



Postgraduate Diploma in Benesh Movement Notation

Information Booklet

2018/19



Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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Introduction

The Postgraduate Diploma in Benesh Movement Notation (PGDBMN) is the highest taught award in Benesh Movement Notation. It is a prestigious and highly specialised programme, preparing students to become Chartered Benesh Choreologists (CBChor). PGDBMN equips students with the necessary skills to use BMN for the recording and reconstruction of movement to a professional level, and will prepare them for employment as Benesh Choreologists in a repertory dance company. The programme is designed as a postgraduate qualification, aligned to a Level 7. On successful completion students will be eligible for Chartered status and may use the title Chartered Benesh Choreologist (CBChor).

PGDBMN is a flexible programme, designed to respond to students' individual needs and circumstances. A combination of distance learning and work placement is undertaken over one year of full-time study or two years of part-time study. The programme may start at any time of the year, at the discretion of the Head of Benesh International.

The heart of this programme is a work placement of approximately three months with a repertory dance company, working alongside a professional Benesh Choreologist, with support from a workplace mentor and Benesh International tutor. Students will immerse themselves in the life of a dance company, observing the dance reconstruction and rehearsal process, and gaining experience in recording movement in a studio situation. All staff on the programme are highly experienced professional Benesh Choreologists themselves, and students can expect a high level of support and teaching.

The programme is only open to those with a comprehensive knowledge of BMN, and normally requires potential students to have completed the Professional Award in Benesh Movement Notation part 2 achieving an overall 'Distinction' mark.

Graduates from this programme will find their skills in demand by dance companies worldwide, especially when combined with professional dance or teaching experience. The Benesh community of Benesh Choreologists is close-knit and supportive, and we look forward to welcoming you as part of the extended Benesh 'family'.

Diana Curry
Programme Leader

Programme outline and timetable of study

The two modules that together make up the award of PGDBMN are:

PGD01:	<i>Work Placement</i>
PGD02:	<i>Portfolio and Reconstruction</i>

PGD01 is delivered initially by distance learning, and subsequently by personal tutoring within a repertory dance company environment.

PGD02 is delivered by distance learning

The modules must be studied in numerical order, and each will be assessed by examination or submission of study tasks. Students must pass both modules to be eligible for the final award

A Programme Handbook will provide all the teaching, learning and organisational materials required to complete the programme successfully, and individual Module Study Guides will provide the teaching materials, study tasks and assessment requirements for each module. All students will have access to the programme material through virtual learning environment (Moodle) and will also have access to the student forum held annually in February.

The programme consists of a total of 120 credits at Level 7 (postgraduate level) One credit equates approximately to 10 hours of study, so PGDBMN requires the student to undertake a minimum of 1200 hours of study.

Students may complete the programme in one year of full-time study or two years of part time study. The nature of the work placement is such that this element must be undertaken as full-time study, but it may be split into two shorter placements, making up the full twelve weeks, at the convenience of the host organisation.

The start date of the programme is dependent on the availability of suitable work placement periods with host organisations, and will be negotiated individually.

The initial study for module PGD01, and the whole of module PGD02 may be completed in the student's own country of residence, but the work placement element of PGD01 will usually take place in the UK. It is most important that students work alongside a professional Benesh Choreologist, and have easy access to their tutor, and this is most easily achieved in the UK. Exceptions may be made to this arrangement with the approval of the Head of the Benesh International.

Module Descriptions

Code	Title	Credits/Minimum study hours
PGD01	Work Placement	60/600
<p>Initial distance-learning study will introduce the student to the concept of reflective practice in the context of BMN, and the legal and professional responsibilities of the Benesh Choreologist.</p> <p>The student will then be placed in a repertory dance company under the supervision and mentorship of a professional Benesh Choreologist, for a period of approximately 3 months (12 weeks). Students will gain experience of recording choreographic works, amending and completing existing scores and will observe the organisational and artistic aspects of preparing a dance work for the stage. Students will build up a portfolio of recordings and will keep a reflective journal of observations of the rehearsal and reconstruction process.</p> <p>Assessment: Portfolio of recordings undertaken during the placement, Reflective Journal and Workplace Skills assessment</p> <p>Note: No re-sits of the assessments for this module are permitted, except in exceptional circumstances, such as illness or bereavement</p>		

Code	Title	Credits/Minimum study hours
PGD02	Portfolio and Reconstruction	60/600
<p>In consultation with their tutor, students will choose which of their recordings from module PGD01 to prepare as 'master-scores'. They will also undertake an independently organised reconstruction project based on an already notated dance work. They will research source materials, create a rehearsal schedule, prepare and organise rehearsals and provide video evidence of practical rehearsals of a short extract from the chosen work.</p> <p>Assessment: The submission of master-scores, and the submission of written and video evidence appertaining to the reconstruction project</p> <p>In the case of failure of any part of the assessment for this module, the student will be permitted one re-sit only, subject to a re-sit fee.</p>		

Entry Requirements

- a) The programme is delivered and assessed in English and therefore a good comprehension of written English and competence in spoken English is essential. **It is the responsibility of the student to ascertain that they have sufficient competence in the English language to embark upon and complete the programme. No language support is offered and insufficient language skills will not be considered a mitigating circumstance.** Applicants for whom English is a second language are encouraged to test their English language skills at either;

- www.ielts.org
This is the website of the International English Language Testing System. In this system a score of 6.5 is recommended for DPBMN applicants.

or

- www.ets.org/toelf
This is the website of the Test of English as a Foreign Language system. In this system a score of 550 is recommended for DPBMN applicants.

(This may need to be updated according to current FoE regulations)

b) **Prior learning**

Students must normally have successfully completed the Professional Award in Benesh Movement Notation part 2 at 'Distinction' level, or have equivalent knowledge of Benesh Movement Notation in the form of the following awards:

- Advanced Solo, Partnerwork and Groupwork (RAD)
- *Certificat de la Deuxième Année* (Conservatoire de Paris)

c) **Movement knowledge and experience**

Students must possess sufficient executant skill in dance (particularly ballet) to be able to demonstrate choreographed movement credibly in a professional rehearsal setting; at least the equivalent of The Royal Academy of Dance's Vocational Graded Examination at Intermediate level.

d) **Selection process**

Students will be selected for this programme who, in the judgement of the programme leader, have the qualities required to successfully complete the programme, and the potential to become competent professional Benesh Choreologist.

e) **Computer access and skill**

The most reliable and time-efficient form of communication between student and tutor is e-mail, along with Skype, FaceTime or similar. For this reason students must have access to, as well as the ability to use, a computer and their own e-mail address. Access to a scanner is also advantageous.

Use of the Benesh Notation Editor program is not compulsory for this programme, but if the student elects to submit any scores in electronic form, they may do so. For the duration of the programme, students can request the loan of the 'professional' version of the Benesh Notation Editor computer program. To run this software and complete the module you will need access to a PC computer running Windows with 64 Megabytes of Ram and CD-ROM drive and a 600-dpi printer.

It is possible to use the BNEditor program on Apple computers, loaded with the appropriate Microsoft software, but the RAD cannot offer any technical support for Apple computer users.

Application Process

You are encouraged to contact the Programme Leader for an initial discussion prior to applying for the programme to ensure that this programme is suitable for your needs and circumstances and your future plans. Contact details can be found at the end of this booklet.

The application form is attached to this document or may be requested by e-mailing beneshinternational@rad.org.uk

Once your application form and registration fee are received, you will be informed of arrangements for interview and/or audition. Following consideration of your application together with any interview or audition, we will let you know if your application has been successful.

Students may apply at any time of year. Applications take approximately twelve weeks to process before students may commence the programme.

Your completed application form and registration fee should be returned to:

Benesh International
Royal Academy of Dance
36 Battersea Square
LONDON
SW11 3RA

Or emailed to lsit@rad.org.uk

Fees for 2018-19 Entries

Registration fee

A non-refundable registration fee of **£80** must be submitted with the application form.

Tuition fees

The tuition fee for the complete programme is **£8200** to be paid in full at the start of the programme. Or it can be paid in two equal instalments of **£4200** each due one month before the commencement of each module. The tuition fee includes course materials, tutoring, access to Moodle (VLE), the student Forum in February held at Benesh International either in person or via remote access, the Benesh International student membership and assessments.

Students will be invoiced with full instructions regarding payment methods.

Fees can be expected to rise each year in line with inflation.

Items not covered by tuition fees

Stationery (notation paper, pencils rulers etc.). The tuition fees does not cover the costs of travel, accommodation or subsistence during the work placement or the student forum.

An additional charge of **£264** is made for a re-sit of Module 2 (PGD02).

Funding

PGDBMN students are not eligible for direct government funding, but financial help may be available to professional dancers in the UK through the Dancers Career Development organisation, or equivalent organisations in other countries.
www.thedcd.org.uk

Students who are resident in the UK may be able to obtain assistance from Career Development Loans at:
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/CareerDevelopmentLoans/index.htm>

Other funding organisations:

For EU students: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/eu-students>)

USA and Canada: International Student Loan Programme (ISLP).

The Benesh Institute Endowment Fund (BIEF)

The BIEF supports the development and promotion of Benesh Movement Notation, particularly the education of professional notators. Applicants for this programme may request a form from Benesh International in order to apply to the BIEF for a bursary. Applicants **must** initially seek the advice of the Head of Benesh International before making an application to the BIEF

Contact details

Benesh International
Royal Academy of Dance
36 Battersea Square
LONDON
SW11 3RA

beneshinternational@rad.org.uk

<https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/study/Benesh>

<https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/>

www.radenterprises.org.uk

If you have any questions about the programme,
please contact one of the following:

Diana Curry, PGDBMN Programme Leader and
Tutor

Email: dianamoore1@gmail.com

Anna Trevien, Head of Benesh International

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