

Who's Who in Breastfeeding Support and Lactation in the UK

	International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)	Breastfeeding Counsellor (BFC)	Peer Supporter	Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI)
Also known as	Only IBCLC certified Lactation Consultants are listed on IBCLC Certification Registry .	Breastfeeding Counsellor (ABM , NCT) Breastfeeding Supporter (BfN) La Leche League Leader (LLL)	Peer Supporter, Breastfeeding Buddy etc.	BFI Baby Friendly accredited hospitals and communities listed here
Accreditation	IBCLC the only internationally recognised professional breastfeeding qualification. Examining body IBLCE/ IBCLC Commission	Awarded by each organisation, some have university accreditation	Awarded by each organisation, some have college accreditation	UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative <i>Different levels of accreditation</i>
Who	Health professionals (HP) and accredited Breastfeeding Counsellors (BFC). For other routes see IBCLC pathways	Experienced breastfeeding mothers	Usually mothers who have breastfed	Usually HPs and allied health workers, children's centre workers
Prerequisites	HPs and BFCs require advanced lactation education inc WHO Code & CPR cert plus extensive clinical experience to pass IBCLC exam	Breastfed for at least 6-12 months	Ability and motivation to undertake voluntary role. Usually has breastfed	None for BF & Relationship Building (BFRB) courses, other courses vary
Clinical Hours Prerequisites	1000 hours supporting breastfeeding families in a supervised setting (plus HP or BFC qualification)	None	None	None
Breastfeeding Education	Minimum of 90 hours (plus HP or BFC qualification)	Average 2 years part time	Average 16-36 hours	BFRB about 18 hours over several days Other courses vary
Counselling / Communication Skills	5 hours min in depth training	In depth	Basic communication and listening skills	Introduction to counselling skills
Standards of Practice	Professional Standards of Practice, Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures	Individual organisation's policies and procedures	Supervising organisation's procedures	Baby Friendly accreditation audits
Recertification	5 yearly recertification requires 250 clinical hours and 75 hours accredited continued professional development	Individual organisation's continued education requirements vary	Continuing education should be provided	Annual update (1-6 hours) by some employers. Regular BFI audits
Work	Employed in hospital/community or self-employed in independent practice/voluntary. Roles inc HP eg Infant Feeding Leads, training HPs/peer supporters, research and policy making	Volunteer and paid roles: antenatal classes, breastfeeding support groups, helplines etc. Breastfeeding counselling free to mothers	Volunteers' expenses may be paid. Usually specific area. Community, children's centres, breastfeeding drop-ins, hospitals. Services free to mothers	Hospitals and Community NHS services, Children's Centres, and other areas. Services free to mothers
Scope	Any breastfeeding issue including complex situations, high-risk babies, oral assessment etc, as well as general infant feeding issues	Support with typical breastfeeding problems. Referral to further professional information as needed. Supervision within accrediting body	Encourage and support normal breastfeeding issues, with supervision. Refer other issues to supervisor	Work within the scope of their existing employment

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