

# Academy for Counselling and Coaching (ACC)

Counselling and Coaching Training - Worldwide - English Version

The Netherlands: [www.counselling.nl](http://www.counselling.nl) - [www.coachacademie.nl](http://www.coachacademie.nl)

Worldwide: [www.coachingcounselling.com](http://www.coachingcounselling.com)

## Gcoach.nl

Paul van Schaik - Els Barkema-Sala

### How to use [www.Gcoach.nl](http://www.Gcoach.nl) to best advantage?

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First of all, Gcoach.nl was set up as a **free guide for professionals in the communicative field** and for the public to be able **to select a professional** that would suit personal needs or particular requirements. This guide is entirely free and will remain so, since the goal is to provide unbiased, clear, high-quality information. It has been growing rapidly into an extensive, useful resource.

The information available on each professional listed there is as extensive, transparent and personal as possible - it is also **verifiable** and it can be updated regularly. It is a site for counsellors, coaches, therapists, psychologists, supervisors, trainers, etc. It is not for healers, medical doctors or psychiatrists, who have other sites they can register on.

Which professionals meet the criteria set for your personal counselling/coaching or for your supervision can be checked by looking at their site on Gcoach.nl and calculating the amount of hours they have spent on professional activities in the past year or two. Those criteria also need to be verified directly with them, so you can be sure that working with that person will meet your needs and will satisfy the requirements of the course. Details such as diploma's, orientation, working method, target group, issues for focus, location, accessibility, gender, experience, fees and so on, can all be perused on their site in Dutch. If they are versatile in other languages, questions about any of that can be posed to them directly via e-mail or by telephone.

Of course, it is essential for you to first read and fully understand the **Criteria** that are detailed in **section 5** of your **Studymap**. This will make clear that your chosen professional must meet specific criteria, which in the case of counsellor, coach, therapist or psychologist are:

1. be member of at least 1 of the accepted professional organisations
2. have had at least 1000 hrs of practice experience over the past 2 years (i.e. all hours in the communicative field such as counselling, coaching, training, supervising, conducting interventions, giving workshops or presentations - in other words, be a full-time professional)
3. be registered on Gcoach.nl
4. be a good match for you.

For a supervisor, the criteria are similar, except the supervisor should have had at least 3000 hours of practice experience over the past 4 years.

You are free to engage any other professional, but the Certificate Counsellor/Coach and the Certificate Supervisor, that are course requirements, must be signed for at least 3 hours by a professional who meets the above mentioned criteria. Gcoach.nl thereby provides **the standard by which all students can demonstrate having consulted with a reliable, recognised professional whose credentials can be readily checked and who can be held accountable via a fair complaints procedure**. It is impossible for the Academy to check out all other individual professionals that individual students would like to work with, if they are not ready or willing or allowed to register with Gcoach.nl.

Gcoach.nl offers extensive ways of searching (*Uitgebreid zoeken*), if you click on that or select that (and maybe again select Extensive search in the box *Zoeken* and under that *Uitgebreid*) you get to a page with many possibilities.

- If you want to search in your city, you can just type in Den Haag, or Amsterdam, or Wassenaar, and maybe Counsellor or Supervisor. This will give you results. If you live in a small town or village, it may not give you many names or none at all.
- You can also search in your area by entering the first 2 letters of your Postal code and then select your province (e.g. Zuid Holland if you live in The Hague or Wassenaar)
- You can narrow down the search by preselecting a number of things such as Gender (*geslacht*): male (*man*) female (*vrouw*); Fees; Depth level; Profession; Speciality; Issue (*hulpvraag*): challenge (*uitdaging*), actual and specific problem, recurring problem (*terugkerend probleem*), deep therapeutic work (*diep therapeutisch werk*), or chronic psychiatric difficulty (*chronische psychiatrische moeilijkheden*); Field (*werkveld*); Target group (*Aan*): select Individual; Ages (*leeftijd*); Medium; Language (*taal*): English (*Engels*), German (*Duits*), Italian (*Italiaans*), Chinese (*Chinees*) etc.; Professional organisation (*beroepsorganisatie*); Accessibility (*Toegankelijkheid*); Homevisit (*thuisbezoek*); Practising since (*praktijkervaring vanaf*)

When you have selected what you would like, press search (*zoek*) and then peruse the individual sites. The more particulars you select, the narrower the search will be and the fewer the results. So if few names come up or if they are not what you are looking for, try to drop a few of the specific demands and see if that produces better results.

When you have a list of professionals that state they have sufficient experience, that are within travelling distance and that can work in your language, approach them via mail or phone and check things out. Ask as many questions as you need and do check if they offer a special rate for students of ACC. Have a free telephone consult or initial visit first before you make up your mind. Make sure the professional will be a good match for you (that is in fact one of the requirements).

If you happen to know or meet a professional who is not yet registered with Gcoach.nl, but who meets all other criteria, then invite that person to register on Gcoach.nl. It is easily done and does not take much time, it is largely a matter of reading through the various steps. If an English translation of the pages that detail the registration process is required, that can be provided. Registration is entirely free of charge, the only thing that is asked in return is to have the link to Gcoach.nl show on one's website. If a professional is not prepared to do that, he or she is entirely free not to, just as they are entitled to whatever meaning or judgement they have about Gcoach.nl. Similarly, if a professional refuses to see a student because they only wish to work with clients with 'serious' problems or 'conditions that can be diagnosed', they are entirely free to such opinions or attitudes that may also indicate the gap between professionals that adhere to a medical stance in the helping professions or healthcare and the more person-centred view of clients as essentially healthy but faced with challenges of normal issues in life.

Naturally, you may prefer to work with professionals you know already or that speak your language or that work within your organisation. That will be fine, but as stated previously, unless they register with Gcoach.nl they will not meet the criteria that are necessary for you to obtain the diploma. This may seem limiting to you, but there is something to be said for getting out of your 'comfort zone' and for undertaking a search for a new professional that will suit you and that does meet the criteria. That experience will **match more closely what real clients have to go through in the majority of cases.**

At this stage there are sufficient numbers of professionals listed on Gcoach.nl to make finding a suitable one possible for all students. Trainers of groups in The Hague, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht (or other cities) are also acceptable as either counsellor/coach or as supervisor, with the exception of your own trainer.

So just to recap, Gcoach.nl is not set up with the purpose of frustrating students or of making things difficult for you. On the contrary, it was conceived because after years of muddling along with many diverse claims about professionals or semi-professionals that could not be verified and that took a lot of time and attention, the need for it had become obvious.

Gcoach.nl was set up as a clear and open framework that provides clearly visible professional services, so that quality can be more easily ascertained and standards are the same for all.

So the reason for Gcoach.nl being included in the course requirements is primarily because **it provides quality control**, secondarily to offer each student a similar experience to what most clients must go through: **finding a professional that you can entrust your personal difficulties or challenges to and expect quality help in return**. And in case that help is substandard - to have recourse in the form of a complaint procedure.

Last but not least, you are requested to have at least 3 hours of personal counselling or coaching **to address any issues that could do with therapeutic help**, in particular **any issues that might get in the way of your being fully there for your client or that might hinder your personal growth**. So aside from seeing this as a challenge - which it is - it will be good to also see it as a particular opportunity for yourself to grow and develop.