Which IBLCE Pathway is Right for Me?

Choose One of the Options Below: Complete clinical hours providing direct lactation and breastfeeding care or education.

**Option 1**
Are you currently providing or can you locate a clinical setting to provide breastfeeding and lactation care or education (paid or unpaid)?

- **YES**
  - IBLCE requires clinical hour experience. You will want to research ways in your community that you can earn these hours.

- **NO**
  - Is this care or education in an appropriate supervised setting (i.e. hospital, community clinic, primary care practitioner’s practice/office, birth centre, lactation care clinic/practice) OR currently listed on IBLCE’s Recognised Breastfeeding Support Organisation list?
    - **YES**
    - Clinical hours can only be counted in this way unless you are able to practice independently within your scope of practice within your profession.
    - **NO**
      - Are you able to provide 1000 hours of this care or education within 5 years of applying to sit the IBCLC exam?
        - **YES**
          - If you are not able to earn the 1000 hours in 5 years, then you may want to look for other ways to earn the clinical hours.
        - **NO**
          - Pathway 1
            - Click here to learn more!

**Option 2**
Are you interested in completing an academic program in lactation consulting?

- **YES**
  - Take a look at information on Pathway 1 and Pathway 3. Click here to learn more.

- **NO**
  - Pathway 2
    - Click here to learn more!

**Option 3**
Are you able to have an IBCLC mentor your breastfeeding and lactation care or education clinical hours in an appropriate supervised setting? *IBLCE must verify your plan before earning the clinical hours.*

- **YES**
  - Take a look at information on Pathway 1 and Pathway 2. Click here to learn more.

- **NO**
  - Pathway 3
    - Click here to learn more!

In addition to completing the clinical hours via one of the pathways described above, all candidates are required to:

- Complete 14 health science courses (either as an IBCLC Recognised Health Care Professional OR complete coursework in each subject).
- Complete 90 hours of lactation education.