

# COLLEGE OF INTEGRATED CHINESE MEDICINE

## EDUCATION POLICY

### Wider Context

We have a vision of society where, in time, we would all place a higher value on our health and well-being and have a more positive and pro-active approach towards these important matters.

### Our Integrated Style of Acupuncture Treatment

The Five Element style of acupuncture taught at the College has, as its starting point, the diagnosis of the perceived constitutional imbalance of the patient. With Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), which is more commonly used in clinics and hospitals throughout China and other East Asian countries, diagnosis is based on observed patterns of disharmony in the body's energetic structure and functions. There are many overlaps between the two styles of treatment but in many ways they are also different. By using an integration of both approaches, we believe that our graduates will develop the flexibility, skills and perceptions appropriate to treating patients, both at the root and at the manifestation of symptoms.

One fundamental belief in Chinese Medicine is that the whole is expressed in the parts and the parts in the whole. Thus, when diagnosing and treating we encourage practitioners to consider these 'parts' and 'wholes' in relation to their patients.

### The aim of the College of Integrated Chinese Medicine

It is our aim that graduates will be competent, confident, ethical, safe and committed practitioners of Chinese medicine and that they will continue to reflect on and gain insights from both learning and their own practice. Furthermore, it is our aim that they will discover how to promote and maintain their own well-being as well as that of their patients.

### Skills development

In addition to having a thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of Chinese Medicine, we believe that *competent* practitioners also have an ability to communicate well with patients and can use the Chinese Medicine understanding of causes of disease in order to advise patients on ways of maintaining their health. Students are given opportunities throughout the course to develop this ability.

We believe that well trained, *confident* practitioners are required to have clear and realistic perceptions of themselves, through personal reflection on, and the developments of insights into, their practice. In this way they are expected to develop professionally.

It is the hallmark of Chinese Medicine that a practitioner behaves *ethically*. We expect students to develop an understanding of how to operate within professional boundaries, maintain trust, and uphold high levels of confidentiality, dignity, and respect for each other and their patients. We

also aim to ensure that students adhere to Codes of Professional Conduct and Safe Practice as defined by the British Acupuncture Council.

Students are expected to work *safely* by observing strict health and safety guidelines during their clinical training and follow the Codes of Safe Practice recommended by the British Acupuncture Council and Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine. Students are trained to work to the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness, to handle emergencies and adverse events and to take responsibility for referral to other medical practitioners when appropriate.

We expect students to demonstrate *commitment* of their newly acquired skills in the service of others, by locating an appropriate working situation to become a useful resource for the wider community.

Students will develop the ability to *appraise critically* and further the current body of knowledge.

Review date: 2025