

WHO'S WHO IN BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT & LACTATION IN THE UK

	International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)	Breastfeeding Counsellor (BFC)	Peer Supporter	Baby Friendly (BFI)
Also known as	Only IBCLC certified Lactation Consultants are listed on IBLCE Registry . Role & Impact of the IBCLC	Breastfeeding Counsellor (ABM,NCT) Breastfeeding Supporter (BfN) La Leche League Leader (LLLGB)	Peer Counsellor, Mother Supporter, Helper, Breastfeeding Buddy etc.	BFI Baby Friendly accredited hospitals and communities listed here
Accreditation	IBCLC the only internationally recognised professional breastfeeding qualification. Examining body IBLCE	Awarded by each organisation, some have university accreditation	Awarded by each organisation, some have college accreditation	UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative
Who	Health professionals (HP) and accredited Breastfeeding Counsellors (BFC). For other routes see IBLCE pathways	Experienced breastfeeding mothers	Usually women who have breastfed	Usually HPs and allied health workers, children's centre workers
Prerequisites	HPs and BFCs require advanced lactation education and extensive clinical experience to sit IBCLC exam	Breastfed own baby for at least 6-12 months	Ability and motivation to undertake voluntary role. Usually has breastfed own baby.	None
Clinical Hours Prerequisites	1000 hours supporting breastfeeding families in a supervised setting (post HP or BFC qualification)	None	None	None
Breastfeeding Education	Minimum of 90 hours post- HP or BFC qualification. Exam information	Average 2 years part time	Average 16-36 hours	Ideally, about 18 hours over several days
Counselling Skills	HPs training varies, in depth training for BFCs	In depth	Basic communication and listening skills	Brief introduction to counselling skills
Standards of Practice	Professional Standards of Practice, Scope and Disciplinary Procedures	Individual organisation's policies and procedures	Supervising organisation's procedures	Baby Friendly accreditation audits
Recertification	5 yrly Recertification following accredited continued education. Re sit exam after 10 years	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, Infant Feeding Lead, NICUs, training HPs/Peer Supporters, research and policy making. Private Practice; voluntary	Volunteer and paid roles; antenatal classes, breastfeeding support groups, Helplines etc. Breastfeeding counselling free to mothers.	Volunteers' expenses may be paid. Community, Children's Centres, breastfeeding drop-ins, hospitals. Services to mothers free.	Hospitals and Community NHS services, Children's Centres - free to mothers
Scope	Any breastfeeding issue including complex situations, high-risk babies, oral assessment etc, as well as common issues.	Support with common breastfeeding problems. Referral to further professional information as needed. Supervision within accrediting body.	Encourage and support basic breastfeeding issues under supervision. Refer complex issues to a specialist.	Health service & council staff work within the scope of their existing employment.