



**Centre for
Education &
Development**

Re-entrants Programme Information for Participants

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Introduction

This guide will provide information for you if you are looking to return to practice as a dietitian after a period of absence. It briefly outlines the Health Professions Council (HPC) requirements for re-admission to the HPC register and provides information and guidance in regards to the BDA Re-entrants Programme.

Health Professions Council (HPC) requirements for re-entrants

If you have been out of practice for more than two years and you were previously registered as a dietitian in the UK you are required by The Health Professions Council (HPC) to undertake a period of updating your skills and knowledge before you can become re-registered with the HPC.

The following updating is required, depending on the length of time you have been out of practice:

- 0-2 years - no requirements
- 2-5 years - 30 days of updating your skills and knowledge
- 5 years or over - 60 days of updating your skills and knowledge

The updating of your knowledge and skills can be made up of any combination of supervised practice, formal study or private study. The HPC requires that any private study makes up no more than a maximum of half of your period. The period of updating should be completed within the 12 months before you apply for registration.

Once you have completed your period of updating you will be required to complete HPC forms describing the updating that you have completed. You will also need to ensure that you meet the HPC standards which include the HPC standards of proficiency, HPC standards for continuing professional development and HPC standards of conduct, performance and ethics, which require that you practice within your scope of practice. For further information regarding the HPC requirements and how to apply for re-admission to the register please visit the HPC website at <http://www.hpc-uk.org/apply/readmission>

We strongly recommend that you contact the HPC to discuss your circumstances and intention to re-register before you embark on any updating.

The BDA Re-entrants Programme is available for those that are working towards the HPC requirements. The programme will meet some or all of the HPC requirements, depending on the length of time you have been out of practice, please bear in mind the HPC's period of updating.

What is the BDA Re-entrants Programme all about?

The British Dietetic Association (BDA) has developed its open/flexible learning programme for dietitians who, for varying reasons, have been out of the mainstream of dietetic practice. As well as providing up-to-date information on current professional practice, participants have found the programme useful in building on communication skills and life experiences. In particular, the opportunities for networking and the increase in confidence resulting from undertaking the programme have been greatly valued.

The BDA has developed the programme, in conjunction with an expert group of clinical professionals, in order that it may be accessed by individuals irrespective of their location. It is reviewed regularly and is managed by the BDA Education Board.

The programme aims to provide an update on current practice within general and more specific areas of dietetics. Participants can expect, on completion, to have material to support their application to register with the Health Professions Council and have a testimonial for employment purposes.

How is the programme structured?

The programme is an open learning programme that consists of one attended introductory day in Birmingham, seven core modules and one optional module. Participants will need to seek the support of a practice-based facilitator within their local dietetic department in which to work through each self-contained module of the programme and to complete the directed activities and practical elements.

There are seven core modules:

1	A Basis to Practice	This module revisits the basis on which to support current and future dietetic practice. Specialised knowledge and skills are delivered in subsequent modules and are out-with the scope of this module.
2	Managing Weight	The module focuses on the specific disordered physiology together with the different approaches to intervention.
3	Coronary Heart Disease	The major focus of this module places emphasis on the role of diet in the aetiology of CHD, the effectiveness of dietary intervention in reducing the risk of developing CHD and the therapeutic role of diet following cardiac injury or disease. Therapeutic intervention using drugs is also considered.
4	Diabetes Mellitus	This unit of study concentrates on the disorder; the relevant pathology, management and outcomes of care.
5	Nutritional Support	This module draws together the principle methods of nutrition support with the indications for feeding and monitoring procedures.

6	Gastroenterology	This unit of study concentrates on the normal and disordered function of the gastrointestinal tract. It focuses on the specific pathophysiology that benefits from dietary and other interventions. In particular, the diseases considered are: coeliac disease, irritable bowel disease, diverticular disease, and the inflammatory bowel diseases (Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis).
7	Professional Practice	This module is designed to act as a companion to the student's clinical skills. The net result will be an effective, reliable and proactive practitioner who is able to demonstrate professional currency both now and in the future.

There are six optional modules:

8	Renal Disease	This module concentrates on the management of adults with acute and chronic kidney disease.
9	Nutrition and Cancer	This module includes the principal methods of nutritional support applied to the patient with cancer at all stages of their journey from diagnosis to palliative care. Firstly this module will briefly cover the role of a diet in the reduction of risk of developing cancer, cancer prevention and health promotion, although the major epidemiological factors are not considered in detail.
10	Nutrition in Childhood	This module takes as its starting point the nutrition of the normal child. In particular, the focus is on optimal growth and development. Thereafter, the module examines the role of therapeutic diets in two specific paediatric conditions.
11	Nutrition and Health in Older People	This module explores the principle components related to the nutritional well being of older people. It also considers the strategies that can be put in place to reduce the risk of compromised nutritional and dietary status.
12	Advanced Nutritional Support	This module draws together the principal methods of nutrition support and the indications for feeding and monitoring.
13.	Public Health	This module aims to give a broad understanding of the role of dietitians working in public health nutrition/dietetics.

Each module consists of a module workbook with short exercises to complete, a reading list, a knowledge review for completion before and after the module, a checklist of practical activities that are required to be undertaken and a verification form to be signed by the practice based facilitator and returned to the BDA.

Module packs are sent to participants by e-mail or by post.

The programme includes a one-day introductory session, which will be an attended event and will provide information on:

- the structure of the programme;
- the role and responsibilities of the facilitator;
- the statutory context within which dietitians work
- learning from practice and using a reflective diary;
- the NHS today.

All the core modules and one optional module must be successfully completed for the award of a BDA certificate.

The mix of theory and practical exercises carried out in the work place will enable the participant to observe “live” practice having explored the associated theory supported by the directed activities and reading list within each module. The completion of activities and a personal portfolio/reflective log will provide a framework for the participant to reflect on the modules completed and also on practical experiences.

What can the programme offer?

The intention is to build on existing knowledge and practice base with new learning. The programme will enable key aspects of dietetics to be revisited and focus on those issues which are relevant to current practice. As the modules are worked through, clinical skills and knowledge will be consolidated and confidence increased.

Taking part in the programme will demonstrate engagement in Continuing Professional Development (CPD), which is mandatory for HPC registration, in order to maintain the status of a registered practitioner. Please visit the HPC website for further information regarding CPD requirements <http://www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd>.

How long will it take?

The open/flexible-learning programme should be completed within 2 years or to meet the HPC re-registration requirements, will need to be completed within 1 year.

Each module will take approximately 4 days [one day being equivalent to 7.5 hours] to complete including 1 day for pre-module reading and 1 day or 2 half days undertaking practical activities within a department/community setting.

How to locate a practise based facilitator

Participants will need to seek the support of a practice-based facilitator within their local dietetic department in which to work through each self-contained module of the programme and to complete the directed activities and practical elements. The facilitator will sign off each module as it has been completed. Your facilitator may also sign your HPC form to confirm the completion of your updating period.

You will need to contact the dietetic manager at the dietetic department within your local hospital to organise undertaking the practical elements of each module. We would suggest contacting a number of departments as some may not be able to take you on due to other demands. Please provide them with the 'Re-entrants Programme Facilitators Handbook'.

If you are working in a department, even unpaid, whilst updating your skills and knowledge prior to getting back on the HPC register, we suggest that you might ask to have an 'honorary contract', which would make your position as a supernumerary member of staff clear. An honorary contract, or a letter to you from the supervisor/manager, should make your situation clear and define what you can and cannot do. There are procedures to be followed that protect you, the hospital and, most importantly, the patient. Most health organisations should have an honorary contract and may also require you to prove your identity and have a recent CRB check.

What support can be expected?

Your practice based facilitator will be able to support you through the programme. For any further assistance please contact the Education and Professional Development team at the BDA.

How much will it cost?

The registration fee for the programme is £100.00 which includes a BDA Certificate of Participation upon successful completion.

The introductory session will cost is £75.00.

All modules cost £75.00 each and include facilitation fees.

Funding

In England, Scotland and Northern Ireland there is currently no specific funding available for returners to update their skills and knowledge. The BDA do not provide funding for members returning to practice.

If you are a resident in Wales you may apply for funding through the National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH). There is £1,000 available towards the cost of returning. There can be additional funding towards childcare although this is means-tested. For further information and to apply for the funding, please contact Anne Duggan, Recruitment and Careers Officer, National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) on Anne.Duggan@wales.nhs.uk or 01443 233 333. Information is also available at www.nhswalescareers.com.

How do I join the programme?

- You need to have access to a facilitator and a location in which to undertake practical experience. The BDA will need to be informed of the name of the facilitator and the department.
- You will need to be a member of the British Dietetic Association. For full information on membership rates either visit the website: <http://www.bda.uk.com/JoiningtheBDA.html> or contact the membership co-ordinator whose details are below.
- Please complete the Re-entrants Programme registration form and return to the Education and Professional Development Team with payment.
- The modules can be started prior to attending the Introductory session.

Contacts

For information on the Re-Entrants Programme contact:

The Centre for Education and Development
The British Dietetic Association
5th Floor, Charles House
148-149 Great Charles Street Queensway
Birmingham B3 3HT
Tel: 0121 200 8080
Email: ced@bda.uk.com

For information on membership of the BDA please contact:

Pauline Cotterill
Membership Co-ordinator
The British Dietetic Association
5th Floor, Charles House
148-149 Great Charles Street Queensway
Birmingham B3 3HT
Tel: 0121 200 8067
E-mail: p.cotterill@bda.uk.com

Useful Links

The British Dietetic Association www.bda.uk.com

Health Professions Council – Readmission information <http://www.hpc-uk.org/apply/readmission>

Ready for Work – a NHS Education Scotland website designed to support allied health professionals (AHPs) who are seeking employment, or considering a change of career direction in NHS Scotland.

<http://www.ready4work.scot.nhs.uk>