



## INFORMATION, KEY DATES, BOOKING CONDITIONS & COURSE ARRANGEMENTS

for those requesting a place at the Taster Session  
in preparation for making an application for the 2026-27 course.

DATE	STAGE	DETAILS
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	APPLICATION DETAILS PUBLISHED	<p>Begin the process prior to making an application to do the next LEAARC-Approved Breastfeeding Specialist Course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Details of course dates and fees will be published on <a href="https://breastfeedingspecialist.com/">https://breastfeedingspecialist.com/</a></li><li>It is facilitated and taught entirely by Deborah Robertson IBCLC.</li><li>The course is July 2026 - June 2027, one day per month, 9am - 5pm.</li><li>Students will attend in-person in Chatham, Kent.</li><li>Study days will usually be the third Monday of the month (except when it clashes with Christmas and that one will be the second Monday in December).</li><li>Enquirers are asked to FIRST double check they are eligible to do the course PRIOR to reserving a place on the Taster Session....</li><li>You need to READ CAREFULLY all of this information sheet BEFORE sending Deborah a completed Taster Day BOOKING FORM.</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025	BOOKING OPENS for TASTER SESSION	<p>This course prepares candidates for the September 2027 IBLCE exam in time for the May - June 2027 exam entry window.</p> <p>Applications are welcome from others who are not aiming to become IBCLCs - but they do ALL of the course, just the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Taster Session attendance is a requirement for ALL applicants.</li><li>Those planning to sit the IBCLC exam must FIRST check they will have completed (prior to the START of the course) BOTH these IBLCE eligibility requirements:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Health Sciences Education <a href="https://ibclc-commission.org/step-1-prepare-for-ibclc-certification/health-sciences-education-2/">https://ibclc-commission.org/step-1-prepare-for-ibclc-certification/health-sciences-education-2/</a></li><li>Lactation Specific Clinical Experience (Pathway 1) <a href="https://ibclc-commission.org/step-1-prepare-for-ibclc-certification/lactation-specific-clinical-experience/">https://ibclc-commission.org/step-1-prepare-for-ibclc-certification/lactation-specific-clinical-experience/</a></li></ol></li></ul>

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- If those eligibility requirements have yet to be met, then please instead wait for next the next course's Taster Session.
- There is no charge for the Taster Session.
- The potential student must first check and confirm that they can make each of the dates on which the twelve study days happen. You can miss just ONE if you have a dates clash but the first day is compulsory and cannot be missed. If you cannot commit to these course dates then please wait until the Taster for the next course.
- DATES for the Breastfeeding Specialist Course study days:

Mondays	Month	Year	Study Days
20 <sup>th</sup>	July	2026	Becoming an IBCLC
17 <sup>th</sup>	Aug		Positioning and Attachment
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sept		Philosophies & Relationships
19 <sup>th</sup>	Oct		Beyond the Newborn Period
16 <sup>th</sup>	Nov		Counselling & Communication
14 <sup>th</sup>	Dec		Difficult Circumstances
18 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	2027	Groups and Classes
15 <sup>th</sup>	Feb		Ethical Issues
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mar		Families and Peer Support
19 <sup>th</sup>	Apr		Clinics and Consultations
17 <sup>th</sup>	May		Food and Nutrition
21 <sup>st</sup>	Jun		Mock Exam and Revision

- This course will stretch you and be DEMANDING of your time and energy, so applications will NOT be accepted from those who will be enrolled on any other course of study that year.

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	TASTER SESSION Via Zoom 9am - 1pm	<p><b>The Taster Session will include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the course structure, content, and style.</li> <li>• Encouragement to think through the personal strategies you would put in place to assist or help you to manage the course workload, textbook reading, and homework deadlines.</li> <li>• Experience of learning with Deborah and get a feel for whether this style of workshop and teaching is likely to be a 'good fit' for you.</li> <li>• Having your questions answered by Deborah / be signposted to the exam board's online resources.</li> <li>• An overview of the Breastfeeding Specialist Course Application Process</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to gain insights from the experiences of other enquirers and learn more from the professional and career development paths they are on.</li> <li>• Instructions for a practice piece of course homework relating to one of the 24 chapters of the course textbook.</li> <li>• Access to the Application Form at the end of the Taster Session.</li> </ul>
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS	<p><b>The Application Form is to be submitted:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates are asked to complete the Application Form (<b>using Microsoft Word</b>) that they received at the end of the Taster Session.</li> <li>• It is to be returned to Deborah as an email attachment.</li> <li>• Applications will only be accepted from those who have taken the opportunity to complete the practice homework.</li> <li>• The practice homework involves reading a specific chapter that Deborah will supply and then to complete that chapter's 50 multiple choice quiz questions.</li> <li>• The pass score is 70% but you can repeat to get a REQUIRED pass score to record on your application form.</li> <li>• <b>There will be just 16 places on the course so if the course is oversubscribed, those who submitted their Application Form and practice homework quiz score promptly and following the IT instructions, will be at a distinct advantage.</b></li> </ul>
31st January 2026	APPLICATION WINDOW CLOSES	<p><b>This is a unique application procedure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Application Form submission timing is designed to give an experience akin to completing a study day and then submitting the homework within a tight time frame.</li> <li>• Experience has shown that some students underestimate just how demanding the course is, hence this innovation to give more of a feel for the workload.</li> <li>• Completion of the practice homework will mean those whose applications are successful will find they have one less chapter and set of questions to complete during the actual course.</li> </ul>
7 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	COURSE PLACE OFFERS WILL BE MADE BY DEBORAH	<p>Deborah will offer a place on the course to the successful applicants. <b>Acceptance onto the course is CONDITIONAL UPON SORTING PAYMENT.</b></p> <p><b>If payment is not sorted, the offered place will be withdrawn and made available to late enquirers who book on the second Taster Session.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Continues ...</p>

	<p><b>APPLICANTS WILL BEGIN THE INITIAL PAYMENT PROCESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The SELF-FUNDING APPLICANT FEE</b> is £1,440 (or £1,140 for <u>unwaged</u> volunteers). Those applicants will then be asked to respond promptly to <b>ACCEPT &amp; SECURE their place by paying a NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT</b> equivalent to three study day payments, within 3 weeks of being offered a place.</li> </ul> <p><b>They can then CHOOSE to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Either:</b> Provide evidence of a standing order in place for nine months, beginning 1st July 2026 through to 1st March 2027.</li> <li>– <b>Or:</b> Make a payment of the remaining balance no later than 1st June 2026.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The FUNDED APPLICANT FEE</b> is £1,920. Those applicants are asked instead to <b>ACCEPT &amp; SECURE their place by responding promptly with a request to invoice their funding agency - with full address details and a purchase order number.</b> The offer of a funded place will be with-drawn this if cannot be done and paid promptly.</li> <li>• Thus, such applicants will need to be PROACTIVE in seeing that their Trust does the admin tasks to get to the stage where a purchase order is created so an invoice can be generated, processed, and paid.</li> <li>• Undue delay will result in cancellation of the offer of a course place. (Indeed, some pay themselves and then their trust refunds them.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b></p>		<p><b>Deadline for sorting payment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-funding applicants will have paid the deposit.</li> <li>• Funded applicants will have secured a purchase number so that Deborah can submit an invoice.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>SECOND TASTER SESSION</b> Via Zoom 9am - 1pm</p>	<p><b>If payments are not sorted</b> then there will be a <b>second Taster Session</b> to make those unfilled places available to others.</p> <p><b>If OVERSUBSCRIBED</b> a <b>COURSE WAITING LIST</b> will be created, as students sometimes cancel places before the course begins.</p>
<p><b>March-May 2026</b></p>	<p><b>STUDENTS WILL BUY THE COURSE TEXTBOOK &amp; START THE READING BEFORE THE COURSE BEGINS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many find the homework chapter reading &amp; quiz-taking quite time consuming, especially when there are three chapters to do.</li> <li>• Most students choose to get ahead with the textbook in the four months between securing their place and the start of the course.</li> <li>• You will receive details of how to buy the course textbook and a 30% discount code which will bring the price down to about £80.</li> <li>• Plus, a homework scheme to record chapters read and quiz scores.</li> <li>• Time to gain confidence in using jblearning's online <i>Navigate 2 TestPrep</i> practice of chapter-by-chapter multiple-choice questions.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">Continues...</p>

1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY KICKS IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial deposits (which pay for the first three study days) are <b>non-returnable from the day the booking is made</b>.</li> <li>Before the course begins, if you want to cancel and you give at least two months' notice: You can have a refund of any subsequent payment (less 20% admin fee).</li> <li>Before the course begins, if you give at least 28 days' notice of your wish to cancel: You can have a refund of 50% of any subsequent payment (less 20% admin fee).</li> <li>Less than 28 days' notice: It is too late for a refund.</li> <li>If you are sick etc and need to miss one or more study day, the payment you have already made is carried over to the next opportunity to do the study day(s) when the next course runs.</li> <li>If Deborah is sick and needs to cancel a study day, she will reschedule so that students can still complete that day and get the expected attendance &amp; homework certificates to fulfil exam entry requirements by the deadline.</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	GETTING READY EMAIL SENT	<p><b>Deborah will send you all a group email full of things to do to be sure you have everything in place for the course:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will include materials to get organised with the course reading.</li> <li>It will have the link to follow to respond to the invitation to join our closed and private study group on Facebook: <i>LC Exam Buddies</i>.</li> <li>You will receive the Course Participant list and be expected to take part in an 'introduce yourself' activity on the LC Exam Buddies group online</li> <li>All designed to 'hit the ground running' on the first study day.</li> </ul>
Mid-June 2026	REMINDER EMAILS SENT	<p><b>Deborah sends a group email to all those booked for the first study day:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make sure everyone has what they need all ready to participate.</li> <li>It will include details of how to access the venue.</li> <li>That might be the stage to double check travel arrangements, book a train ticket, arrange a car-share, or book a room for the night before.</li> <li>A reminder email is sent one week ahead of each study day.</li> </ul>

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1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	PAY-AS-YOU-GO BEGINS	<p><b>For those who opted for pay-as-you-go, your MONTHLY STANDING ORDER will have been scheduled to start this day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first of 9 monthly payments.</li> <li>• The final payment will be on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2027</li> </ul>
July 2026	COURSE BEGINS	<p><b>The first study day:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It runs between 9:00 am - 5:00 pm</li> <li>• Please check ahead of the day so you are sure how to get where you need to be and do not end up missing the start of the first study day.</li> </ul>
August 2026 (28 days after your study day.)	FIRST HOMEWORK SUBMISSION DEADLINE.	<p><b>When making a homework submission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The deadline is midnight, just 28 days after the study day.</li> <li>• That is usually the night before the next study day. But watch out as sometimes there are 5 weeks between study days and then the homework would be due in a week before that next study day.</li> <li>• Use the writing frame provided. Guidance is given on the first study day. There are lots of examples of student work in our Facebook Group <i>LC Exam Buddies</i>.</li> <li>• Send homework to Deborah, as an email attachment.</li> <li>• Deborah will grade your homework within 14 days of the submission deadline and provide feedback by email.</li> <li>• The email will also include a combined certificate for that month's study day attendance and homework completion.</li> <li>• Be sure to store all your certificates in a safe place. You will need them for IBLCE exam entry.</li> <li>• If you miss that month's homework deadline then you may submit it the following year when the next cohort submit theirs and upon payment of a late submission fee of £20.</li> <li>• But that missing homework will mean you will not get your course completion diploma with the rest of your cohort!</li> <li>• Subsequent courses are typically eighteen months later as there is usually a six-month gap between the end of one course and the start of the next one.</li> </ul>

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May-June 2027	<b>IBLCE EXAM ENTRY WINDOW</b> for the those intending to sit the following September 2027 exam	<p><b>Look out for the IBLCE announcement of the exam entry arrangements for that year:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the day you make your exam entry, you must have your evidence of all 3 exam eligibility requirements, as well as your payment</li> <li>A proportion of exam entrants are selected for audit and asked to provide the evidence promptly.</li> <li>Students will already have collected enough attendance and homework certificates to fulfil the IBLCE requirement for 90 hours lactation-specific education (including the new requirement for 2 hours specific to the WHO Code), plus 5 hours communication skills.</li> </ul>
June 2027	<b>FINAL STUDY DAY.</b>	<p><b>There will still be more things to do:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish off your Breastfeeding Specialist Course by completing the final homework.</li> <li>Complete the (LEAARC required) google form <i>Course Evaluation</i>.</li> <li>Revise for your IBLCE exam.</li> <li>If you have missed a study day, be sure to book a place on that bit of the next course so you can catch up and complete your course.</li> <li>That is an <b>OBLIGATION</b> - you signed to commit to that when submitting your Application Form.</li> <li>Only then, when you have completed all the elements of the course, will you receive your LEAARC-Approved Breastfeeding Specialist Course diploma.</li> </ul>
July 2027	<b>FINAL HOMEWORK SUBMISSION DEADLINE.</b>	<p><b>LEAARC-Approved course diploma is awarded:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful students will have completed all 12 study days and all 12 monthly homeworks.</li> <li>'Cheesy grin' photos holding your diploma are celebrated on our LC Exam Buddies Facebook group.</li> <li>Buy a frame and hang your diploma where others will see it!</li> </ul>
September 2027	<b>IBLCE EXAM</b>	<p><b>IBLCE exam results usually come out some time in December.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New IBCLCs who notify Deborah of their exam result will receive an official IBCLC badge from her as a congratulations gift.</li> <li>Also, an invitation to leave <i>LC Exam Buddies</i> Facebook group and switch over to our <i>LC Exam Buddies Alumni</i> Facebook group to continue to connect with others who have done the Breastfeeding Specialist Course and to receive updates from Deborah.</li> <li>Remaining on my mailing list ensures you get invitations to ongoing education and reflective supervision opportunities from Deborah.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(ENDS)</b></p>