

	International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)	Breastfeeding Counsellor (BFC) La Leche League Leader (LLLL)	Peer Supporter (BFB) Friends of breastfeeding
Also known as	IBCLCs or Lactation Consultants Only IBCLC certified Lactation Consultants are listed on IBLCE Registry. For Ireland see https://www.alcireland.ie/find-a-consultant/ For U.K. https://lrgb.org/find-an-ibclc/	Breastfeeding Counsellor (Cuidiú) www.cuidiu.ie La Leche League Leader (LLL Ireland) https://www.lalecheleagueireland.com/	Breastfeeding Buddy
Accreditation	IBCLC the only internationally recognised professional breastfeeding qualification. Examining body is IBLCE https://iblce.org	Awarded by each organisation, after a period of instruction & training.	Awarded by Friends of Breastfeeding (FOB)
Who	Health Care Professionals (HCP) & accredited Breastfeeding Counsellors (BFCs). For other routes see IBLCE pathways https://iblce.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Which-IBLCE-Pathway-is-Right-for-Me.pdf	Experienced breastfeeding mothers who are active members of the organisation they are training with. For LLL, applicants must attend the series of 4 meetings that form the basis of the LLL support.	Usually, a person who has breastfed own baby.
Prerequisites	HCPs & BFCs require advanced lactation education & extensive clinical experience to sit IBCLC exam.	Breastfed at least one baby for at least 6 months for Cuidiú & 12 months for La Leche League. Regular attendance at meetings.	Ability & motivation to undertake voluntary role. Usually has breastfed own baby.
Clinical Hours Prerequisites	1000 hours supporting breastfeeding families in a supervised setting (post HCP or BFC qualification).	None – attendance at breastfeeding support groups required.	None.
Breastfeeding Education	Minimum of 95 hours post- HCP or BFC qualification. 5 hrs must be Communication training. Exam information at https://iblce.org/step-1-prepare-for-ibclc-certification/	Average 2 years part time plus any additional studies that the trainee wishes to undertake	Average 16-36 hours.
Counselling Skills	HCPs training varies, in depth training for BFCs	In depth counselling skills modules during training & annual skills updates	Basic communication & listening skills.
Standards of Practice	Professional Standards of Practice, Scope & Disciplinary Procedures laid down by IBLCE.	Individual organisation's policies & procedures.	Supervising organisation's procedures.
Recertification	5 yearly re-certification following accredited continued education recognition points or CERPs. From 2022 re-sit of exam has been replaced by 250 documented clinical hours within 5 years. Please see here .	For individual organisation's continued education requirements see websites: www.cuidiu.ie https://www.lalecheleagueireland.com/	Continuing education should be provided

Work	Employed in: hospital/community, Infant Feeding Lead, NICUs, training HCPs/Peer Supporters, research & policy making, Private Practice; & voluntary roles PHN IBCLCs – dedicated role serving areas in which they work. 7 appointed at present PHNs who are also IBCLCs may not have any dedicated hours in this role or may have some protected hours HSE IBCLCs provide online support & live parent support at: https://www2.hse.ie/services/ask-our-breastfeeding-expert/	Volunteer & 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.
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 & support basic breastfeeding issues under supervision. Refer complex issues to a specialist.
Fees/Charges	All IBCLC Lactation Consultant services provided in Hospital or by PHNs in the community are free of charge Some hospital based or PHN IBCLCs also work in Private Practice & may charge a fee for these services IBCLCs in Private Practice charge a fee. This may be on an hourly rate basis or per visit basis. Most Health Insurers cover a proportion of these fees, depending on clients' plan Some IBCLCs see clients in a surgery or clinic setting. Clients should discuss fees with Private practitioners, as fees may vary in different areas.	There is no charge for Breastfeeding Support from Cuidiú BFCs or La leche League groups. There may be a small voluntary donation towards refreshments	There is no charge for Breastfeeding Buddy Support. There may be a small voluntary donation towards refreshments

The purpose of the Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland (ALCI) is to promote the professional development, advancement & recognition of International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC) for the benefit of breastfeeding infants & children, mothers, families & the wider community. To provide education, communication, networking & support among International Board Certified Lactation Consultants & other health workers concerned with breastfeeding & human lactation, & foster universal awareness of IBCLC as the necessary qualification for all lactation consultants. Members of ALCI include midwives, PHNs, dieticians, GPs, paediatricians, academic researchers, Lactation Consultants in Private Practice as well as volunteer BFCs & supporters. <https://www.alcireland.ie/about-alci/>

Lactation Consultants of Great Britain (LCGB) is a registered charity working to improve the health & wellbeing of families through advocacy & expert IBCLC breastfeeding care. As the professional voice for breastfeeding, LCGB promotes the work of the IBCLC & ensures parents receive the help they need to breastfeed. LCGB also provides networking & learning opportunities for its members, including running an annual conference & ongoing web learning (OWL). Members of LCGB include midwives, health visitors, dieticians, GPs, paediatricians, infant feeding leads, peer support coordinators, NHS & public health project leads, academic researchers, peer supporters & members from every voluntary sector network, as well as independent lactation consultants. <https://lcgb.org/about-lcgb/>