



Partnership Brokers Association ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

achieving a professional qualification

Are you actively involved in a partnership brokering or collaboration-building role?

Have you successfully completed the Partnership Brokers Training, or do you have more than 10 years leading-edge experience in managing collaboration-building processes?

If you are seeking to deepen your practice and to gain a formal qualification, this programme might be the next step on your professional journey!



What is the Accreditation Programme?

The Partnership Brokers Accreditation Programme helps practitioners to **push beyond practice-as-usual** to explore new ways of thinking and working.

With a focus on a principled approach and reflective practice, candidates **build confidence in holding space** for partners to share leadership, navigate complex dynamics and shape collaboration for greater impact.

Accreditation is awarded those who successfully complete a 4-month period of mentored professional development. A formal assessment ensures that those who achieve accreditation **meet the highest professional standards**.

Programme mentors are all accredited partnership brokers with many years of experience in collaboration-building – both in

person and remotely – working with organisations, partnerships, and multi-stakeholder alliances in a wide range of contexts.

"I used the programme to build on my previous professional experience, and built a whole new specialization. My mentor really asked me challenging questions, and helped me to reflect on my own performance and partner reactions. I was pushed to think about my frames of reference and to work intellectually through my emotional responses to the work. It set me up to work as a partnership broker."
PBA Accreditation Programme Graduate

Candidates are required to record their plans, challenges, and actions in a 'Log Book'. It helps them to reflect on the experiences of their interventions and the changing context, learning from both expected and unexpected outcomes.

The aim of the programme is to:

- **Build competence and confidence** in working with partners in ways that challenge unhelpful assumptions and mind-sets whilst building engagement and the capacity of partners themselves to collaborate more effectively.
- **Enable more reflective practice** by offering the opportunity to become more self-aware, observant, and insightful practitioners – better able to understand the complexity of situations.
- **Push candidates beyond their comfort zone** to identify, prepare and test out new approaches, techniques and skills when working with groups in addressing difficulties or discord that are holding back innovation and development.



Programme Structure

Weeks 1-2	Candidates work through a slide pack of essential information providing full details of what is required to successfully complete the programme. They will prepare a draft Action Plan to discuss with their mentor and co-create a Learning Agreement with them.
Weeks 3-13	The period of mentored professional practice, where participants plan, record, and reflect on their strategies, activities, outcomes, and lessons, supported by feedback and questions from their mentor.
Weeks 13-15	Candidates submit their completed Log Book and a Final Paper. The paper builds on the insights gained during the earlier weeks and contributes to deepening knowledge and understanding about this relatively new professional discipline.
Assessment	Assessment of the submitted work is undertaken initially by mentors then normed by an examiner.
Accreditation	Accreditation is awarded to those whose work reaches the required standard.

Principled and ethical practice

Successful candidates who agree to sign up to the Partnership Brokering Good Practice Principles (see below) are eligible to join the PBA Network of Accredited Partnership Brokers and to use the Accredited Partnership Brokers logo alongside any other professional credentials.

10 Partnership Brokering Good Practice Principles

1

Keeping up to date with new developments in the theory and practice of brokering multi-stakeholder partnerships.

2

Being reflective and striving for diversity, equity, openness, mutual benefit, and courageous practice when operating in a partnership brokering role.

3

Being prepared to challenge assumptions and poor partnering behaviour at any stage of the partnering cycle in ways most likely to bring about constructive change.

4

Taking every opportunity to build partnering and partnership brokering capacity in others.

5

Sharing knowledge generously and not holding on to knowledge for personal aggrandizement or gain.

6

Exploring any available alternative approaches before promoting a partnering process, in a commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes.

7

Being open about risks and seeking prior endorsement of those most likely to be affected by them before taking actions that might entail such risks.

8

Being an ethical and responsible practitioner by raising concerns about the partnership or the actions of individual partners.

9

Acknowledging competence limitations and being open to requesting assistance from others who will bring complementary skills or different approaches to the task.

10

Being willing to let go and hand over the partnership brokering role when the time is right.

Please note: Accreditation can be withdrawn by PBA should it become clear at any point after qualifying that an accredited person has breached these principles.

Who is the Accreditation Programme suitable for?

The programme is open for enrolment to experienced partnership practitioners. To ensure that all candidates can optimise the accreditation opportunity with a similar understanding about PBA's approach to partnering, some may have to complete bridging requirements prior to enrolment.

Group 1	Practitioners who have completed the PBA Partnership Brokers Training (PBT, in-person or online) can enrol directly.
Group 2	Practitioners who have completed PBA courses other than the PBT, e.g. Brokering Partnerships Remotely, will need to complete further bridging requirements prior to enrolment.
Group 3	Practitioners with over 10 years of experience in partnership brokering but have not participated in any PBA training will need to complete some bridging requirements prior to enrolment.



Candidates must...

Further candidates are required to:

- Be actively engaged with partnership brokering / collaboration-building activities on behalf of their organisation (if operating as internal partnership brokers) or on behalf of clients (if operating as external partnership brokers).
- Have the inclination to be self-critical and courageous in pushing the boundaries of their brokering practice and optimising their opportunities for learning.
- Have good access to information technology – enabling the all-important regular connection to their mentor.

Course fee and applications

The Partnership Brokers Training Accreditation Programme **fee is GBP 1,300** (VAT is not applicable). The fee includes all tuition and examination fees, background reading materials and course guidelines.

PBA is a not-for-profit social business paying its own way. This allows it to be both agile (able to respond to a rapidly changing environment) and independent (avoiding the uncertainties and constraints that grant funding can require). The fee charged is spent entirely on the individual candidate's programme.

PBA is, however, eager not to exclude suitably qualified candidates. **If you can make a donation to our bursary fund**, you will be helping us to offer a place to those who come from small community-based organisations or who are self-funding and on a low income. You can register your willingness to donate during the application process.

If you feel ready to get started, [please submit your application online.](#)

More information

The Accreditation Programme was established in 2003 by the UK Overseas Development Institute and the International Business Leaders Forum.

Since 2012 it has been **managed and validated by the Partnership Brokers Association**. It is designed to promote integrity and ethics in this relatively new profession by a formal assessment process that ensures those who qualify meet high professional standards.

If you have further questions or would like to discuss how we can support your learning needs, **please take a look at [our FAQs](#) or contact learning@partnershipbrokers.org.**



Ready to apply?

