



# Professional Diploma in Benesh Movement Notation

Information Booklet

2026

**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 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 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 Head of Benesh International 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 F.I.Chor  
Programme Leader and Module Tutor

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE AND TIMETABLE OF STUDY

The two modules that together make up the award of PDBMN are as follows:

<b>PDBMN7: BMN in Professional Practice</b>	<b>PDBMN8: Portfolio and Reconstruction</b>
This module is delivered initially by distance learning, and subsequently by personal mentoring and tutoring during a period of professional practice with a repertory dance company.	This module is delivered by distance learning.

The modules must be studied in a numerical order, and each will be assessed by submission of assessment tasks. Students must pass both modules to be eligible for the final award. The pass mark for each module is **50%**.

The programme requires **1000 hours of study**.

Module Study Guides will provide the teaching materials, study tasks and assessment requirements for each module. Students will have access to all programme material through the RAD Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) and/or via their tutor, and will also be entitled to attend the annual Benesh Student Forum.

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 a 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. However, 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

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### Module PDBMN7: BMN in Professional Practice

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Minimum Study Hours = **700**

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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.

#### Module explanation

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 12 weeks. Students will gain experience of recording new choreography, 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, and their personal experience of notation in a professional setting.

#### Assessment (approximately 4 weeks after the end of the placement)

- Submission of recording tasks undertaken during the placement (at 'Preliminary Master' level).
- Workplace Skills.
- Critical Reflection Journal.

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

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### Module PDBMN8: Portfolio and Reconstruction

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Minimum Study Hours = **300**

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#### Module explanation

In this module, students will upgrade the Preliminary Master scores submitted for module PDBMN7 to full Master scores. They will also organise and film themselves teaching extracts from their own score and from a BMN score unknown to them, and undertake some rehearsal scheduling and score adaptation tasks based on the unknown BMN score. All these tasks are fully supported by the Module Tutor.

#### Assessment (submission date agreed between student and module tutor)

- Submission of Master score(s).
- Submission of video evidence of two practical reconstruction rehearsals.
- Submission of tasks based on the unknown BMN score.

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.

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## 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](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 PDBMN 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 PDBMN applicants.

### b) Prior Learning

Students will normally be required to have completed the Professional Award/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 PABMN/PCBMN narrowly fails to reach Distinction level 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) Digital Communication

Communication between student and tutor will be via e-mail, video call and WhatsApp. 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 PDBMN 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](#). Where a student has not studied the Professional Award/Professional Certificate in Benesh Movement Notation, a reference must be submitted along with their application form.

Once we receive your completed application form and proof of payment of the registration fee, 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 start date for the programme will be dependent on the availability of a period of professional practice.

## 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, or in separate instalments in consultation with the Head of Benesh International. 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.) is not covered by tuition fees, as well as the costs of travel, accommodation or subsistence during the period of professional practice.

## 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 for assistance from Benesh International.

### 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. Benesh International will guide applicants through the process.

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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Benesh International

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188 York Road  
London  
SW11 3JZ

Email: [beneshinternational@rad.org.uk](mailto:beneshinternational@rad.org.uk)

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

PDBMN Programme Leader  
and Tutor

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