

ASSERT NSW

Professional Member - Sex Researcher

A Sex Researcher is a person with the following qualifications and criteria:

1. Professional qualifications

A degree from a recognized University in Australia as listed in the Australian Qualifications Framework, register of recognized institutions (<http://www.agf.edu.au/register.htm>) or from an international institution listed in the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) register (<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Individual/Migrant/NationalOfficeofOverseasSkillsRecognitionNOOSR.htm>).

It is preferable that the degree is in an area related to research methodology.

Examples of a sex researcher:

- The researcher is undertaking a research in human sexuality as part of a degree with a recognized university or college
- The researcher is involved in sexuality research that is a medical trial which is approved through appropriate government bodies.
- The researcher is involved in sex research that has been approved through a recognized ethics committee.

2. ASSERT NSW Code of Ethics

The applicant will have read the ASSERT NSW Code of Ethics. By signing the certification application form, the applicant agrees to be bound by the ASSERT NSW Code of Ethics.

3. Documentation of professional experience in sex research

This should include at least one of the activities listed in Category 1 and at least one in the activities listed in Category 2

Category 1:

1.1 Sex Research as part of a degree:

Undergraduate, Honours, Masters or PHD research project/thesis

1.2 Participation in a sex research team that has been approved through an appropriate ethics committee

1.3 Publication of at least two sex related articles in peer reviewed journals within the last 5 years.

1.4 *Publication of a book related to sex within the last 5 years using evidence based research

* To be reviewed through a case-by-case criterion by the ASSERT NSW accreditation committee

Category 2:

2.1 Two or more conference presentation and/or posters in a sex research area.

2.2 Participation in the teaching of sex research

2.3 Has formal sex research supervision at Undergraduate, Honours, Masters or PhD level.

4. Ongoing involvement in research

The applicant for Professional Membership Sex Researcher will be required to document an ongoing participation in sex research. This documentation may include any of the below activities.

- Member of a research team
- Current enrollment in a research degree
- Supervision of a research student.
- Individual research.

5. Professional Member - Sex Researcher - Special Circumstances

The accreditation committee of ASSERT NSW recognizes that there are many members with extensive experience in sex research who have not had the opportunity of a formal qualification in the area. The ASSERT NSW accreditation committee will consider these applications individually under 'special circumstances category'.

Special circumstances could include specialization in one or limited areas of sex research.

The ASSERT NSW Accreditation Committee will review the documentation of research and professional experience.

6. Documentation

The following documentation must be submitted to the ASSERT NSW Accreditation Committee:

1. Completed application for ASSERT NSW Sex Researcher, signed and dated
2. Official transcripts of program(s) in which degree(s) and diploma(s) were earned.
3. Documentation of Category 1 and 2 Research activities
4. A nomination signature from an ASSERT NSW Professional Member, supporting the application or two professional referees supporting the application.
5. Copy of current professional insurance.
6. Complete the Permission to display professional details on the ASSERT NSW website. Please note this is at the bottom of the application form.

7. Membership

Upon approval of the ASSERT NSW Accreditation Committee, the successful applicant will receive a letter in recognition of having met the ASSERT NSW requirements for professional membership in the area of sex research.

The applicant will then be invited to become a member of ASSERT NSW. When the applicant has accepted the offer, they will be required to pay a membership fee. On receipt of the membership fee, the applicant will receive notification of their professional membership. The applicant will be requested to provide their permission to display their professional details on the ASSERT NSW website.

In order to maintain professional membership of ASSERT NSW, members must document their annual four research meetings, conference papers they have presented, conference posters they have presented, journal articles they have had published, sex books they have published.

To retain the ASSERT NSW Professional Sex Therapy status, the member must pay membership on an annual basis. If membership lapses accreditation status will also lapse.

Professional Membership - Special Circumstances Category

For those applicants being considered under the Special Circumstances Category, the ASSERT NSW Accreditation Committee will clearly indicate where the applicant has met the required criteria for sex researcher.

The ASSERT NSW Accreditation Committee will also indicate if there are unmet criteria and make clear recommendations of how these can be met within a practical time frame.

8. Maintaining Professional Standards as a Sex Researcher

Once accredited, the Sex Researcher will establish ongoing consultations or collaborations ideally with other ASSERT NSW accredited Sex Researchers. Such consultations may also be with a small peer or professional research group focused on sex research. Consultations are recommend to be on a quarterly basis.

The purpose of such consultations would be to provide relevant specialist support to maintain a high standard of knowledge, competencies, self-awareness and rigor in research. Professional members will be expected to have at least one paper published in a recognised journal or a conference presentation at national or international level every three years.

Participation in the above processes with relevant documentation ensures ongoing membership of ASSERT NSW as a Sex Researcher.