

## ***Ratification***

The Ratification of Schools 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.

Ratified Schools fulfil all the requirements of Ratification, including provision in their training of 500 hours minimum of class time over a three year period, Total Qualification Time of 1000 hours, and teaching and assessment of all the Learning Outcomes detailed in the Shiatsu Society Learning Outcomes based Core Curriculum.

## **Process**

Schools are required to prepare and submit a portfolio of evidence and Learning Outcome template checklist showing that they have covered all aspects required for Ratification. This portfolio can be electronic or in paper form. Portfolios are sampled by peers and members of the Education sub committee at a Ratification meeting which is normally held every two years.

This is followed by a visit from a 'Verifier' appointed by the Society to verify that agreed procedures are being followed and to observe the practical standards that apply in each School.

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 competence / not yet competent (passes or fails), consistency in marking, good practice and feedback to encourage standards to rise. At the Verification Visit 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.

The Verifier will write a report on the Verification Visit, which will be sent to the School within two weeks. This gives details of whether the School had been Ratified / re-Ratified, and any measures required, as necessary.

## **Verifiers**

All Schools are required to send at least one Teacher (Registered with the Shiatsu Society) to the Ratification Meeting (see above) where portfolios are sampled and discussed. Verifiers to conduct the Verification Visits are drawn from those Teachers. By being involved in the Ratification process, sampling and observing the portfolios of peers, visiting Schools, we share best practice in learning and teaching, and we encourage the maintenance of high standards in the assessment of professional Shiatsu practice.

Training days for Verifiers and Teachers are held from time to time.