



**Diploma for Professional Benesh  
Movement Notators**

**Information Booklet**

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## **Introduction**

The Diploma for Professional Benesh Movement Notators (DPBMN) is the highest taught award of the Benesh Institute. It is a prestigious and highly specialised programme, preparing students to become professional notators. DPBMN 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 notators in a repertory dance company.

DPBMN is a flexible programme, designed to respond to students' individual needs and circumstances. A combination of distance learning and work placement allows each student to study on an individual timetable, negotiated through their personal tutor, who will support and monitor them throughout the programme. Students may start the programme at any time of the year and will normally complete the programme within one calendar year of their start date.

The heart of this programme is an extended (approx three months) placement with a repertory dance company, working alongside a professional notator, with support from a workplace mentor and Benesh Institute 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 notators 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 in most cases requires potential students to have completed the Certificate in Benesh Movement Notation (CBMN) programme.

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 notators is close-knit and extremely supportive, and we look forward to welcoming you as part of the extended Benesh 'family'.

## **Course Outline and Study Timetable**

The three modules that together make up the award of DPBMN are:

DBMN1:	<i>Recording Skills</i>
DBMN2:	<i>Work Placement</i>
DBMN3:	<i>Portfolio and Reconstruction</i>

DBMN1 and DBMN3 are delivered by distance learning, and DBMN2 by personal tutoring within a repertory dance company environment.

The modules must be studied in numerical order, and each will be assessed by examination or submission of study tasks. Students must pass module DBMN1 before proceeding to the DBMN2.

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.

The programme consists of a total of 60 credits at Higher Education Level 2 (the approximate equivalent of the second year of a university degree). A credit equates roughly to 10 hours of study, so DPBMN requires the student to undertake a minimum of 600 hours of study.

Students may commence the programme at any time of the year, and will normally complete the programme within one calendar year (52 weeks). Typically, students will complete module DBMN1 in the first three months of the programme, DBMN2 in the following six months, and DBMN3 in the final three months.

Modules DBMN1 and DBMN3 may be studied by students in their own homes, but the work placement element of DBMN2 will usually take place in the UK. It is most important that students work alongside a professional notator, 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 Director of the Benesh Institute.

Note that the tuition fee covers all tutoring and placement arrangements, but does not cover travel, accommodation or subsistence during the work placement.

**Module Descriptions**

Code	Title	Credits/Minimum study hours
<b>DBMN1</b>	<b>Recording Skills</b>	<b>10/100</b>
<p>Students will use this module to extend and refine their BMN system knowledge, and will undertake several recording tasks, using a variety of sources and presentation methods. Students will gain their first experience of 'live' recording, introducing them to working at speed, taking rehearsal notes and the process of 'writing up'.</p> <p>The assessment for this module is three short contrasting recordings</p>		

Code	Title	Credits/Minimum study hours
<b>DBMN2</b>	<b>Work Placement</b>	<b>40/400</b>
<p>The heart of the programme, this module places the student in a repertory dance company under the supervision and mentorship of a professional notator, for a period of approximately 3 months. 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 journal of observations of the rehearsal and reconstruction process.</p> <p>The assessed elements of this module are the portfolio of recordings in progress, the journal together with a report from the workplace mentor.</p>		

Code	Title	Credits/Minimum study hours
<b>DBMN3</b>	<b>Portfolio and Reconstruction</b>	<b>10/100</b>
<p>In consultation with their tutor, students will choose which of their recordings from module DBMN2 to prepare as 'master-scores', using the BNEditor computer program. Students will also prepare to undertake the practical task of teaching movement material from a notation score, in a professional rehearsal situation.</p> <p>The assessment for this module will be the presentation of master-scores, and a practical reconstruction examination*</p>		

\*Where a student is not based in the UK, this part of the assessment may take place following the end of module DBMN2

## **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](http://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/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)  
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.
- b) Students must have successfully completed the Certificate in Benesh Movement Notation to a high standard, or have equivalent knowledge of Benesh Movement Notation. This evidence may be in the form of recently achieved awards of the Benesh Institute or the Conservatoire de Paris, at the following levels:
- Advanced Solo, Partnerwork and Groupwork (Benesh Institute)
  - *Certificat de la Deuxième Année* (Conservatoire de Paris)
- c) 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) 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 notators.

***Computer access and skills:***

The most reliable and time-efficient form of communication between student and tutor is e-mail. 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.

As many modules are supported by DVDs and CDs, students will also require access to machines on which to play these.

For the duration of the programme, students will be loaned 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 Benesh Institute 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 can be downloaded from the Benesh Institute website or requested by e-mailing [beneshinstitute@rad.org.uk](mailto:beneshinstitute@rad.org.uk).

Once your application form and registration fee are received, you will be informed if we wish to call you 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:

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



## **Fees for 2014 Entry**

### **Registration fee**

A non-refundable registration fee of **£60** must be submitted with the application form.

### **Tuition fees**

The tuition fee for the complete programme is **£8,500**. This may be paid in full one month before the commencement of the programme, or in two instalments: £4,250 one month before the commencement of the programme, and £4,250 prior to the start of the work placement. The tuition fee includes course materials, tutoring 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.), travel, accommodation or subsistence.

An additional charge of £500 is made for each assessment re-sit.

### **Funding**

DPBMN 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](http://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: Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)

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

Educational Grants Advisory Service (EGAS)

### **The Benesh Institute Endowment Fund (BIEF)**

The BIEF supports the development and promotion of the Benesh Movement Notation system, particularly the education of professional notators. Students in financial need may apply to the BIEF for assistance with tuition fees for DPBMN.

**Contact details**

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

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

[www.rad.org.uk](http://www.rad.org.uk)

[www.radenterprises.org.uk](http://www.radenterprises.org.uk)

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

**DPBMN Programme Leader and Tutor:**

Diana Curry Tel: ++44 (0) 7326 8035 E-mail: [dcurry@rad.org.uk](mailto:dcurry@rad.org.uk)

**Director, The Benesh Institute:**

Liz Cunliffe Tel: ++44 (0) 7326 8031 E-mail: [lcunliffe@rad.org.uk](mailto:lcunliffe@rad.org.uk)



**4 Please state your NOTATION EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS**

**5 Please summarise your DANCE EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS**

**6 Please describe RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT, WORK/DANCE EXPERIENCE ETC**

**7 PERSONAL STATEMENT: WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR APPLYING FOR THIS PROGRAMME?**

<b>8 GIVE DETAILS BELOW OF ANY SPECIAL NEEDS OR SUPPORT REQUIRED DUE TO A DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION</b>
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In providing the Royal Academy of Dance Group with your contact details you give us permission to contact you in relation to the business of the Academy, and we will not disclose your information to any third parties except where legally required to do so. If you do not wish to receive any information about or from the Royal Academy of Dance please tick here

We may, from time to time, contact you individually about other carefully selected third party services which we think may be of interest to you. If you wish to receive information from the Royal Academy of Dance about carefully selected third party services please tick here

The Royal Academy of Dance's full data protection statement is available at [www.rad.org.uk](http://www.rad.org.uk)

**Declaration:** I confirm that the information given on this form is true, complete and accurate and no information requested or other material information has been omitted. I agree that if I am admitted to a programme of study at the Royal Academy of Dance, I shall abide by the Regulations of the Academy. I have read the statement on Data protection and agree to the use of my personal data as outlined and the RAD's rules and policies on the use of personal data.

<b>Applicant's signature</b>		Date:	
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Please return this form with a non-refundable **Registration Fee** of £60

I enclose a cheque/bank draft for £60-00 payable to: Royal Academy of Dance  OR  
 Please debit my Credit/Debit card account by £60-00 as per the card details below:  
 Card Type (delete as applicable): Amex / Visa / MasterCard / Eurocard / Maestro (UK only)

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Card Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ (Amex 4 digits on front of card; all others 3 digits at end of signature strip on back)

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/yy)                      Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/yy)

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Code	23-DBMN-1321-2021	Vat Code	E
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