



**Certificate in Dyslexia;  
Literacy, Support and Intervention  
Level 5**

**Programme  
Information  
(pre-application)**

## Who Are the B.D.A.?

The British Dyslexia Association (B.D.A.) aims to bring about a Dyslexia Friendly Society. Since its creation over 40 years ago the B.D.A. 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 B.D.A. to provide parents, educators and dyslexic individuals access to services, training, information and support.

Through its activities the B.D.A. strives to achieve its key goals.

The B.D.A. works towards the following goals:

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

The training activities of the B.D.A. are a crucial part of our work in all of the above areas. For those within an education setting there is a wide range of training from dyslexia awareness and identification through to teaching literacy and classroom support strategies. For employers training is available to assist them in implementing reasonable adjustments for their dyslexic employees and strategies to empower dyslexic individuals. Training is delivered through open courses for individuals, onsite bespoke training for groups and summer schools.

B.D.A. training events help to raise awareness of dyslexia in all age ranges and sectors of society. The B.D.A. organises around 400 face to face training events per year, with excellent feedback, with each one bringing us closer to a Dyslexia Friendly Society.

In 2015 the B.D.A. launched its eLearning platform the purpose of which was to enable a wider audience to be able to access high quality training in dyslexia support.

eLearning enables the B.D.A. to bring quality training and expertise to individuals who would otherwise be unable to access this due to factors such as time and cost constraints or geographical location or. Individuals can work through the modules at their own pace and also when and where it is convenient for them to do so. They can be confident in the knowledge that support with their learning and development is available from highly skilled and experienced dyslexia specialists.

## Who is the course for?

The B.D.A. Level 5 Certificate in Dyslexia; Literacy, Support and Intervention provides training for individuals who have a professional interest in dyslexia in order for them to become informed practitioners and teachers. The courses are modular and flexible and are undertaken part time, through online or blended learning. They are of particular benefit to:

- Teachers of any educational level;
- Tutors and support staff in Further Education and other adult learning settings;
- Support staff in Higher Education (this course meets the requirements for DSA support workers though you will need to be a member of a Professional Body such as B.D.A.);
- Teaching Assistants;
- Speech and Language therapists;
- Occupational Therapists with relevant experience;

## What is the qualification?

The B.D.A. Level 5 Certificate in Dyslexia; Literacy, Support is the first step toward becoming a dyslexia specialist and is often regarded as the first step towards a Level 7 AMBDA approved programme. Candidates who have completed the Level 5 certificate will, however, have sufficient knowledge to deliver specialist tuition to individuals requiring support with their dyslexia.

It is important to note that at this level you will **not** be able to formally "diagnose" dyslexia. In order to carry out diagnostic assessments individuals must hold an Assessment Practising Certificate (APC) and will normally have completed a Level 7 qualification that leads to AMBDA status.

**This Level 5 certificate holds B.D.A. Approved Teacher/Approved Practitioner (B.D.A. ATS/APS) accreditation.** This means that candidates who have successfully passed the Level 5 certificate can apply to the B.D.A. for ATS or APS status and professional membership.

For those wishing to progress and complete a level 7 AMBDA course, the Level 5 certificate may be used as evidence of prior learning but be aware this is a level 5 programme and for AMBDA you will need to complete a level 7 programme. We recommend that you speak to your chosen course provider for further information on how you can apply to complete an AMBDA course.

## Programme Delivery

The programme will be delivered through eLearning modules, which can be combined with face-to-face training courses if desired in order to create a blended learning experience.

In addition all candidates will have access to a personal tutor via email, phone or Skype. A reading/website list will be provided for candidates to undertake additional guided learning. An online discussion forum will also be made available to candidates in order that they can share thoughts and ideas with peers and seek guidance from the tutor team.

B.D.A. Each eLearning module consists of text, video/website links and reflective activities to check learning as the individual progresses through the module, with a final summative assessment at the end. Learners receive a B.D.A. "Certificate of Completion" at the end of each module.

This programme has been designed to provide candidates with:

- Flexibility in booking and planning study time to fit around other activities;
- Regular support from a team of specialist tutors;
- Utilisation of interactive online study;
- The ability to enrol on the programme at any time or to "upgrade" from B.D.A. existing courses;
- The option to book and pay for the programme on a "pay as you go" basis; buying each module or aspect one or a few at a time. Alternatively the entire programme can be booked and paid for upfront.

## How is the Programme Put Together?

### Flexible options for completion

This Level 5 programme has been designed in a modular format in order to allow candidates the greatest possible amount of control over how and when they complete the programme. This also provides the opportunity to spread the cost of the programme as candidates can book and pay for as few or as many parts of the programme at a time as they wish.

In essence, the programme can be booked in one of the following ways:

- **Modular:** Book and complete the required Open courses / eLearning modules one or a few at a time, at a pace that suits the candidate, and then apply to “upgrade” to the Accredited Level 5 programme afterwards. Once a candidate has been accepted onto the Level 5 programme, they will be able to access the relevant documentation that will enable them to begin work on their theory-based workbook and assessed teaching practice.
- **Full:** Book all required open courses / eLearning modules together, along with the Accredited Level 5, and pay for all elements together. Once a candidate has been accepted onto the Level 5 programme, they will be able to access the relevant documentation that will enable them to begin work on their theory-based workbook and assessed teaching practice.

### Course routes and fees

The Level 5 programme can be undertaken via **either** an eLearning **or** a Blended Learning route. Each route comprises a number of elements, including:

- **(E) eLearning modules:** candidates will receive 6 months unlimited access to each module booked (or 12 months if all modules booked together). Candidates must download a certificate of completion once they have completed each module.
- **(O) Open (face-to-face) Training courses:** for each Open training course booked, candidates will attend a full day’s training selected from the BDA’s Open Training schedule. Candidates will receive a certificate of attendance.
- **(P) Practical elements:** these are assessed elements, and candidates are expected to organise and carry out the work for these independently.

This structure enables individuals who have already undertaken relevant training or eLearning with the B.D.A. to map these against the required elements as illustrated on the following page:

eLearning Route (online learning)		
	Element	Cost
E	Fundamentals of Dyslexia Awareness (must be completed first)	£120
E	Fundamentals of Dyslexia Support	£120
E	Practical Strategies for Reading	£120
E	Practical Strategies for Spelling	£120
E	Practical Strategies for Writing	£120
E	Learner Motivation and Self-esteem	£60
E	Practical Strategies for Organisational Skills	£60
E	Practical Strategies for Study Skills	£60
E	The Dyslexia Friendly Learning Environment and B.D.A. Quality Mark	£60
E	Assistive Technology	Inc. in reg. fee
E	Identification of Dyslexia	Inc. in reg. fee
P	Completion and assessment of theory-based workbook	Inc. in reg. fee
E	Access to Candidate Handbook (including downloadable templates for portfolio)	Inc. in reg. fee
P	Portfolio of evidence of practice and support (inc. observation and assessment)	Inc. in reg. fee
--	Accreditation and certificate	Inc. in reg. fee
--	Registration and Accreditation fee *	£750
<b>TOTAL Programme Cost to candidate</b>		<b>£1,590</b>

Blended Learning Route (online and face-to-face training)		
	Element	Cost
O	Practical Solutions for Primary / Secondary / FE / HE (must be completed first)	£140
O	Screening for Dyslexia	£140
O	Practical Solutions Plus - Reading	£140
O	Practical Solutions Plus - Spelling	£140
O	Practical Solutions Plus - Writing	£140
E	Learner Motivation and Self-esteem	£60
E	Practical Strategies for Organisational Skills	£60
E	Practical Strategies for Study Skills	£60
E	The Dyslexia Friendly Learning Environment and B.D.A. Quality Mark	£60
E	Assistive Technology	Inc. in reg. fee
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P	Completion and assessment of theory-based workbook	Inc. in reg. fee
E	Access to Candidate Handbook (including downloadable templates for portfolio)	Inc. in reg. fee
P	Portfolio of evidence of practice and support (inc. observation and assessment)	Inc. in reg. fee
--	Accreditation and certificate	Inc. in reg. fee
--	Registration and Accreditation fee *	£750
<b>TOTAL Programme Cost to candidate</b>		<b>£1,690</b>

\*Can be paid either upfront along with all course / module fees, or as an "upgrade" following completion and payment of all required courses / modules. **Note:** all required modules must be either booked or completed before the Level 5 accreditation can be booked.

## Entry Requirements

The B.D.A. 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' recent and relevant experience in an educational setting.

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 first instance and fully explain their experience in their application statement.

## Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)

Where applicants feel that they have relevant prior experience or learning they are invited to contact the B.D.A. Training Team directly to discuss this.

Candidates who have already completed some or all of the required open training / eLearning modules for either the eLearning or Blended Learning routes will be able to count these toward the Level 5 programme and so will not be required to re-take these.

## Teaching Practice

In part this is a competency assessed programme. Supervised teaching is an essential part of the programme.

As a part of their portfolio of evidence of teaching practice, candidates will be required to deliver **20 hours of teaching practice** with one or two learners whose main difficulties are with literacy. Teaching practice must take place in a school or college, and candidates must have contact with class teachers or tutors so that targeted support can be integrated with class support.

Accompanying paperwork must also be provided, guidance and templates for this will be made available to candidates in the Candidate Handbook for the Level 5 programme.

## Assessment of Candidates' Work

1. Candidates will need to submit a workbook containing tasks mapped to the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
2. Achievement of learning outcome 6 will be a copy of the "Dyslexia Friendly Self Audit", with accompanying evaluation and action plan.
3. Learning outcome 8 will be assessed through the evaluation of a portfolio of evidence (supplied by the candidate) of 20 hours' worth of dyslexia support. It is expected that this evidence will also show practical application of learning outcomes 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.
4. Learning outcome 9 will be assessed through the evaluation of a portfolio of evidence (supplied by the candidate) containing lesson plans, examples of materials, etc. for 20 hours' worth of dyslexia support.
  - 4.1. It is expected that this evidence will also show practical application of the learning achieved in learning outcomes 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.
  - 4.2. In addition, candidates will be required to submit two hours' duration of video evidence of their teaching practices; one hour at the beginning of the support intervention and one hour at the end of the support intervention. Both submissions will be assessed and tutor feedback provided.
  - 4.3. Candidates will also provide two progress reports about the individual who they are supporting, one at 50% completion of the support programme and one at 100% completion of the programme.
5. In evidence of achievement of learning outcome 10, candidates will submit a Personal Learning Journal containing evidence of critical self-evaluation, along with an Action Plan outlining future CPD.

The tutor team will consist of experienced dyslexia specialists, who will be overseen by the programme manager/leader. Internal moderation will take place on a sample basis in line with existing practice and records of this will be kept within the course file in the training office.

Candidates are encouraged to provide feedback upon completion of each module, which will be recorded by Training Team and shared with tutors at programme review meetings. Where a particular issue arises, this will be dealt with by the Head of Training. Candidates will be encouraged to provide summative feedback at the end of the programme.

Both positive and negative candidate feedback will be shared with tutors and internal moderators. The B.D.A. Training Team constantly strive to review, update and improve its provision. All tutors attend regular CPD opportunities as it is a requirement of their professional memberships



## 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 and young people, 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 DBS check.

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](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service)

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 B.D.A. 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, laptop or other similar device) connected to the Internet and email in order to access the teaching materials and participate in this programme.

**Film Recording Equipment:** You will need access to a digital video camera in order to record some of the teaching and assessment 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

## Further Information

For additional information or any queries please contact:

The British Dyslexia Association

**B.D.A. Training**

**Unit 6a Bracknell Beeches**

**Old Bracknell Lane**

**Bracknell**

**RG12 7BW**

**Office: 0333 405 4565**

**Email: [L5cert@bdadyslexia.org.uk](mailto:L5cert@bdadyslexia.org.uk)**