



Professional Diploma in Benesh Movement Notation

Information Booklet

2024

**ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF DANCE**



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Introduction

The Professional Diploma in Benesh Movement Notation (PDBMN) is the highest taught award in Benesh Movement Notation. It is a prestigious and highly specialised programme, preparing students to become Professional Benesh Choreologists. PDBMN 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.

PDBMN is a flexible programme, designed to respond to students' individual needs and circumstances. A combination of distance learning and a period of professional practice 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 period of professional practice 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 writing their first score of a dance work as it being choreographed. 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 the potential to complete the PDBMN successfully, in consultation with the BI director and programme tutors (see Entry Requirements, page 6).

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 PDBMN are:

PDBMN7: BMN in Professional Practice

PDBMN8: Portfolio and Reconstruction

PDBMN7: is delivered initially by distance learning, and subsequently by personal mentoring and tutoring during a period of professional practice with a repertory dance company.

PDBMN8: is delivered by distance learning.

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

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/or via their tutor, and will also be able to attend the Benesh Student Forum (held annually).

The programme consists of a total of 120 credits. One credit equates approximately to 10 hours of study, so PDBMN 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 period of professional practice is such that this element must be undertaken as full-time study, but it may be split into two shorter periods, 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 period of professional practice with host organisations, and will be negotiated individually.

The initial study for module PDBMN7, and the whole of module PDBMN8 may be completed in the student's own country of residence, but the period of professional practice may have to be undertaken in a country other than the student's country of residence, depending on the availability of placement opportunities. The placements are negotiated well in advance, taking the student's needs and wishes into account as far as practicable.

Module Descriptions

Module PDBMN7 ***BMN in Professional Practice***
Minimum Study Hours 600

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.

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 10-12 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.

Assessment: Submission of recording tasks undertaken during the period of professional practice (at 'working score' level), workplace skills assessment, critical reflection.

In the case of failure to reach the standard required to pass this module, re-sits are not normally allowed.

Module PDBMN8 ***Portfolio and Reconstruction***
Minimum Study Hours 600

In consultation with their tutor, students will choose which of their recordings from module PDBMN7 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.

Assessment: Submission of master score(s), submission of video evidence of practical reconstruction rehearsals organised by the student and supported by a portfolio of planning documents.

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.

Entry Requirements

a) English Language Competence

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 PDBMN 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 PDBMN applicants.

b) Prior Learning

Students will normally be required to have completed the Professional Certificate in Benesh Movement Notation at 'Distinction' level, or have equivalent knowledge of BMN in the form of the following qualifications:

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

Note: Students whose overall mark for PCBMN falls slightly below 70% may still be considered for PDBMN on the basis of previous relevant professional experience and their potential to successfully complete the programme.

c) Movement Knowledge and Executant Skill

Students must possess sufficient executant skill in dance (particularly ballet) to be able to demonstrate choreographed movement credibly in a professional rehearsal setting.

d) Computer Access

Communication between student and tutor will be via e-mail and video call. Students must have access to a computer and their own e-mail address. Students will also need access to a scanner or mobile scanning app.

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 found on the website, or may be requested by emailing beneshinternational@rad.org.uk.

Where a student has not studied the Professional Certificate in Benesh Movement Notation, a reference must be submitted along with their application form.

Once your application form and registration fee are received, the application will be reviewed and you may be invited to further discussions with a panel. We will let you know by email if your application has been successful.

Students may apply at any time of the year. The commencement date for the programme will be dependent on the availability of a period of professional practice.

Your completed application form and proof of payment of the registration fee should be returned by email to beneshinternational@rad.org.uk.

Fees

Registration fee

A non-refundable registration fee of **£100** must be submitted with the application form.

Tuition fees

The tuition fee for the complete programme is **£7500**, and is to be paid in full at the start of the programme.

The tuition fee includes course materials, tutoring, access to the virtual learning environment (as applicable), access to the Benesh Student Forum, Benesh student membership, and assessments.

Students will be invoiced with full instructions regarding payment methods.

Fees will be reviewed on an annual basis, and can be expected to rise in line with inflation.

Re-sit Fees

Where a student undertakes a re-sit of Module PDBMN8, an additional fee will be charged.

Items not covered by tuition fees

Stationery (notation paper, pencils, rulers, etc.)

The tuition fees do not cover the costs of travel, accommodation or subsistence during the period of professional practice or the student forum.

Funding

PDBMN students are not eligible for direct government funding, but financial help may be available to professional dancers in the UK through [Dancers Career Development](#), or equivalent organisations in other countries.

We would expect prospective students to research and source their own funding as far as possible, before enquiring with Benesh International for assistance.

The Benesh Institute Endowment Fund (BIEF)

The BIEF supports the development and promotion of Benesh Movement Notation, particularly the education of professional Benesh Choreologists.

Where applicants have exhausted other avenues of funding, they may approach Benesh International to advise whether an application for a bursary can be made to the BIEF.

Any application of funding from the BIEF **must** be submitted by Benesh International and approved by the Head of Benesh International.

Contact Information

Benesh International

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