. See document 3.3.

How do I get more details?

The following documents give relevant details:

1. Package for Shiatsu Society Administration, Ratification Teams and Verifiers.
 - 1.1 Administration Checklist re. Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessments & PGY.
 - 1.2 Verifiers' Information Sheet re. Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures.
 - 1.3 Verifiers' Checklist.
2. Information sheet for Schools about the Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures.
 - 2.1 Application for Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures.
 - 2.2 Checklist for Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures.

3. Information sheet for Graduates about the Post Graduate Year.
- 3.1 Registration for the Post Graduate Year form. (complete at start of PGY)
- 3.2 Application for MRSS form. (complete at end of PGY)
- 3.3 Notes for current Graduate members.

Terminology

The following terms are frequently used in educational circles when involved in the kind of process we are undertaking:

Accreditation: from ‘to accredit’ = to give official authorization to, or to certify as meeting official requirements. Generally used when a course is certified by an *external awarding body* (such as City & Guilds or a University). This is beyond the scope of the Society at present.

Ratification: from “to ratify” = to approve and sanction, or make officially valid. In our context to ascertain that a School’s Assessment Procedures are fair and reliable and meet Baseline Curriculum standards.

Verification: from ‘to verify’ = to make sure or demonstrate that something is true or accurate, to check for accuracy. The process used to ensure that Assessment Procedures are carried out in a consistent manner. This process is widely used in Further Education and within professional Training circles.

Moderation: is a term used interchangeably with “verification”.

Administration Package for Shiatsu Society Office, Ratification Teams and Verifiers

Overview

The two main components of the 'New Route to MRSS' are the Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures, and the Post Graduate Year.

Pilot studies have shown that students at the end of their 3 year training period may be competent in techniques and theory, but are not necessarily at the level we would expect to pass the MRSS Assessment, usually due to lack of clinical experience. In other words, the Schools have provided a very adequate training, but what the individuals need is more 'flying hours' to bring them to MRSS standard. At the meeting of School Principals in September 2003, we debated in depth about the possibilities of external Assessment by the Society at the point of graduation (i.e. the MRSS Assessment in-house), but decided that this was not feasible for several reasons. It was concluded that what was needed was a system of acknowledging the Schools' part in providing training to the correct standard, and in addition a structured method of ensuring that Graduates gained further clinical experience and support after completing their course. Hence the two part 'New Route to MRSS' with the Schools' procedures for assessing practical competence being ratified by the Society, and the Graduates undertaking a Post Graduate Year with automatic membership of the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society at the end provided they fulfil the criteria set out in document 3 (Information sheet for Graduates).

From the Society's point of view, running the Post Graduate Year scheme is relatively simple. Graduates register for the PGY upon successful completion of their course, either with their School Principal or with another MRSS (T) of their choice. During their year, they choose their own tutorials and supervisors; at the end of the year they apply to join the professional register (MRSS), and fill in a checklist which tutors and supervisors must sign to say that they have completed their tasks. It is an 'on paper' exercise which is designed to run with the minimum of difficulty. The Office will run a check on a percentage of these to ensure that sessions have occurred.

Ratifying the Schools' Practical Procedures is more complex. The current system of ratifying Schools' Theory Assessments is an 'on paper' exercise. However, for the Society to have certainty about practical standards, it needs the added component of observing the practical standards that apply in each School as well as looking at the School's procedures on paper.

The Ratification of Schools' Practical Procedures is a two-stage process. The first stage is when the Education Sub-Committee is sent the School's portfolio of evidence re. Practical Assessment Procedures (detailed in requirements 1 – 12 of Schools' checklist Document 2.2). The Education Sub-Committee will appoint a team of two (a Ratification Team) to look at the School's Portfolio of Practical Assessment Procedures, bearing in mind that each School has the freedom and responsibility to assess students in the manner they feel best. What the Society is looking for is: clear criteria for awarding passes or fails, consistency in marking, good practice and feedback to encourage standards to rise. [See document 2: Information sheet for Schools about the Ratification of Schools' Practical Procedures; 2.2 Checklist for Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures *and* 1.2 Information for Verifiers, 1.3 Verifiers' checklist.]. The second stage is a visit within the final one third of the School's academic year by a Verifier (who is on the Ratification Team for that School) who verifies that the Procedures agreed at the time of initial ratification (portfolio stage) are being carried out. The Verifier will observe staff teaching or assessing a graduating/ third year class. They may discuss with teacher(s) the strengths/ weaknesses of the class, which students are likely to achieve the required standard by the end of the course, what actions/ measures are in place to ensure that weak students achieve (e.g. extra tutorials within a

timescale), etc. This visit does not have to coincide with the School's final Practical Assessment. (Indeed it would be difficult to achieve this since most Verifiers are likely to be senior Teachers and many will be assessing their own final year students at around the same time in the summer).

The Ratification Teams

The Ratification Teams will be drawn from Teachers with experience on the Shiatsu Society's Assessment Panel. (According to the Rules and Regulations, they need to be at least MRSS(T). However, generally the experience gained by being in the Assessment Panel is considered valuable in terms of acting as a Society Verifier). Portfolios should be sent to two appointed Verifiers for the initial Ratification process (they form the Ratification Team for that School), but only one Verifier will be present for the Verification Visit. However, both Verifiers are meant to discuss the Visit and approval for Ratification for the School they are verifying. For continuity, the Ratification Team should remain the same for a number of years (to be set by the Board - recommended 2-3 years), with one verifier rotating to another team after this time, so that relationships do not become too close. Training days may/ will be necessary from time to time. So far, we had one in Newcastle in March 2007, and one is planned for September 2007 in London.

The Shiatsu Society Office staff, and Verifiers should all be familiar with the relevant sections of Shiatsu Society Rules and Regulations Section 3 (Membership), Section 13 (Assessment of Core Curriculum), and Section 14 (Schools of Shiatsu: Examination Ratification and Ratification of Practical Assessment Procedures).

1.1 Administration Checklist regarding Ratification of Schools Practical Assessment Procedures and Post Graduate Year.

School Admin.

1. Office sends out Applications for Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures to all Schools.
2. Co-ordinates setting up Ratification Teams for each School.
3. Co-ordinates visits to Schools with Ratification Teams/ Verifiers, including providing checklists to Schools and Verifiers.
4. Keeps lists of Ratified Schools and when they need to be revisited.
5. Encourages other Schools to join the Scheme.
6. Makes the Code of Best Practice for Schools available.
7. Arranges Training Days.
8. Prompts Schools to send in their lists of Graduates (these may come in in dribs and drabs as students complete outstanding work).

Graduates Admin

Office to send out letters inviting Graduates to join the PGY with Documents 3, 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3.

At Registration for the PGY (i.e. at commencement) a Graduate must:

1. Complete a Registration for Post Graduate Year form (form 3.1).
2. Have obtained their School Diploma not more than 3 years prior to starting the PGY (unless they graduated before the 'New Route to MRSS' began, in which case see document 3.3).
3. Provide evidence that they are a current Graduate member of the Shiatsu Society, have been a Member (Student or Associate) for the two years prior to Registration for the PGY.
4. Have current professional indemnity insurance.

At Application for MRSS (i.e. at the end of the PGY) a Graduate must:

1. Complete an Application for MRSS form (form 3.2) and PGY Checklist showing relevant evidence of having fulfilled the criteria detailed below.
2. Pay an Administration fee to the Society at a level set by the Board (October 2006 £25 + VAT = £29.38).

The following criteria will be checked by the Supervising MRSS(T):

3. Provide evidence that they obtained their School Diploma not more than 4 years prior to applying for MRSS (see Note d) in Document 3), (unless they graduated before the 'New Route to MRSS' began, in which case see document 3.3).
4. Provide evidence that they are a current Graduate member of the Shiatsu Society.
5. Have current professional indemnity insurance.
5. Have completed 100 treatments in the 12 months prior to application (if the Post Graduate Year follows directly after the final Diploma assessment then the treatments must be post-diploma and not the ones used to obtain the Diploma).
6. Have received a minimum of 3 treatments from a current MRSS during their PGY.
7. Have attended a minimum of 2 one hour tutorials with an MRSS (T) during their PGY.
8. Have attended 4 supervision sessions with a suitably qualified supervisor (not necessarily a Shiatsu practitioner) in which issues such as client/practitioner relationship, practice

management, self awareness and personal growth in relation to Shiatsu practice are covered during their PGY.

Once the Office receives the Application for MRSS form duly signed off by the supervising MRSS(T) and the administration fee, then the MRSS certificate should be sent to the new Practitioner within one month, and their name upgraded onto the Register of Professional Practitioners.

Notes

Graduates may only stay as Graduate Members for 4 years. All Graduates are to get a letter at the end of 3 years to remind them they will be moved to the Associate category if they do not complete PGY in the next 12 months. The 4 years will start from 1.1.06 for all Graduates in that category on 1.1.06 (This allows plenty of time for them to move and is not back-dating a new rule).

1.2 Verifiers' Information Sheet regarding Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures

The importance of the role of the Verifiers in the New Route to MRSS cannot be overstated. Once initial Ratification of the School's Practical Assessment Procedures has been completed, the Verifiers will be responsible for upholding the Shiatsu Society's standards for practical competence (much as members of the Assessment Panel are currently). In particular, Verifiers will be responsible for ensuring that each School's Practical standards are sufficiently high that their Graduates will be at MRSS level of competence on completion of the Post Graduate Year.

Verifiers are MRSS(T)s drawn by preference from the Assessment Panel. They form teams of two to initially ratify and then verify a School's Practical Assessment Procedures. It must be stressed that Verifiers are going in to Schools on behalf of the Shiatsu Society to verify Practical Assessment procedures - they are not going in as external Assessors. Many Schools do in fact have an external Assessor as part of their final Practical Assessment, but this is not the role of the Society's delegate. One of the purposes of the New Route to MRSS is to acknowledge the Schools' role in training and assessing individual students to the School's Diploma level: the Society notes that Schools have the responsibility and freedom to assess their students in the manner that they feel best. The Society's role is to look at the way in which each School examines their students, and to assess the overall standard of passes and fails given by the School.

- Note: throughout this and the other documents we call the Shiatsu Society's personnel visiting Schools 'Verifiers'. This is because, after initial Ratification (which is carried out by the same people), the role of the Society's personnel is to verify standards (and because in most dictionaries there is no such word as "Ratifier").

The main steps in the New Route to MRSS

1. A 'Ratification Team' of two Shiatsu Society Registered Teachers (later called Verifiers, see above) view the School's portfolio with all the relevant documentation. (For documents and evidence see: 2. Information Sheet for Schools, 2.1 Application for Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures, 2.2 Checklist for Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures, and 1.3 Verifier's Checklist). This initial process should ideally take place in the first part of the School's academic year. Initial Ratification is given if all is satisfactory.
2. One of the above Team, a Verifier, visits the School in the final part of the School's academic year to verify that the procedures previously agreed upon are being carried out. The Verifier will observe a third year/ graduating class being taught or assessed and will discuss with the teacher(s) the strengths/ weaknesses of the class. This will include which students are likely to achieve the required standard by the end of the course; what action/ measures are to be put in place to ensure that weak students achieve (e.g. extra tutorials within a given timescale), etc. If this is satisfactory, then full Ratification of the Practical Assessment Procedures will be given.
3. Graduates of the School may then embark upon their Post Graduate Year. (See Documents: 3. Graduates Information Sheet, 3.1 Registration for Post Graduate year, 3.2 Application for MRSS). On completion of the PGY requirements the Graduate will be automatically given MRSS status.
4. Schools will subsequently be visited by their Verifiers as frequently as the Board of the Shiatsu Society thinks appropriate (presently annually).

The main aspects of the use of Verifiers are summarized below:

- 1) There will be two Verifiers in each Ratification Team, in order to reduce the possibility of conflict of interest or claims of bias.
- 2) At least one of the Verifiers should be unconnected with the School's Assessment process.
- 3) The Verifiers will preferably be active members of the Shiatsu Society's Assessment Panel Pool.
- 4) a) The initial task of the Verifiers is to ratify the Schools' Assessment Procedures.
b) The Verifiers' main task on subsequent visits is to verify the Assessment Procedures and to verify the general standard of the students. To this end, they will require a clear outline of the procedures and the criteria used by the School's Assessors/Teachers for giving passes and fails.
- 5) The Verifiers check that all the criteria in Rules & Regs. 13)a) i),ii) &iii) [Assessment (of the Core Curriculum)] have been achieved by all students wishing to follow the Post Graduate Year route to MRSS.
- 5) At the time of the visit(s) the Verifiers will, if they so wish, speak to any of the Teachers about case studies, ethics, current practice, etc. and how these are assessed by the School.
- 6) Verifiers will be able to obtain feedback from the School Assessors/ Teachers as to the performance (or likely performance) of each student in their final Practical Assessment, complete with any recommendations given (bearing in mind that the Verifier may not necessarily be present at the final Practical Assessment, depending on the format used by the School).

It is expected that there will be a reasonable amount of dialogue and discussion between the Verifiers and the School as regards the procedures used in the Practical Assessments, bearing in mind that different Schools assess students in different ways. The Society is looking for good practice and feedback to encourage standards to rise. The two Verifiers on the School's Ratification Team look at the portfolio of Practical Assessment Procedures in advance of the Verification Visit, and agree on questions to be asked at the School. After the Verification Visit, in consultation with their co-verifier, a Report is written by the visiting Verifier within two weeks of the visit, and sent to the Office, for reference to the Chair and communication with the School. If the Verifiers cannot grant Ratification and the School wishes to appeal then the procedures set out in the Society's Rules and Regulations (Section 14f) will apply. It should be emphasised again that Verifiers are not examining the School's students (that is the School's business) and so cannot have any say in which individual students pass or fail. However, it is the Verifier's task and responsibility to look at the overall standard of passes and fails given by the School and to ascertain that these are in line with the Society's aim that following the PGY the School's Graduates will be at MRSS standard.

After a certain number of years (to be set by the Board of the Shiatsu Society – recommended 2-3 years) one of the initial Ratification Team will move to another Team, so that the relationship between the School and its Verifiers does not become too cosy. The other Team member will remain until the next subsequent visit in order to ensure some continuity (see 4. above of Main steps in the New Route to MRSS).

Please also read Shiatsu Society Rules and Regulations Sections 13 and 14.

1.3 Verifiers' Checklist

As part of a Ratification Team and later as a Verifier you are looking at how a School assesses their students on practical Shiatsu, point location, case histories and ethics (i.e. all the things that are currently assessed at the Shiatsu Society's MRSS Assessment). You are not assessing or examining the individual students but looking at the process of examination/the procedures of assessment and the criteria that the School uses.

The Shiatsu Society notes that Schools have the responsibility and freedom to assess their students in the manner that they feel best. The way something is assessed at your own School is only one way, other Schools may well differ. The Society is looking for good practice and feedback to encourage standards to rise.

Please use this checklist along with document 2.2 (Checklist for Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures) which has been completed by the Principal of the School you are ratifying and verifying.

(This form can be reformatted to landscape format if you prefer, and should be the one completed for a visit).

THE SHIATSU SOCIETY

School

Verification visit by Date of visit

Teacher/s present No. of students

<p>1. Practical Shiatsu</p> <p>a) How and when is practical Shiatsu assessed?</p> <p>b) What teachers are used?</p> <p>c) Are external or internal assessors used?</p> <p>d) Are there marking criteria?</p> <p>e) How is feedback given to the students?</p> <p>f) What evidence have you seen?</p> <p>g) Are you happy this process works and is effective?</p>	<p><i>a)</i></p> <p><i>b)</i></p> <p><i>c)</i></p> <p><i>d)</i></p> <p><i>e)</i></p> <p><i>f)</i></p> <p><i>g)</i></p>
<p>2. Point location</p> <p>a) When does the School assess point location?</p> <p>b) Is it done once or more often?</p> <p>c) If more than once, who marks, the same teacher or different teachers?</p> <p>d) Do they have marking criteria?</p> <p>e) How many points are tested?</p> <p>f) What evidence have you seen?</p> <p>g) Are you happy that this process works and is effective?</p>	<p><i>a)</i></p> <p><i>b)</i></p> <p><i>c)</i></p> <p><i>d)</i></p> <p><i>e)</i></p> <p><i>f)</i></p> <p><i>g)</i></p>
<p>3. Case Studies</p> <p>a) When does the School examine case histories?</p> <p>b) Do they have marking criteria?</p> <p>c) Who marks the case histories?</p> <p>d) Are they handed in at the same time or at different intervals?</p>	<p><i>a)</i></p> <p><i>b)</i></p> <p><i>c)</i></p> <p><i>d)</i></p>

<p>e) Are they marked by the same teacher or by different teachers?</p> <p>f) Does the School use external markers?</p> <p>g) What evidence have you seen?</p> <p>h) Are you happy that this process works and is effective?</p>	<p><i>e)</i></p> <p><i>f)</i></p> <p><i>g)</i></p> <p><i>h)</i></p>
<p>4. Society's Code of Ethics</p> <p>a) How are ethics assessed?</p> <p>b) What is looked for in the answers?</p> <p>c) What evidence have you seen?</p> <p>d) Are you happy that this process works and is effective?</p>	<p><i>a)</i></p> <p><i>b)</i></p> <p><i>c)</i></p> <p><i>d)</i></p>
<p>5. Management of Learning</p> <p>a) How does the School deal with fails?</p> <p>b) How does the School deal with students with dyslexia or other learning difficulties?</p> <p>c) Does the School adhere to the Code of Best Practice for Schools?</p>	<p><i>a)</i></p> <p><i>b)</i></p> <p><i>c)</i></p>

<p>6. Observation of Practical Shiatsu</p> <p>a) Give a brief description of the practical Shiatsu work you observed (e.g. full treatment, exercise focusing on some aspect of Ki, meridian practice, etc).</p> <p>b) What were the Teacher's comments on the practical abilities of :</p> <p> i) the group as a whole?</p> <p> ii) individual students?</p> <p>c) What was your observation of the students in terms of energetic connection? (bearing in mind different styles of Shiatsu)?</p> <p>d) Did your observation of the students' practical work correlate with the Teacher's comments about their standard of practical skills?</p> <p>e) Are you satisfied that having completed PGY these students will be at MRSS practical standard?</p> <p>f) Further comments (School style, pace, posture, use of technique, etc.).</p>	<p><i>a)</i></p> <p><i>b)</i></p> <p><i>c)</i></p> <p><i>d)</i></p> <p><i>e)</i></p>
<p>7. Discussion with School Principal / other teachers</p> <p>a) Did the Principal / Teacher present feel this group of students is representative of their general standard for this stage of 3rd year?</p> <p>b) Are there any students within this group whom the Principal feels may not come up to the pass standard?</p> <p>c) What processes does the School have for dealing with potential failing students?</p>	<p><i>a)</i></p> <p><i>b)</i></p> <p><i>c)</i></p>

Re-Ratification following Verification Visit: Yes / No.

If Yes: recommendations for the School

If No: recommendations for the School and timescale for fulfilment of recommendations before re-Verification.

1.4 Confirmation of initial ratification and complete ratification following visit

To be completed by Ratification Team: School:

1) Initial ratification:

Verifier 1:

I agree to initial ratification of this School : Date:

Name: Signed :.....

Verifier 2:

I agree to initial ratification of this School : Date:

Name: Signed :.....

In the event of initial ratification being refused, reasons are stated below:

1) Verification visit: Date of visit: :.....

Verifier 1: I support ratification of this School following the visit by Verifier 1 :

Date:.....

Name: Signed :.....

Verifier 2:

I have conducted the Verification Visit and believe this School merits full practical ratification:

Date:

Name: Signed :.....

Recommendations:

In the event of full practical ratification being refused on the basis of the visit, reasons are stated below:

2. Information Sheet for Schools about the Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures

The purpose of ratifying Schools' Practical Assessments

The Ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures is an extension of the existing Ratification of Schools' Theory Assessments. By means of this more comprehensive ratification of Shiatsu training programmes, and by the introduction of a Post Graduate Year for students who have completed such a programme, the Shiatsu Society is creating a 'New Route to MRSS'.

The purpose is twofold: firstly, to provide Graduates with a smooth and harmonious means of entering the Professional Register of Practitioners (MRSS) without having to jump through the additional 'hoop' of the Shiatsu Society Assessment. Secondly, to provide a link between the Society and Schools, in which the Schools' role in training students to the Society's required level of competence is formally acknowledged. With this acknowledgement comes the advantage to Schools that you can market your courses as providing a full package for students, from beginner level to full MRSS (Membership of the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society) designation.

This document and the accompanying checklist deal mainly with Schools' Practical Assessment procedures. However, it is envisaged that in the future the process for obtaining both Theory and Practical Ratification will be dealt with together. This will entail the presentation of one portfolio and the completion of one checklist of material/ evidence to be supplied.

What the "new route" means for Schools

Past pilot schemes on the delivery of MRSS Assessment in Schools came to the conclusion that although some students had reached MRSS standard at the end of their three-year course, many others were lacking in practical experience and 'flying hours'. It was felt that they needed a formal period of supported practical development in order to attain MRSS standard. Under the new system, students will therefore take their final Theory and Practical assessments in their School and, having obtained their Diploma, will embark on a 'Post Graduate Year' (PGY) during which they have to fulfil certain criteria (see Graduates' Information sheet and checklist). At the end of this period, having fulfilled the criteria, Membership of the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society will be awarded automatically.

In order for the Shiatsu Society to be able to make this automatic award, the Society has to be assured that the Graduate has demonstrated their practical competence to a sufficient level such that their Post Graduate Year of practical work will indeed bring them to MRSS standard. Thus the Society has to ratify the tests of practical competence, i.e. the practical assessments, taken by the student in their School. It was agreed at the Meeting of School Principals 22nd September 2003 that it is the School's procedures that will be looked at, rather than individual students. Therefore, there is no provision for external assessors from the Shiatsu Society. Schools are given freedom to conduct their Practical Assessments in the manner they find most appropriate, provided they cover the following items from Rules and Regulations:

12 b) PRINCIPLES OF TOUCH i) to viii)

- i) Sensitivity to Ki and positive connection to the receiver's Ki
- ii) Mental & physical focus
- iii) Supportive touch

- iv) Correctly angled pressure
- v) Empathy & compassion for the receiver
- vi) Posture and movement centred in the Hara
- vii) Relaxed pressure
- viii) Continuity, appropriate pace and fluency of movement

12 c) TECHNIQUE i) to iv)

- i) Shiatsu in prone, supine, side & sitting positions
- ii) Appropriate positions for giving Shiatsu during pregnancy or when there is restricted movement
- iii) Accurate Meridian and Tsubo location [see 12 a) CORE THEORY ii) Meridian Tsubo Theory 3) for the list of required points].
- iv) Application of diagnosis in planning treatment

Initially, there will be a certain amount of extra work for Schools, in completing the checklist and collating material to be shown to the Society's Ratification Teams. For full Ratification to be given, there will be two major points of contact with the School. The first contact will be when your School submits its portfolio of Practical Assessment Procedures to a 'Ratification Team'. This should ideally take place at least six months before the School's final Practical Assessments (and by the deadline set by the Shiatsu Society). If all is satisfactory, your School will be given initial Ratification. Towards the end of the course, but not necessarily on the final class meeting, a Verifier (who was part of the Ratification Team for that School) will visit to verify that the Assessment procedures previously ratified are being followed and to verify the general standard of the students. In this way, any recommendations regarding the content and format of the Practical Assessments can be made and acted upon in good time.

Who are the Ratification Teams and Verifiers and what will happen at the Verification Visit?

The Ratification Teams will be drawn by preference from Teachers with experience on the Shiatsu Society's Assessment Panel. Two verifiers will be assigned to ratify and verify your School: they are your Ratification Team. Only one member of the Ratification Team will come for the Verification Visit, at which point they will be called a Verifier (since they are then verifying the agreed procedures). It was decided that there should be two people in the Ratification Team assigned to each School in order to reduce the possibility of conflict of interest or claims of bias. At least one of them should be unconnected with your School's Assessment process (i.e. they may occasionally teach at your School but do not assess students). Verifiers will move to verify another School after a certain number of years, so that relationships do not become too cosy.

The first stage of the Practical Ratification process is when you send in your Practical Assessment portfolio to the Education Sub-Committee. Your portfolio should clearly explain your School's Practical Assessment Procedures (i.e. whether you have a final Assessment day with external examiners, whether you require the students to do a full treatment on teachers or on each other, etc). The Ratification Team will want to see marking sheets that show that all the criteria in Rules & Regs. 12 b) and c) (see above) are covered during the Assessment process. (This does not have to be all at the same time, it may be by continuous assessment). You will need to explain your criteria for giving passes and fails in the Practical Assessments. At this time, the Ratification Team will also check that your School is providing the minimum Study Requirements for MRSS as laid down in Rules & Regs. 12 h) i) to iv) (i.e. 500 hours class time, study with 3 MRSS (T), etc) and other general criteria are fulfilled (see checklist). If all this is in place, then your School's Practical Assessment Procedures will be given initial Ratification.

The Verification visit is to verify that the Procedures are being carried out as previously agreed. The Verifier will observe and discuss with you the general standard of the students. They may ask about the performance (or likely performance) of each student in their final Practical Assessment, plus any recommendations given (bearing in mind that the Verifier may not necessarily be present at your final Practical Assessment, depending on the format your School uses). The Verifier may also want to talk to you (or any of your teaching team) about case studies, ethics, current practice, etc. and they will ascertain that students who on graduation intend to proceed to the Post Graduate Year have been members of the Shiatsu Society for at least two years. After this visit, if all is satisfactory, full Ratification will be given.

In subsequent years, only the Verification visit will be necessary to ensure that standards are maintained, unless you change the format and content of your Practical Assessment Procedures quite radically, in which case the School would have to be re-ratified.

If there was a case where a Verifier was concerned about the standard of passes/ fails being given at your final Assessment, they would explain why they felt that ratification was not appropriate at this point. The full procedure for Appeals is in the Shiatsu Society's Rules and Regulations Section 14.

Notes

- Schools are encouraged to support their Graduates through the Post Graduate Year period in whatever way appropriate.
- School Principals are encouraged to give guidance to Graduates as to the direction of their supervision sessions and tutorials over the Post Graduate Year period.
- Principal Teachers will provide Graduates with a letter of recommendation when they register for the Post Graduate Year.
- It is recommended that the School Principal should be the supervisor who checks that the requirements of the PGY have been completed and who signs off the Graduate's Application for MRSS form at the last supervision session at the end of the PGY period.
- Schools may make a charge for the supervision given during the PGY: the Society will set a recommended maximum for the 'signing on' and 'signing off' aspect - presently (November 2006) a recommended maximum of £60 - calculated on the basis of a session at the beginning and end of the PGY of up to an hour.
- School Principals should also advise Graduates as to who would be an appropriately qualified supervisor for the purposes of the Post Graduate Year.
- It is nonetheless the Graduate's responsibility to create their own Post Graduate Year programme of study and to request the support they personally feel necessary in making the transition from student to practitioner.
- Under exceptional circumstances a Graduate from a non-ratified School or a School which no longer exists may approach you to ask whether they may sit your Theory and/or Practical Assessments to enable them to embark upon the Post Graduate Year. It is entirely up to your discretion as a School Principal whether you would choose to do this. You would be under no obligation to give them your School Diploma, but you would be expected to give them a letter with their Assessment results to pass on to the Shiatsu Society. A fee for sitting your School Assessments could be charged. See document 3.3 Notes for Current Graduate Members.
- Please read Shiatsu Society Rules and Regulations Sections 13 and 14.

2.1 Application for Ratification of Schools Practical Procedures (NB Please send three copies of all submitted material) and Contract

Name of School:	
Address:	
Telephone number: Fax:	
e-mail: website:	
Name of School Principal: Shiatsu Society membership no:	
Names of other MRSS T who teach in the School:	
Date when School's Theory Assessment last ratified:	
<u>Please sign all boxes below to agree with statements</u>	As Principal Teacher of the above School I agree to:
	1. Adhere to the Shiatsu Society's "Schools of Shiatsu Code of Best Practice". (available from Shiatsu Society office)
	2. Provide time to discuss students' backgrounds, performance etc. with the Ratification Team/Verifiers.
	3. Provide time for any of the School's Teaching team to discuss students' Case Studies, Ethics, current practical abilities with the Ratification Team/Verifiers.
	4. Provide feedback as to the performance of each student in their final Practical Assessments, complete with any recommendations given (i.e. feedback that has been given to the current group and examples of feedback given in the past).
	5. Provide the Ratification Team/Verifiers with: i) numbers of students in current 3 rd year ii) times and dates of Assessments iii) maps and instructions for visiting the School.
	6. Supply the Shiatsu Society with a list of Graduates and their date of Graduation.
	7. Remind students intending to start the PGY that they have to have been Shiatsu Society members for at least 2 years.
	8. I understand that the fee is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Practical Ratification

Contract between Shiatsu Society and School

1. Both parties will do their best to follow the plan as designated in the New Route document and supporting Rules and Regulations of the Shiatsu Society UK.

Clarification of responsibilities:

1. The payment of the fee for practical ratification/ verification is non-refundable and non-transferable.

2. In the event of a cancellation, the cancelling party may be liable for outstanding cost for rescheduling.

3. If, for example, a verification visit gets cancelled due to extraordinary circumstances, then the Society will endeavour to reschedule at minimal or no additional cost. However, if further costs have to be involved due to time, condition and circumstance, it is understood that these will be passed onto the School.

Likewise, if, for example, a verifier is unable to make a scheduled visit for some reason, then the Society is responsible for organising another verifier on the same or subsequent convenient date, without further cost to the School.

Signed:

Signed

[name]

[name]

Director, Education
for the Shiatsu Society, UK

Principal/Administrator
[Name of Shiatsu School]

Date:

Date:

2.2 Checklist for ratification of Schools' Practical Assessment Procedures

Name of School:.....

Principal Teacher:.....

Please tick and/or specify and show evidence that each requirement is fulfilled. [Evidence may be, for example, a course syllabus to show that Study requirements have been fulfilled; marking schemes/criteria for Practical Assessment, Case Studies, etc. You may find it helpful to look at documents 1.2 Verifiers' Information Sheet, and 1.3 Verifiers' Checklist]

Evidence concerning requirements 1 – 10 should be submitted in your portfolio for initial Ratification. Requirements 6 –10, covering competence of the current 3rd year, will also be dealt with at the Verification visit.

Requirements 1 – 12 must be fulfilled before full Ratification can be granted.

	Requirement	Tick	Evidence supplied
1.	<p>Study Requirements Rules &Regs 12 h)</p> <p>i) Study of Shiatsu (excluding anatomy, physiology and pathology and communication skills) for a minimum of 440 hours. For training commencing on or after 1st January 2002, the Core Curriculum to be covered over a minimum of 500 hours divided as follows: 440 hours Shiatsu theory and practice, 60 hours anatomy, physiology and pathology.</p> <p>ii) Study over a minimum period of three years.</p> <p>iii) Study with 3 Shiatsu Society recognised Teachers (T) for a minimum of 24 hours with each teacher to develop an awareness of different approaches to Shiatsu.</p> <p>iv) For training commencing on or after January 2002 a minimum of 350 hours to be taught by Shiatsu Society Teachers (MRSS (T)).</p>		
2.	<p>Shiatsu Society's "Schools of Shiatsu - Code of Best Practice" followed. (available from Shiatsu Society Office)</p>		Evidence may be by discussion with Verifier
3.	Theory Assessments ratified		
4.	Written overall outline of Practical Assessment Procedures		
5.	Provide a clear outline of the procedures and criteria used by School's Assessors/Teachers for giving passes and fails in practical competence.		

6.	<p>Marking sheet for Practical Assessment covering Rules & Regs. 12 b) Principles of Touch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Sensitivity to Ki and positive connection to the receiver's Ki ii) Mental & physical focus iii) Supportive touch iv) Correctly angled pressure v) Empathy & compassion for the receiver vi) Posture & movement centred in Hara vii) Relaxed pressure viii) Continuity, appropriate pace and fluidity of movement 		
7.	<p>Marking sheet for Practical Assessment or syllabus showing the curriculum covers Rules & Regs. 12 c) Technique</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Shiatsu in prone, supine, side & sitting positions. ii) appropriate positions for pregnancy. iii) Accurate Meridian & Tsubo location. iv) Application of diagnosis in planning treatment. 		
8.	<p>Provide a clear outline of the procedures and criteria used by School's Assessors/Teachers for giving passes and fails in point location.</p>		
9.	<p>Provide a clear outline of the procedures and criteria used by School's Assessors/Teachers for giving passes and fails in Case Histories. (Writing of Case Histories should be in line with Rules & Regs. 13) f) i) & ii) 1) only).</p>		
10.	<p>Show that students have covered Rules & Regs. 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Client Questionnaire e) Client/Practitioner Relationship (inc. Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics) f) Self-Awareness & Personal Growth i) to iv) g) Practice Management 		Evidence may be by discussion with Verifier
11.	<p>Provide Verifiers with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) numbers of students in current 3rd year ii) times & dates of Assessments iii) maps and instructions for visiting the School 		
12.	<p>Inform students intending to start the Post Graduate Year that they must have been members of the Shiatsu Society for at least 2 years</p>		
13.	<p>Supply the Society with a list of Graduates and their date of graduation (update regularly)</p>		
14.	<p>Fee of £487.63 enclosed.</p>		

3. Information Sheet for Graduates about the Post Graduate Year

a) What is the Post Graduate Year?

The idea of the Post Graduate Year (PGY) arose out of the need to change the existing MRSS Assessment system, which is cumbersome for the Society and demands extra hoops for Graduates to jump through. Pilot studies which the Society had carried out showed that although a proportion of students sitting their 3rd year Diploma Practical Assessment were not at MRSS standard, their Shiatsu skills were in place and what was needed was more time and clinical experience to bring them to the required level of competence. The Ratification Sub-committee decided that the whole system could be streamlined by ratifying or approving the procedures used in a School's Practical Assessments (rather as Schools' Theory Assessments are already ratified), so that Schools' Theory and Practical Assessments could stand in place of the current MRSS Assessment. Graduates then undertake a Post Graduate Year during which they complete certain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) criteria. At the end of the PGY, provided the criteria have been fulfilled (see Form 3.2), Membership of the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society is granted automatically.

b) What are the advantages of the Post Graduate year?

- i) There are no more Assessments after the School Diploma. For many adult learners exams and assessments are a major challenge, and have prevented Graduates putting themselves forward for MRSS.
- ii) The framework of the PGY encourages Graduates to keep in touch with their School or other mentors, and to work actively towards setting up their professional practice.
- iii) The flexibility of the system enables Graduates to create their own programme of study and to request the support they personally feel necessary in making the transition from student to practitioner.

c) What do I have to do?

Once you have passed your School's Assessments and obtained your Diploma, you may register for the Post Graduate Year (see Form 3.1 Registration for the Post Graduate Year). You may choose exactly when you begin the PGY: it is a fixed 1 year period which can be commenced at any time within the 3 years following Graduation. For example, you may choose to start your PGY in the November following Graduation). You must have been a Member of the Shiatsu Society for 2 years prior to registration for the PGY.

During the PGY you need to fulfil the following criteria:

- i) Be a fully insured Graduate Member of the Shiatsu Society.
- ii) Attend a minimum of two one-hour tutorials with an MRSS(T).
- iii) Attend four supervision sessions with a suitably qualified supervisor (not necessarily a Shiatsu practitioner) in which issues such as client/ practitioner relationship, practice management, self-awareness and personal growth in relation to Shiatsu practice are covered. Your School Principal can give you guidance as to the direction and focus of attention of your supervision sessions.
- iv) Receive a minimum of 3 treatments from a current MRSS.

- v) Complete and write up professional standard notes on 100 treatments. (These treatments need to be conducted during the PGY period, and so may not be the same treatments used to obtain your School Diploma.)

At the end of the Post Graduate Year, you apply for Membership of the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society (see Form 3.2 Application for MRSS), and provided all criteria are fulfilled and relevant signatures obtained you will be granted Practitioner Membership within one month of Application.

Notes:

- a) Your School Principal will provide you with a letter of recommendation when you register for the PGY. It is also expected that normally your School Principal will be the one who agrees your focus of study for your PGY and signs off your Application for MRSS checklist (form 3.2) at the end of your PGY. Schools can make a charge for this at a rate recommended by the Shiatsu Society (presently £60 at October 2006). You may choose another MRSS (T) to supervise your PGY if you wish.
- b) Graduate Members can only have Graduate Member status for 4 years: after that time they must either progress to MRSS status via the Post Graduate Year route, or they will be re-designated as Associate Members (which means that their details will be removed from the public registers).
- c) Graduates should have obtained their Diploma not more than 3 years prior to registering for the PGY, and not more than 4 years prior to applying for MRSS (except see note d) below, and Special Notes for “older” Graduates below).
- d) In exceptional circumstances a Graduate may interrupt their PGY. They must inform the Shiatsu Society Office of the date when they commence this interruption and must inform the Office again when they re-commence their PGY.
- e) Members on the Post Graduate year are responsible for the costs of their treatments, tutorials and supervision sessions.
- f) Please also read Shiatsu Society Rules and Regs. Section 13.

Special Notes for ‘older’ Graduates

If you obtained your Diploma prior to the start of the New Route to MRSS scheme (January 2006), please see document 3.3 Notes for Current Graduate Members.

Definition of supervision

Supervision in this context is intended to cover a wide range of possibilities, so that you are appropriately supported in your first year of professional practice. The supervision sessions may include:

- a) Client – practitioner relationship (recommended 2 of the minimum 4 supervision sessions).
- b) Practice management.
- c) Self-awareness and personal growth in relation to Shiatsu practice.
- d) Building and marketing your business.
- e) Advanced Shiatsu techniques/ workshops.
- f) Peer supervision and support.

Your School Principal or other MRSS (T) should be able to recommend local supervisors and trainers, and to suggest/ offer appropriate post-graduate training.

Form 3.1 Registration for the Post Graduate Year

Name: Membership Number:

Address:
.....

Telephone:

E-mail:.....

1. I graduated from (name of School)
on (date).....

2. I wish my Post Graduate Year to commence on (date):

3. I enclose evidence / certify that I am a current Graduate Member of the Shiatsu Society,
and that I have been a Member (Student or Associate) in the 2 years prior to Registration
for PGY.

4. I have current professional indemnity insurance for Shiatsu.

5. I enclose a letter of recommendation from my School Principal.

Signed:
(Applicant Graduate to join the PGY)

Date:

Form 3.2 Application to join the Professional Register (MRSS)

Name: Membership number:

Address:

Telephone:Email:.....

I graduated from (name of School).....on (date)

My Post Graduate Year ran from (date):..... to (date):

1. I enclose evidence of current membership of the Shiatsu Society and current professional indemnity insurance for Shiatsu.

2. My **Shiatsu tutorials** were held on:

1) Date: Topic:

Taken by: Tutor's signature:

2) Date: Topic:

Taken by: Tutor's signature:

3. My **Supervision sessions** were held on:

1) Date: Topic:

Taken by: Supervisor's signature:

2) Date: Topic:

Taken by: Supervisor's signature:

3) Date: Topic:

Taken by: Supervisor's signature:

4) Date: Topic:

Taken by: Supervisor's signature:

I have attached a list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of my supervisors

4. My three **treatments** took place on:

1) Date: / / 20 Practitioner:

Practitioner's signature:

2) Date: / / 20 Practitioner:

Practitioner's signature:

3) Date: / / 20 Practitioner:

Practitioner's signature:

5. My **100 treatments** were completed on / / 20

Checked by Supervisor/Tutor (MRSS (T)):

Supervisor/Tutor's signature:

6. I have completed the requirements of the Post Graduate Year and I now apply for Membership of the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society.

7. I enclose the **administration fee** for joining the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Shiatsu Society: £25 + VAT = £29.38

Signed: Date:

3.3 Notes for current Graduates members

You may move into the Post Graduate Year if the following apply:

1. The Shiatsu School from which you graduated has had their current Practical Assessment procedures verified.
2. You completed your studies when the School's Theory Assessment was ratified by the Shiatsu Society.
3. There has been no major change in how your School assesses their final year since your graduation.
4. The School has a record of your pass mark (both Theory and Practical) and date of graduation/ qualification.
5. You are on the Graduate list of the Shiatsu Society.

Please check the first four with your Shiatsu School and the last with the Shiatsu Society.

You may then complete the requirements for the Post Graduate Year. Please contact the Office to get a form.

If you completed your studies at a non-ratified Shiatsu School, or if your School no longer exists, then you have two options. Either you may join the professional register (MRSS) via the current Theory and Practical Assessments run by the Shiatsu Society, or you can approach another School to be assessed via their Theory and Practical assessments. Please note that the School approached may charge you an assessment fee and would not be obliged to give you any certification since you had not attended their classes. They would, however, be expected to give you a letter to pass on to the Shiatsu Society to the effect that you had passed their Theory and Practical Assessments.

Note:

As a Graduate, you may only stay in the Graduate Member category for four years after the new system starts in January 2006. Graduates must either take the current MRSS Assessment, or move onto the Post Graduate Year and so join the professional register (MRSS) within this timescale. If you have not joined the professional register (MRSS) within four years, you will be moved to the Associate membership category. Being an Associate means that your details will be removed from the Shiatsu Society's public professional Register.

3.4 Feedback Sheet for new members of the Professional Practitioner Register of the Shiatsu Society (MRSS)

This space is for you to give any feedback to the Society about any aspect of your training.

1. What aspects worked for you?

2. What aspects were problematic?

3. What do you feel needs to be changed about your training and/or PGY (post-graduate year) experience ?

Name (optional):

memb no.(optional):

Please complete and return to the Shiatsu Society office, preferably by email, but by mail if that is more convenient for you.