



Level 5

Certificate in Dyscalculia and Maths

Learning Difficulties

Support and Intervention

Programme Information

(pre-application)

We hope this pre-course information provides you with the information you need to join our training programme in teaching and supporting learners with dyscalculia.

Who is the BDA?

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) aims to bring about a Dyslexia Friendly Society.

Since its creation nearly 50 years ago the BDA has worked tirelessly to develop a network of national and international support for individuals who are dyslexic including the development of local dyslexia groups that work with the BDA to provide parents, educators and individuals with dyslexia access to services, training, information and support.

Through its activities, the BDA strives to achieve its key goals:

1. To build awareness of dyslexia and dyscalculia in all sectors of society.
2. Promote early identification of dyslexic and dyscalculic difficulties for all in society.
3. Availability of effective and appropriate teaching provision for all children and adults with dyslexia and dyscalculia.
4. Availability of appropriate assessments for all children and adults with dyslexia and dyscalculia.
5. Reasonable adjustments for individuals with dyslexia and dyscalculia within all sectors of society (including education, employment, training and the criminal justice services).
6. Information is available for individuals with dyslexia and dyscalculia across the age ranges and sectors, and for those who support them including effective strategies to help overcome dyslexia and dyscalculia related difficulties, and how to maximise the strengths of those with dyslexia and dyscalculia.

The training activities of the BDA are a crucial part of our work in all the above areas. We offer:

- accredited open courses and evening webinars
- Bespoke inset training in schools and bespoke training for employers
- Online accredited training

Current Definition of Developmental Dyscalculia

Dyscalculia is a specific and persistent difficulty in understanding numbers which can lead to a diverse range of difficulties with mathematics. It will be unexpected in relation to age, level of education and experience and occurs across all ages and abilities.

Mathematics difficulties are best thought of as a continuum, not a distinct category, and they have many causal factors. Dyscalculia falls at one end of the spectrum and will be distinguishable from other maths issues due to the severity of difficulties with number sense, including subitising, symbolic and non-symbolic magnitude comparison, and ordering. It can occur singly but often co-occurs with other specific learning difficulties, mathematics anxiety and medical conditions.

(BDA Committee Jarrett 2019)

What is the qualification?

The BDA Level 5 Certificate in Dyscalculia and Maths Learning Difficulties; Support and Intervention is the first step towards becoming a specialist teacher or tutor for learners with maths related difficulties.

Successful candidates can apply to the BDA for **Approved Teacher Dyscalculia /Approved Practitioner Dyscalculia (BDA ATD/APD) accreditation.** and professional membership provided that they have worked in an educational setting for 1900 hours which may include the 20 hours of teaching from the course.

Successful candidates may also apply to extend their training to level 7 which will allow them to assess and diagnose dyscalculia. (It is important to note that at level 5 you will not be able to make a diagnosis of dyscalculia)

BDA Relationship with the University of Chester

This course has been approved by the University of Chester as meeting their academic requirements for study at this level and the credit gained from this course, can be transferred to the University of Chester to complete the L7 Postgraduate Diploma in Dyscalculia Research and Practice and then, if you wish, the MA Dyscalculia Research and Practice.

For more information click here: [Chester AC](#)

Who is the course for?

The BDA Level 5 Certificate in Dyscalculia and Maths Learning Difficulties; Support and Intervention provides training for individuals who have a professional interest in dyscalculia and maths learning difficulties in order for them to become informed practitioners and teachers. The course is delivered primarily in the form of eLearning with some virtual sessions.

It is of particular benefit to:

- Teachers, teaching assistants and tutors supporting maths in primary, secondary and tertiary settings;
- Tutors and support staff in Further Education and other adult learning settings;
- It is also accessible to those who have a desire to improve their skills and knowledge in the area of dyscalculia and maths learning difficulties and display the ability to study at Level 5 (equivalent to undergraduate level).

Entry Requirements

The BDA is committed to widening participation and, as such, has an open policy to its courses. However, candidates will be expected to have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken

English and at least two years' relevant maths teaching or support experience in an educational setting.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)

Applicants who do not fulfil all the requirements above may be considered for 'special entry' if they can demonstrate other relevant academic and/or professional experience. Such applicants are advised to apply in the normal way and include documentation that fully records their experience in their application statement together with certificates and evidence of previous course outcomes.

Process of Application

Candidates will need to complete and submit an Application Form prior to booking. This provides us with information about your background and experience and will help us determine whether you are eligible for the course. Once the application has been approved and you have been accepted onto the programme, you will then be able to submit your booking form.

The Programme

The programme is divided into 4 Modules:

Module A: The Theory of learning maths and the skills needed to learn maths

Module B: What is dyscalculia and maths learning difficulties?

Module C: Methods of teaching numeracy skills.

Module D: The Affective Domain.

Assessment and preparing to teach.

The content for each module will be primarily delivered by webinars and videos on our eLearning platform. There may also be short lectures on zoom which candidates would be expected to attend. Candidates are also expected to do substantial reading around the topics from the reading list.

Assessment of Candidates' Work

Candidates will complete 8 written tasks totalling 10,000 words including academic essays based on information from the modules and their own reading.

Candidates will complete an informal assessment and plan a programme of support for two learners and undertake a total of 20 hours of teaching. Lesson plans will be continuously assessed as well as 2 hours of teaching.

All work will be uploaded to the e-learning site.

Work will be assessed by the candidate's tutor and moderated by other members of the team of tutors. Completed portfolios will be verified by the course leader.

Timeline and duration of the course.

This is a one-year course with 3 entries a year, September, January and April.

Term One:

Candidates will undertake the eLearning modules, virtual sessions and begin writing the academic tasks as well as prepare to teach learner 1.

Term Two

Candidates will start their first teaching practice, complete the academic tasks and start to prepare to teach Learner 2.

Term Three

Candidates will continue teaching learner 1 and start teaching learner 2.

By the end of Term 3, you should have completed all academic tasks and both teaching practices.

Extensions

Extensions may be granted upon application by the course leader but please note that these will incur additional cost. In exceptional circumstances, you can apply for a suspension or deferral of your course.

Course Fees

The cost of the course is £1950.

Options for Payment:

1. **Pay the full cost of the course - £1950.** You will have access to the course site for 12 months. Payment must be made 8 weeks before your start date.

2. **Pay in two instalments:**

First instalment of **£840** which will give you access for 6 months Payment must be made 8 weeks before your start date.

Second instalment of **£1110** (to be paid within the first 5 months) will give you access for a further 6 months

Extension fees will apply for candidates who go over the 12 months course deadline.

Booking Process

Course bookings are made via our website at:

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/training/accredited-level-5-certificate-in-dyscalculia-and-maths-learning-difficulties-support-and-intervention>

Teaching Practice

This is a competency assessed programme; supervised teaching is an essential part of the programme.

Candidates working towards ATD or APD are required to deliver **20 hours of evaluated teaching practice** with two learners from the school/college setting (primary or secondary) up to 18 years or post 16 FE/HE/adult age group. All learners must be in a mainstream setting (no complex needs) and speak good English. Your main learner should have significant difficulties with the acquisition of numeracy. Your second learner may have difficulties with numeracy and may also have difficulties with other areas of the Maths curriculum. Neither learner needs to have a formal diagnosis. Teaching practice must take place in a school, college or HE site, and candidates must have contact with class teachers or tutors so that targeted support can be integrated with class support or requirements of an FE/HE qualification.

Candidates are expected to produce a portfolio of evidence on our eLearning platform, which will contain documentation and evidence of the teaching practice. This will also include two videoed sessions of you working with your main learner.

Applying for Accredited Teacher Dyscalculia (ATD) or Accredited Practitioner Dyscalculia (APD)

To apply for ATD or APD at the end of the course you must have two years professional, educational experience working with pupils, this can be two years full time or a combination of part time appointments. The total number of hours must add up to 1900 hours of appropriate teaching or support in Maths. The 20 hours from this course can count towards the total. You can apply for ATD/APD for pre-16 or ATD/APD for FE/HE. It is possible to apply for both, but you would need to complete an additional 20 hours teaching practice in the second age group, please contact us to discuss this further and note there would be an additional charge.

Will I need to have a DBS Check (or equivalent)?

As a Disclosure and Barring Service Enhanced Disclosure is a requirement for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults in England, the learner you choose to work with for any practical teaching should be someone within your school or workplace, where you will already have a DBS Enhanced Disclosure. If you choose to work with someone from outside that environment, then you should apply for a separate DBS check in the setting in which you will be working.

You should allow **at least 6 weeks** to process any DBS application, and this must be in place before any face-to-face work with a learner. For further information please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service.

Other countries may have their own procedures for approving the suitability of individuals to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. The BDA is only authorised to validate the suitability of the academic and education qualifications and teaching experience to participate in the

course and therefore it is the responsibility of the school/college/workplace where the candidate is working to ensure that they are suitable to work with learners.

However, we reserve the right to request this information from you or to terminate a programme where we feel it is not in the interests of the learner to continue. The BDA will not assume responsibility nor will accept liability incurred as a result of any participant or learner being engaged in this programme.

Technical Equipment Required for the Course

Computer and Internet access: You will need a computer (PC, Mac, laptop or other similar device) connected to the Internet and email in order to access the teaching materials and participate in this programme.

Video Recording Equipment: You will need access to a digital video camera in order to record two of the teaching sessions. We recommend using a camera which records in MP4 or AVI formats. High quality webcams, smartphones and tablets properly positioned on a tripod will accomplish the task.

Online Repository: In order for our tutors to review your recorded videos and work, you will be provided with access (when required) to the BDA's learning platform and asked to upload assignments and evidence of teaching to your individual e-portfolio.

Pre- Course Reading List

Once your application has been approved, you may like to start the reading. This is the list of pre-course reading.

Course Books:

- Kelly, K (2020) *Identifying, Assessing and Supporting Learners with Dyscalculia*. London: Sage Publishing Ltd.
- Chinn, S. (2018) *Maths Learning Difficulties, Dyslexia and Dyscalculia*. 2nd edn. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers
- Emerson, J. (2015) *Understanding Dyscalculia and Numeracy Difficulties*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers
- Hornigold, J. (2015) *Dyscalculia Pocket Book*. Winchester: Teacher's Pocket Books.
- Hornigold, J. (2017) *Understanding Maths Learning Difficulties: Dyscalculia, Dyslexia or Dyspraxia?* London: Open University Press.
- Chinn, S. (2012) *Maths Learning Difficulties, Dyslexia and Dyscalculia*. BDA (this is available as a PDF on the course site for free)

Level 5 Certificate in Dyscalculia and Maths Learning Difficulties: Support and Intervention - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How many hours studying will I need to undertake?

The programme as a whole is estimated to take at least 120 hours. This includes:

- Completion of the e-Learning modules and attendance at the virtual training sessions;
- Time spent on reading and research;
- Completion of the academic tasks;
- Time spent on compiling your portfolio of teaching evidence (planning, delivery of support, evaluations, etc.) – approximately 60 hours.

How long do I have to complete the qualification and what happens if I need more time?

You will have a year to complete the course. You may apply for an extension, but this will incur costs charged termly.

Do I need QTS or be a qualified teacher to enrol on the Level 5 programme?

No you don't. The BDA is committed to widening participation, and so the Level 5 programme has been designed so that those who do not have a teaching qualification can also participate, so long as they have relevant prior experience.

If you already hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and you have completed the Level 5 qualification, you can apply for ATD (Approved **T**eacher Dyscalculia). If you do not have QTS you could apply for APD (Approved **P**ractitioner Dyscalculia). Both routes require evidence that you have completed 1900 hours, equivalent of two years' experience working within an educational setting. This does not necessarily need to be learners who have maths difficulties but the age of those you have experience working with does matter and needs to be compliant with the application – either pre 16 or post 16. Your experience does not have to be full time and could be a combination of part-time roles. The hours of teaching you do as part of this course will count towards this. (In Scotland teachers should be registered with the General Teaching Council for Scotland and other countries will have equivalent accreditations)

Do I need to have current teaching experience before enrolling onto the course?

No, your experience does not have to be current, but you will only be accepted on the course with relevant experience. However, you will not be able to apply for ATD/APD until you have completed the required number of hours working with learners within an educational setting (see above).

I have already completed a Level 2 Dyscalculia qualification with the BDA, can I count this toward a Level 5 and how much will I pay?

We can offer you a 5% discount if you have completed the above course with the BDA within 3 years of completion of the Level 2.

I have completed a dyscalculia qualification with another provider, can I use this towards the BDA Level 5?

It may be possible for you to use relevant learning that you have undertaken with another provider towards this qualification, however this is reviewed on a case by case basis. Please provide details on your Level 5 application form and include copies of any certificates and course outcomes. We will then let you know whether this is sufficient to count as accredited prior learning (APL) for aspects of the programme and to reduce your costs.

What other documents will I need to refer to?

You will need to refer to the relevant legislation or curriculum for your country (e.g. Candidates in England should refer to the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 and the National Curriculum).

How can I access books and journals for my research?

You are provided with a reading list which highlights core texts which you will either have to purchase or access. We recommend you join a library (A University library would be best if you have access to one). There are a number of journal articles uploaded onto the course site, the course development team add to this on an ongoing basis, and you can find additional articles through an online search.

Wiley Journal subscription offer

As a BDA member, you get the option to buy a Wiley Journal subscription at a much-reduced rate, so if you become a member of the BDA at student rate of £25 you can then also buy the Wiley subscription for 12 months for £55 (normally £100+).

When can I enrol onto the Level 5?

You can enrol onto this programme at any time during the year and once accepted you can start reading and wait to be allocated to a start date and the online modules. There are 3 start dates in the year, September, January and April.

When will I be allocated a tutor?

You will be allocated a tutor as soon as the course begins.

Are there any additional costs once I have paid for the course?

There are some additional costs. There are some essential reading texts for the course, which you may have to purchase if you are unable to borrow them through a library. If you are not attached to an educational setting you may need to purchase some basic teaching resources and may need to pay for your own photocopying. We estimate total additional costs to be no more than £200. If you are attached to an educational institution the costs will likely be lower.

Is the BDA Level 5 Certificate in Dyscalculia and Maths Learning Difficulties: Support and Intervention a course which will qualify me as a SPLD tutor?

Yes, once you have completed and passed the Level 5 programme you will be able to apply for Approved Teacher Dyscalculia (ATD) or Approved Practitioner Dyscalculia (APD) and Professional Membership of the BDA.

What age groups would this course enable me to work with as a SPLD tutor?

This would depend on the age group with whom you undertake your assessed teaching practice for the Level 5 certificate; if you work with school age learners up to 18 then this is the age range you would be qualified to work with, or FE/HE/adult learners from 16 years then it would be this age range.

You could do both, but this may entail you having to undertake additional assessed teaching practice which will incur an additional cost.

Once you have completed the BDA Level 5 Certificate in Dyscalculia and Maths Learning Difficulties; Support and Intervention, do I need to become a member of the BDA or another affiliated body so that you can practice as a SpLD tutor?

No. Upon completion of the qualification you may tutor without ATD or APD. But we would strongly recommend that you do apply to the BDA for ATD/APD status.

If tutoring students at HE level, you now need to have membership of a professional body in order for the student to be able to claim funding to pay for their support.

Will the BDA Level 5 Certificate in Dyscalculia and Maths Difficulties; Support and Intervention enable me to be a qualified assessor as well?

No. In order to become a qualified assessor you would need to complete an AMBDA accredited course at Level 7 in the assessment of maths learning difficulties. BDA will be offering a Level 7 course from January 2023.

If I already have a Level 7 qualification for assessment in dyslexia, will I be able to assess for dyscalculia having completed this course?

No, you will still need to do a qualification in assessment for dyscalculia at level 7 as well as additional teaching. The level 5 can, therefore, be viewed as the first stage of the process towards becoming a qualified specialist and assessor if that is the route you wish to take.

Do I need to complete and pass all of the modules to become fully qualified?

Yes. All of the required modules need to be completed in order to complete the Level 5 programme.

In addition, you will need to complete all the academic tasks, and prove evidence of 20 hours teaching practice together with informal assessment and evaluations.

Contact Details

For additional information or any queries please contact:

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The British Dyslexia Association

BDA Training

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