

# Accreditation Programme for Community-based Practitioners



APPLICATIONS: from September 2026

PROGRAMME STARTS: January 2027



## About the Partnership Brokers Association

The **Partnership Brokers Association (PBA)** is an international community dedicated to strengthening the practice of partnership brokering and helping people work more effectively across organisational, sectoral and societal boundaries. PBA brings together practitioners who support collaboration between diverse interests and perspectives, and promotes partnership brokering as an important practice for enabling meaningful, transformative and sustainable change.

PBA's **Accreditation programme** provides professional recognition for experienced partnership brokers who can demonstrate the knowledge, skills, ethical practice and reflective capacity required to broker effective partnerships. Accreditation is based on an internationally recognised professional standard and is supported through a process of learning, practical application, mentoring and assessment. The programme is designed not simply to recognise what practitioners know, but how they apply partnership brokering in the complexity of real-world situations.

## Who is this Accreditation pathway for?

Across the world, community leaders are working to build collaboration and partnerships by helping to bridge divisions and build on diversity in order to create locally-owned solutions as well as co-created transformative and sustainable change.

This pathway to Accreditation is a new initiative from the Accreditation team of the **Partnership Brokers Association (PBA)**. It is designed specifically for experienced community-based practitioners from anywhere in the world. It offers a flexible, supportive and rigorous route towards becoming an internationally recognized, professionally qualified, **Accredited Partnership Broker (APB)**.

Practitioners located in communities – often spontaneously and informally – may have very significant partnership brokering capability gained from experience, but they can all too often feel very isolated in their role. Many also report a lack of perceived legitimacy or authority from those with whom they work or seek to influence.

This pathway is designed for people who already have a track record in working collaboratively at a local level and who want to deepen their practice, strengthen their credibility and connect with a global community of practitioners whether they are:

*Community leaders or organisers - Social entrepreneurs - NGO or civil society practitioners*

*Local government officers - Activists or movement builders*

*Facilitators or mediators - Collaboration leaders*



Participants can come from both the Global South and the Global North and will benefit from the rich learning that can come from the stories, experiences and insights from very diverse scenarios, locations and contexts. This is a unique opportunity to learn not only from the PBA team but also, and most importantly, from one another.[1]

The Accreditation programme is designed to be **flexible and highly personalised as well as rigorous**.



## What does the programme involve?

### ORIENTATION – 1 day

The initial online session will provide: an overview of the whole programme; an opportunity for participants to meet each other and the PBA team as well as some work in smaller groups where participants can share their partnering experiences as well as their hopes and any anxieties about what is to follow.

### PARTNERSHIP BROKERING: THEORY – 4 weeks

The programme begins with an online **Course** led by an experienced tutor – it is a mix of teaching, discussion and group work. Participants will also need to do some background reading and preparation between sessions.

The taught programme introduces key partnership brokering concepts and practices including:

*Partnering principles - Collaboration across difference - Systems thinking*  
*Stakeholder engagement - Power and inclusion - Facilitation and dialogue*  
*Mindsets, skills and approaches - Working with groups*  
*Collaborative leadership - Ethical practice*

The course will conclude with a 1-2-1 online session with the course tutor – this will be an opportunity for each participant to reflect on the materials and explore if / how they envisage applying them in their own partnering work and context.

**The estimated time commitment is 2 hours a week online and a further 2+ hours a week working independently.**

If all requirements are fulfilled and the course tutor is confident that a participant is ready to progress to the Accreditation programme – the next step in the Accreditation journey will start as soon as an appropriate mentor has been identified.[2]

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[1] PBA is only able to offer this programme in English but, wherever possible, we try to accommodate those whose English is limited. If this is an issue, it should be mentioned in the application form and we will consider each case and try to find a solution where we can.

[2] PBA will make every effort to only accept applicants that we feel have the real potential for completing the programme and achieving Accreditation. However, if any applicant does not complete the Foundations Course to a suitable standard, they will not be permitted to move onto the Accreditation Programme. In these exceptional circumstances, unspent funds will be returned.



## PARTNERSHIP BROKERING: PRACTICE – 6-months

This part of the programme invites participants to become more 'reflective' practitioners. Through a close 1-2-1 relationship with a selected mentor over a long enough period for participants to really deepen their understanding of how they operate in the partnership brokering role – what they might try out in order to have greater effectiveness and impact. This takes time and is a combination of self-development and practice-based / action research!

Participants will keep a Log Book / Journal of their experiences and learning – which can be in whatever format feels most appropriate. In addition, there will be opportunities for participants to meet up as a group to share their stories and provide each other with support and encouragement.

Towards the end of the programme, participants will work in a small group on a joint activity that highlights some aspect of partnership brokering that they agree is interesting and worth exploring more deeply. The results of the group work will be shared with the whole group – an important part of this process being to develop a more confident partnership brokering 'voice' and to benefit from receiving and giving feedback – a vitally important partnership brokering skill.

**The estimated time commitment is between 8-12 hours a month – a combination of online sessions with a mentor and independent work.**

## ASSESSMENT

The decision about awarding Accreditation will be based on the:

- **Mentor's initial assessment** of the participant's work and development
- **Final zoom session** between participant, their mentor and the PBA-nominated examiner and
- **Examiner's report** and recommendation.



## What are the benefits of achieving Accreditation?

Those who successfully complete the Accreditation Programme will have:

- Deepened their partnership brokering / collaboration-building practice
- Received in-depth mentoring from an experienced Accredited Partnership Broker
- Learnt alongside and from practitioners from different countries and contexts
- Strengthened their capacity for being reflective
- Developed further confidence in their partnership brokering capability
- Gained an internationally recognised professional qualification and
- Become part of a growing international network of Accredited Partnership Brokers.



## Fees and financial support

Whilst PBA is a small not-for-profit entity with limited resources, we are committed to making this programme affordable and inclusive while also ensuring that it is financially sustainable.

We have established a sliding-scale contribution model on all our Accreditation pathways and programmes but this pathway is part of an experiment in new ways of raising resources so that all those who are suitable and ready can apply, regardless of their ability to cover the full costs.



### Further details of how resources may be raised:

| LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION | AMOUNTS (in GB£s)                                                                                                  | RELATED ACTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Enhanced contribution | £2,000 – where 25% will be made available to support others requiring subsidised places to be able to participate. | The PBA team can provide support for applicants to make the case for this level of contribution to their organisations or donors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Full contribution     | £1,500 – this covers all costs.                                                                                    | As above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Partial contribution  | Any amount, however small, that is less than £1,500 will require further resources to be found.                    | <p>The PBA team will work on a 1-2-1 basis to explore other possible sources of support with each applicant and will provide practical support in a number of ways including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding guidance and materials</li><li>• Resource mobilisation coaching</li><li>• Advice on approaching local partners and funders</li><li>• Letters of support explaining the value of the Accreditation qualification</li></ul> |



Where strong candidates have made genuine efforts to raise resources but remain unable to meet the cost, a limited number of bursaries, payment plans, bartering or other support arrangements may be available. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The 'bottom line' is that financial circumstances should not prevent an exceptional community-level practitioner from accessing the programme.

## Key dates

| ACTIVITY                                             | DATES                  |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Expressions of interest</b>                       | September 2026         |
| <b>Applications</b>                                  | September–October 2026 |
| <b>Acceptance / invoicing / Resource procurement</b> | November–December 2026 |
| <b>Programme</b>                                     | January–August 2027    |
| <b>Assessment and notification of results</b>        | September 2027         |

## Interested?

We warmly encourage **expressions of interest** from practitioners working at community and local levels in any part of the world and will respond promptly to all enquiries – arranging a zoom call with one of the Accreditation Team, if useful.

**Application form** for those ready to apply.

If you want to speak to a member of the team before deciding whether or not to apply, please contact the Accreditation Team: [accreditation@partnershipbrokers.org](mailto:accreditation@partnershipbrokers.org)



For more information about PBA, partnership brokering and the Accreditation Programme, please visit:

[www.partnershipbrokers.org](http://www.partnershipbrokers.org)



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