



Frequently Asked Questions - Teaching Diploma

What kind of yoga experience do I need to have in order to apply?

We ask for a minimum of 3 years' regular and consistent yoga practice, preferably through class attendance. You will also require a regular teacher who can provide a reference to support your application. In addition, some element of self-practice is viewed very favourably.

What is the application process? Is it first come, first served?

The application form can be downloaded from our website. Please note that you will need to supply two references (one from your yoga teacher and one personal). We do not operate a first come, first served policy, but consider each application on its merits. This happens immediately after the application closing date and so any applications received before that date will be acknowledged but not reviewed at that stage. Very shortly after the closing date we review all applications. The outcome of this review may be that we offer you a place without interview, if your application is very strong; we may ask you to attend an interview with members of the teacher training board (the date of the interview weekend is posted on our site); or we may ask you to re-apply if we feel that you need further experience before starting teacher training.

How far in advance do I need to apply?

Because we review all applications together, there is no benefit in applying early. All you need to do is to ensure that your completed application reaches us before the application closing date.

Is there an age limit (minimum or maximum)?

We cannot take students under the age of 18, but have no maximum age limit. If you are at the younger end of the age range, please don't forget that you will need to have had at least 3 years' regular practice and will need to demonstrate that you have the maturity to be a good teacher. We do not consider anyone to be too old to embark on the path of sharing their love of yoga with others.

How many people usually apply for the course?

It varies, but, on average, we have about 60 to 70 applications for each half-yearly intake.

How many people will there be on the course?

30.

Who are the teachers? Can I meet them?

Unlike some other teacher training courses, we use a range of teachers, all with a passion for, and specialist knowledge of, the subjects they teach. We believe that this approach both encourages you to explore different teachers' approaches and gives you access to teachers who know their subjects in real depth. A full list of current course teachers is contained in the downloadable course prospectus.

As part of the course, you will also need to take two intensives from a range of choices, many taught by leading visiting teachers. More details of those intensives are on our website.

If you are asked to attend an interview, you will meet the teacher training board. We don't arrange specific meetings with any of the other teachers – though many of them teach regular public classes and you could always get to meet them that way.

Where is the training held?

At The Special Yoga Centre, 2a Wrentham Avenue, London NW10. Occasionally, intensives take place at other venues, but always within easy reach of central London.

I have a full time job – are all the course sessions at the weekend?

Yes, from 9.30 to 5.30 on Saturday and Sunday, though please note that most of the intensives run for 5 or occasionally 6 consecutive days to allow you to immerse yourself in the teachings.

I live outside London: is that a disadvantage?

No, so long as you are able to travel to London for the course weekends and intensives. We have had many students from outside London – from other parts of the UK and from abroad.

I live outside London: can you help me find accommodation during the training weekends?

Sadly no, though we have found that students from outside London often stay with other (London based) students on the course. We do however have a list of possible places to stay close to the Special Yoga Centre.

What else will I need to pay for?

You will need to join British Wheel of Yoga (the governing body which accredits the course). They charge an upfront fee to all students registering on Diploma courses (currently £60) plus you will need to take out annual membership of BWY which is currently £60 as well. If you live in the UK or Ireland, this annual membership includes public liability insurance for when you begin teaching and is good value relative to the cost of other insurance policies. You will also need to buy a small number of books, and to pay for your two intensives (costs of intensives range from £400 to £600). Towards the end of the course, you will need to pay your mentor £60 to observe you teach. We do not include this within the course fees as it sometimes happens that someone other than your mentor does this class assessment. You will also need to pay to attend regular yoga classes throughout the course.

When and how do I have to pay? Can I pay in instalments?

Of the basic course fee of £2,175, £915 is payable on acceptance onto the course and the balance by 18 monthly instalments of £70 each, payable by direct debit.

I live overseas and I cannot set up a standing order – what do I do?

Our overseas students typically make direct transfers into our bank account.

Do you offer scholarships or financial assistance?

As a not for profit organisation we aim to ensure that our fees are competitive.

What is British Wheel of Yoga and why do I need to be a member?

British Wheel of Yoga is the governing body of yoga in England and Wales, and many employers of yoga teachers require teachers to have a BWY qualification. Our course is accredited by BWY, which means that our graduates have the benefit of both a Yogacampus qualification and a BWY qualification, in order to maximise their employment opportunities. As we are a BWY accredited course, all of our students must be members of BWY.

Do I get insurance from British Wheel of Yoga to teach whilst I am on the course?

Yes, so long as you live in the UK or Ireland, and subject to the terms of the policy (which will be given to you when you join the course).

How much preparation and homework is there?

For most course weekends, you will be assigned preliminary reading, the amount of which varies. You may also be asked to practise certain postures or techniques in advance. Some, but by no means all, modules also require you to do some homework. We try to keep preliminary work and homework to a reasonable amount, knowing that most of our students have busy lives.

You will also be required to write two essays as part of the course, and to complete an open book written paper at the end of the course.

Do I have to attend regular classes with the course teachers while I am on the course?

You are required to attend regular classes, and to have a regular teacher, but your classes may be with any teacher. Your regular teacher will be required to sign your student report forms during the course.

What support do I get during the course?

Lots – on many different levels. Aside from the support which all the students on the course generally give each other, each student forms part of a small group assigned to an experienced teacher as their mentor. Your mentor is your primary source of support during the course: you will meet as a group with your mentor at least three times during the course, and are also expected to stay in regular touch with him or her by e-mail and/or telephone. The Yogacampus office team is also very happy to assist on administrative issues relating to the course.

What if I miss all or part of a weekend?

If you are unable to attend all or any part of a weekend due to exceptional circumstances (for example serious illness or family emergency) then you will be able to take that module (or the relevant part) at a later date. However, this may result in your date of graduation being delayed, depending on when the module is next being run. Should you miss a module for any other reason then you will still be required to catch up the module at a later date (potentially delaying your date of graduation) and you will be charged a £50 administration fee payable at the time of rescheduling. Some modules are also sequential and so if you miss one it may also mean that you will be unable to take a later module until you have caught up the module missed.

What if I cannot finish the course – what happens then?

If you decide to leave the course completely, you will not be asked to make any further payments under your standing order, but will not receive any refund of payments already made. You may also apply, if you wish, to defer to a later intake, though we discourage deferral other than in exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness). Permission to defer is at the discretion of the teacher training board, and is subject to payment of a deferral fee.

When can I start teaching?

We encourage you to start teaching as soon as you and your mentor feel that you are ready. Exactly when during the course this will vary (a few of our students are already teaching when they start the course), but you will be required to start teaching (even if only to family and friends) during the last 6 months of the course.

Does the course enable me to teach anywhere in the world?

Yes, unless the country in which you plan to teach has any additional requirements which you need to satisfy. A British Wheel of Yoga diploma is recognised within the EU as the

BWY is the governing body of yoga in England and Wales. You should also check that your insurance covers you to teach in the relevant country – for example the BWY insurance only covers teachers who are resident in the UK or Ireland and most UK insurance policies will not cover you to teach in the USA.

I see that I have to attend two training intensives – do these have to be Yogacampus intensives?

We prefer them to be, but you may ask for one “external” course to be counted as one of your intensives, so long as it contains at least 30 contact hours of tuition, is primarily aimed at teachers and/or trainee teachers, and has been approved by us in advance.

Do we receive discounts or specials offers for any yoga classes or products?

While you are on the course, you may attend any drop-in class at The Life Centre in Notting Hill for £5, and you are entitled to **10%** discount on all purchases of books, mats, props, CDs, clothing etc (other than special offers or sale items) from Yogamatters.