



## **Concessions Criteria & Guidelines for Application**

The National Institute of Medical Herbalists operates a concessions scheme to assist newly qualified practitioners and those practitioners in challenging financial circumstances.

### **Newly Qualified Practitioners**

All newly qualified practitioners applying to join the Institute are eligible to receive a reduced membership rate to support them into practice, which is presently a 40% reduction in the first year, a 20% reduction in the second and a 10% reduction in the third. New members need not apply for the concession, as it will be applied automatically (a discount code for the online site will be required for years 2 & 3).

### **Supporting those in need**

The Institute recognises that starting, and maintaining, a practice can be a challenging, and this can become critical if your circumstances change unexpectedly. This is particularly the case as the majority of herbal practitioners are self-employed. Should you find yourself in a situation where you are struggling to pay for membership fees, please complete a concessions application and send it to our office team. Our team will also gladly discuss your situation and offer any further support they can, and you should also be aware that our Member Assistance Programme (search it on the Herbal Hub) offers free practical and emotional support 24/7 every day of the year.

Any applications will be reviewed by the Institute's Honorary Treasurer, and may be offered in circumstances including;

At the discretion of the Institute's Council, concessions may be offered to reflect exceptional circumstances a member is facing.

These may include:

- Forced relocation
- Ill health
- Loss of income due to bereavement
- Severe fire/flood damage
- Business subjected to criminal damage as a result of theft or vandalism
- Severe storm damage to premises

Exceptional circumstance concessions are not intended for long term changes in circumstances (e.g. chronic health conditions, ongoing caring) as these should fall under a government benefit scheme.

The standard discount applied will be 30%. In cases of extreme hardship, this can be taken up to 80% at the discretion of the Honorary Treasurer and will be reviewed annually at the minimum, and more regularly if appropriate.

Applications may be asked for supporting evidence (e.g. photos of damage, repair estimates etc).

### **Maternity/Paternity/Adoption leave**

A concession is available for those members who are on maternity/paternity/adoption or adoption leave.



This concession will reduce your fees to zero for nine months from the date of your leave beginning.

### **International Members**

For those on the old International membership, fees are already charged at a reduced rate. Therefore, other than a new members concession rate of 40% for the first year only, no further concessionary rates are available.

### **Re-joining members**

Are not eligible for the new member's discount, however, will be entitled to concessions as above.

***Please note all applications will be treated as confidential.***

***Concessions are valid for one annual subscription and should be re-applied for if necessary at the end of that year.***