

## Level 5 Certificate in Dyslexia; Literacy, Support and Intervention Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### How many credits is the Level 5 programme?

The B.D.A. Level 5 Certificate in Dyslexia; Literacy, Support and Intervention is equivalent to 60 credits at Level 5. You will be awarded these upon successful completion of the programme.

### How many hours studying will I need to undertake?

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

- Completion of the required training courses / eLearning modules;
- Time spent on research;
- Completion of the theory-based workbook;
- Time spent on your portfolio of evidence (planning, delivery of support, evaluations, etc.).

The exact number of hours will vary according to how much time you wish to put into certain elements your study, and whether you have already completed any training or eLearning courses that are relevant to the programme.

### How long do I have to complete the qualification?

There is some flexibility as to how long candidates can take to complete the programme. However, there is an order in which the activities must be completed, and points at which your work must be signed off before you can progress.

We anticipate that most candidates will take approximately two years to complete the course alongside their other commitments, although it is possible to complete the programme in a shorter timeframe provided that you adhere to the requirements for submission of work and the minimum / maximum timings between lessons for your portfolio of evidence of teaching practice.

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

No you don't. The B.D.A. 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.

Once you have completed the Level 5 qualification and are applying for ATS / APS status, having qualified teacher status (QTS) means that you would be awarded ATS (Approved **T**eacher Status) whereas if you do not have QTS you would be awarded ATPS (Approved **P**ractitioner Status). Both ATS and APS are the same level.

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

We ask that candidates have a minimum of 2 years' (cumulative) teaching experience, as this is one of the requirements to gain ATS / APS status. However this does not necessarily need to be with those who have SpLD. The age of those you have teaching experience with does not matter.

### **I have already completed a Level 2 or Level 3 Dyslexia qualification with the B.D.A.**

#### **Can I count this toward a Level 5 and how much will I pay?**

Yes, you can. Many of the modules you will have studied for your Level 2 or Level 3 qualification will also count toward the Level 5 programme. When you complete your application form, make sure you let us know which of our training courses or accredited programmes you have already completed as you will not need to take these a second time, and the cost of these will be deducted from the full cost of the Level 5 programme.

### **I have completed a dyslexia qualification with another provider, can I use this towards the B.D.A. Level 5?**

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

### **What documents will I need to refer to?**

You will need to incorporate the learning you will have gained from your training / eLearning modules into your work. In addition, you will need to refer to the relevant legislation or curriculum for your country (e.g.: UK candidates expected to refer to SEND Code of Practice 0-25).

Once you have booked and paid for the Level 5 accreditation fee you will gain access to the Candidate Handbook, which provides you with a suggested reading list, along with templates and example documents to use when completing your portfolio of evidence of teaching practice.

### Is the programme delivered via attended courses or online learning?

The programme is delivered principally via self-directed study through online (eLearning) modules, and completion of a theory-based workbook and portfolio of evidence which will then be submitted for assessment.

However, five of the training modules can be attended as face-to-face training days instead of eLearning if you so wish. For further information on this please contact [L5cert@bdadyslexia.org.uk](mailto:L5cert@bdadyslexia.org.uk) for a booking form and available training dates.

### When can I enrol onto the Level 5?

There are regular start dates for the Level 5 accreditation and for each of the required training courses / modules.

The programme is designed to be flexible in how you can enrol. You can do this in one of two ways:

1. Book and pay for the full accredited programme (i.e.: all required courses / modules, along with the Level 5 accreditation) in one go. This will provide you with:
  - 12 months access to all eLearning modules;
  - Immediate access to all Level 5 documentation, including the theory-based assessed workbook, and templates for practical and portfolio work.
  - Immediate access to a tutor.
2. Book and pay for the required courses / eLearning modules one or two at a time. This will provide you with:
  - 6 months access to each eLearning module that you book;
  - The ability to spread the cost and pace of your learning to help make it more manageable;
  - Please note that candidates undertaking the programme in this way will **not** have access to a tutor or the Level 5 documentation until they book and pay for the Level 5 accreditation. This can only be done once all relevant courses / modules have been booked and paid for.

### When will I be allocated a tutor?

You will be allocated a tutor as soon as you have booked and paid the accreditation fee for the Level 5 programme. At this stage, you will be allocated a tutor who will contact you to introduce themselves.

## How do I achieve ATS/APS?

The Level 5 certificated is a B.D.A. ATS/APS Accredited course. Once they have successfully passed the Level 5, candidates can then apply for ATS/APS status and professional membership with the B.D.A. For more information on applying for these, please contact:

[accreditation@bdadyslexia.org.uk](mailto:accreditation@bdadyslexia.org.uk).

## Notes for teaching practice if you wish to apply for ATS/APS

- **For ATS/APS Pre 16 years:**

Teaching practice must include a minimum of 10 hours with one learner 16 years or under at the end of the current school year in a 1:1 situation. The remaining 10 hours may be with a different learner who could be taught/supported in a small group and may be a learner 18 years of age or under at the end of the current year.

- **For ATS/APS FE/HE:**

The teaching/support practice must include a minimum of 10 hours with one learner 18 years or over of age at the end of the current academic year. The remaining 10 hours may be with two different learners 18 years of age or over at the end of the current academic year one of which could be taught/supported in a small group.

## Is the B.D.A. Level 5 Certificate in Dyslexia; Literacy, 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 Status (ATS) or Approved Practitioner Status (APS) and Professional Membership of the B.D.A.

## 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 then this is the age range you would be qualified to work with, if you work with post-16 / adult learners then it would be this age range.

You could do both, but this may entail you having to undertake additional assessed teaching practice.

**Once you have completed the B.D.A. Level 5 Certificate in Dyslexia; Literacy, Support and Intervention, do you need to become a member of the B.D.A. or another affiliated body so that you can practice as a SPLD tutor and assessor?**

Yes. Upon completion of the qualification you would need to apply to the B.D.A. for ATS/APS status and would also need to become a professional member. You would then be listed on our list of qualified tutors if you so desired.

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 B.D.A. Level 5 Certificate in Dyslexia; Literacy, 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 and, following successful completion of this, apply for an APC (Assessment Practising Certificate).

The level 5 can, however, be viewed as the first stage of the process towards becoming a qualified specialist and assessor.

To assess for exam access arrangements, you should refer to the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ, <http://www.jcq.org.uk/>) for guidance on the qualifications that assessors are required to hold.

**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 (unless we have accepted your evidence of Accredited Prior Learning as providing you with exemption from part of the programme).

In addition, you will need to complete an assessed workbook of essay-type questions, and a portfolio of evidence including of 20 hours' worth of teaching practice.

**Do you have any other useful information or links on the training process and other pathways in becoming a qualified SPLD tutor and assessor?**

There are other providers of ATS / APS accredited courses. Such providers are listed on the B.D.A.'s website in the accreditation section. You can find this at:

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/professional-accreditation>