

Postgraduate Certificate in Understanding Autism and Inclusive Learning

Duration: 12 months | Delivery: Online | Start date: October 2024



The aim of this Postgraduate Certificate is to enable practitioners to develop the knowledge and understanding of inclusive practice and Autism so they can successfully reflect upon practice in their settings and reduce barriers to participation and learning for children and young people with autism. This course reflects on a range of theories and relates them to the lived experiences of autistic children and young people.

A valuable qualification for those interested in the autism field, this is a part-time course specifically designed for professionals working with children and young people in mainstream settings under the age of 19.

Course Aims

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of autism and current theoretical perspectives and critically engage with literature and research.
- Develop a critical appreciation of how children/young people with autism experience the world and reflect on ways in which to support them.
- Explore barriers to communication and socialisation and develop understanding of how to support teaching and learning for children/ young people with autism
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of current statutory legislation on autism and reflect on its role in supporting children/young people and their families/carers and the importance of collaborative partnerships and multidisciplinary agencies.
- Understanding of how to apply pedagogical models to practitioners' teaching and learning practice to support students with autism.
- Knowledge and understanding of how the learning environment and whole educational community impact on the learning and behaviours of children and young people with autism and application of this to practitioner's own context.



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Module Overview

This Postgraduate Certificate (60 Level 7 Credits) comprises two x 30 credit modules:

- **Module 1: Understanding the barriers to learning for children and young people with Autism.**

This module supports practitioners to develop their specialist knowledge and understanding of the autistic spectrum which will enable them to support autistic pupils within mainstream educational settings. The module will encourage reflection on how children/young people with autism live in, and experience, the wider world, focusing on how barriers to learning, communication and socialisation can impact on their lives. It will also consider how statutory legislation supports children/young people with autism and provides guidance for professionals and carers responsible for their development and well-being. Learning will be rooted in current and seminal theory/ policy and linked to teaching and learning practice.

- **Module 2: Supporting Autistic children and young people to succeed.**

This module aims to deepen practitioners' knowledge and understanding of how to support children and young people with autism. It includes a key focus on a range of pedagogical models and strategies and links explicitly to, and develops further, participants' own classroom and /or whole education setting practice. It also highlights the importance of working in collaboration with other agencies and on whole school approaches to support learners with autism to develop their full potential.

Delivery

Both modules will be delivered on a part-time basis through a fully online approach including:

- Access to Liverpool Hope University's Virtual Learning Environment
- Online webinars and meetings via Zoom
- Online discussion forums
- Access to Liverpool Hope University's Electronic Library
- Guided Reading
- Assessment support via email and zoom.



Delivery will be by **Helen Bucke** (Highly Advanced Specialist Occupational Therapist and ASC Clinician).

Helen has worked for the NHS for the last 30 years and is an Occupational Therapist and ASC clinician/diagnostician. She is also a lecturer and trainer and

is passionate about raising the understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity in services and the wider community. She is the author of the book "Bearing Untold Stories – Life on (and off) the autism spectrum" – publishing as Helen Hughes.

Supported by other Liverpool Hope University Tutors and Guest Speakers.

Assessment

Assessment for module 1 and for module 2 will involve the completion of academic assignments which will ask you to critically reflect upon the learning outcomes for the modules, professional practice and theoretical considerations. Equivalent 5000 words per 30 credit module.

Dates and Duration

Starts October 2024 and takes 12 months to complete.

Synchronous delivery will take place via Zoom on Thursdays, 6pm - 8.30pm. There will be 8 synchronous sessions per module.

Module 1: 3rd October, 10th October, 17th October, 24th October, 7th November, 28th November, 5th December, 12th December 2024.

Module 2: 23rd January, 30th January, 6th February, 13th February, 6th March, 13th March, 20th March, 27th March 2025.

Entry requirements

First class or second class honours degree in a relevant discipline. Applications from students who hold a degree that is not classified as a first or second class degree (or equivalent), but have appropriate professional experience might be considered.

Professionals starting the module will predominately be working in mainstream state and independent school settings and further education settings. This programme of study is not suitable for professionals working in specialist settings.

Applicants must have a minimum of one year's professional experience in teaching or experience supporting learners of a school age (19 years or under). Consideration may also be made for applicants with appropriate professional educational experience in another phase of education; a letter, on headed paper, from the applicant's line manager stating they have completed an academic year of full or part time professional activity in that institution will be required.

Progression

Successful participants may progress onto a full Masters. If you have obtained a PGCE or other Masters credits in the last 5 years you may also be able to transfer in some of these credits towards a Masters.

Cost

Tuition fees for Home students for 2024/25:

Full Rate: £2,500

Graduate Rate*: £1,875 (25% discount)

Partner School Rate:** £2,000 (20% discount)

** Graduate - Reduced Fee for students who have obtained a 2.1 or 1st class degree from Liverpool Hope University.*

*** A Partner School is any school that has an Initial Teacher Education (ITE) partnership arrangement with Liverpool Hope University and who work with our students on providing school placements.*

Tuition fees for International students for 2024/25:

Full Rate: £4,333

How to apply

To apply or for more information please contact:

Tel: 0151 291 3834

Email: pld@hope.ac.uk

www.hope.ac.uk/pld/educationpld

The PLD Team

Liverpool Hope University

Hope Park

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Participant Feedback

"This course has been immensely important to improve my awareness and understanding of autism, as well as raising awareness and confidence across the body of staff."

"This module has been invaluable in enabling me to think about the theory of working with autistic learners. This has had a really positive impact on my practical support for our autistic learners."

"Massively widened my knowledge base on ASC and allowed me to implement this into my teaching as we are a school that has a high intake of ASC pupils in a secondary school environment and this brings many challenges for them.."

