


Comparison of Birth Doula Programs

 CHILD BIRTH INTERNATIONAL training without boundaries	CBI	DONA	CAPPA	ProDoula	Doula Trainings International	Bebo Mia	International Doula Institute	Madriella
Total Training Cost (US\$)	US\$725	US\$890	US\$780	US\$770	US\$954	US\$1,579	US\$890	US\$300
Course Work/Workshop	US\$725	US\$550	US\$500	US\$595	US\$697	US\$1,579	US\$790	US\$300
Enrolment	US\$0	US\$40	US\$175	US\$0	US\$0	US\$0	US\$0	US\$0
Membership	US\$0	US\$100	US\$75	US\$75	US\$157	US\$0	US\$0	US\$0
Certification Fee	US\$0	US\$110	US\$0	US\$0	US\$0	US\$0	US\$0	US\$0
Required Additional Costs	US\$0	US\$90	US\$30	US\$100	US\$100	US\$0	US\$100	US\$0
Approximate Ongoing Costs	None	\$380 every 3 years	\$300 every 3 years		None unless choosing annual membership		\$100 every 3 years	
Payment Plans	Yes - 5 payments of \$155 per month	Up to individual trainer	Up to individual trainer			Yes - 3-9 payments	Yes - 2 payments	Yes - 6 payments (plus a \$25 admin fee)
Delivery Method	Printed Manuals (\$725 + shipping) and Online (\$680)	Face-to-face	Face-to-face and Online	Face-to-face	Online	Online	Online	Online
Info on additional costs		Basics of Breastfeeding (\$35-\$70); Business Webinar (\$20)	Scope of Practice Intensive review (\$30)	First Aid course (approx. \$100)	Infant/Child CPR certification (approx. \$100)	Includes birth doula, postpartum doula & infertility doula training	CPR certification (approx. \$100)	
Info on available discounts	Multi-course discounts up to 25%; student discount for subsequent courses of 15%							
About the Organization								
Founded	1999	1992	1998	2013	2011			
Membership	6,800+	7,000+	“Thousands”		2,500+			1,000+
Countries Covered	123	50					10	
Accredited	ANCC Accreditation with Distinction	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Contact Hours	86	16	18	20		16		16
Tagline	Training Without Boundaries	Our passion for families touches the world	education. support. success.	Where careers are built on passion	For the modern doula	Training. Mentorship. Community.	Committed to developing caring, compassionate doulas	
Business Focus	Business of Birth module (34 contact hours) included	Observe webinar on business (0.75-1.0 contact hour)	eBook included “Grow your birth business”	Included in program	Included in program	Course available at additional cost		
Cultural Humility	Yes - module Included			Yes (\$3-125)		Course available at additional cost		
Insurance Available	Yes in the USA, Canada and Australia	Yes in the USA & Canada		Yes in the USA				
Certification Requirements								
Required Reading	2 - free choice from 45 titles	7 - choose from 6 different groups, must include Birth Partner PLUS 2 position papers	7 - 5 books from reading list plus Understanding Birth & Understanding Breastfeeding	1 specified title - Birth Partner			5 books - all specified	
Assignments	1 reflective practice essay	1 essay on value of labor support	Online content	Webpage content questionnaire; Action plan; 3 essays on required reading	Birth story for each birth supported; 2 essays; Business strategy outline		Yes	13 assignments
Exams/Tests	Yes - open book	Not Required	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes
Birth Support	2 clients	3 clients	3 clients	3 clients	3 clients			
Minimum Birth Hours	20 hours (across both births)			10 with the client who will be interviewed				

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Birth Restrictions	Must provide some prenatal & postpartum support for at least 1 birth & be the primary doula	Only 1 can be a cesarean			Must include 1 vaginal birth, be the primary doula			
Client Evaluations	Not Required	3	3	3 - client evaluations; 1 client must be interviewed on Skype with Head Office	3			
Medical Evaluations	Not Required	3	3	Not Required	Not Required			
Childbirth Course Observation	Not Required	Required & submit an audit	Not Required	Not Required	Yes			
Breastfeeding Class Observation	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required			
Resources List	Yes - survey of birth services locally	Yes	Yes - resources for local support for clients		Yes - local resources			
Letters of Recommendation	Not Required	2 required - 1 from a client & 1 from a perinatal health professional	Not Required	3 - one must be Skype interviewed	Not Required		Yes - employer and character references	
Other Requirements	Not Required	Webinar on business (additional cost)	Not Required	Personally Skype interviews; First Aid course (additional cost)	Infant/Child CPR certification		Criminal background check and child abuse clearance required	
Policies and Procedures								
Agreement to Policies	Code of Practice	Code of Ethics & Standards of Practice	Code of Conduct; Social Media Policy; Grievance Policy; Mission Statement; CAPPA Approach, Scope of Practice	Standards of Professionalism		Code of Ethics; Scope of Practice	Scope of Practice; Professional Code of Conduct; Disciplinary Standards	Code of Ethics; Standards of Practice
Grievance Procedure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Refund Policy	Full refund less \$50 within 48 hours	No refunds on certification; some trainers may have individual policies	No refunds on certification; some trainers may have individual policies	No refunds	No refunds	Full refund less \$100 if 7 days or more prior to course; 50% refund if within 5 days of course starting		None
Equal Opportunities Policy	Yes	No	No	No	No	No		No
Sustainability Policy	Yes	No	No	No	No	No		No
Recertification Required	Not Required	Yes - \$80 every 3 years	Yes - \$75 every 3 years	Yes - every 2 years	No		Yes - every 3 years	
Membership Required	Not Required	Yes - \$100 every year	Yes - \$75 every year	Yes - \$50 every year	Optional - \$157 every year		Not Required	
Support an intended free birth	Up to the individual	No policy	Up to the individual	Not allowed		Not allowed		
Time Limit	None	4 years from workshop	2 years from workshop	18 months from workshop			None	
Restrictions	None	None	Must be 18 years or older	No low fees charged to clients; maintain First Aid certificate; must have a client contract; website must be kept up to date				
Other Courses and Services								
Childbirth Educator	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Breastfeeding Counselor	Yes - (130 hours - valid for IBCLC requirements)	No	Yes - Lactation Educator (20 hours)	No	No	No	Yes (90 hours valid for IBCLC requirements)	Yes - breastfeeding educator - only available for graduates from 3 other programs
Postpartum Doula	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (included)	Yes	Yes
Other Courses	Trauma Informed Professional & Professional Development	Professional Development	New Parent Educator; Pregnancy Fitness	Advanced Business; Social Media Workshop; Placenta Encapsulation	Professional Development	Infant Sleep Educator; Pre & postnatal Fitness; Diverse Families; Fertility		Massage for Laboring Women; Loss & Bereavement; Placenta Specialist
Other Services	Private Mentoring	Advanced Doula designation		Business Coaching; Social Media Coaching				
Cross Certification	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
100% Online Training Available	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Start Immediately?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ongoing Trainer Support	Yes - trainer reviews and assesses every assignment & provides ongoing support	Possibly - up to the individual trainer	Possibly - up to the individual trainer	Possibly - up to the individual trainer			One year of contract with trainer	
Paperwork Available	Free - comprehensive package of forms and contracts			Contracts (\$35-\$40)				