

# Special Educational Needs

**UCAS Code: Combined Honours only** (please see website for details)

**Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope park | 2025/2026**

Placement year opportunities available



## Course Overview

The Special Educational Needs course will equip you to become a passionate advocate for disability rights and equality in your chosen profession. There are more than 16 million disabled people in the UK, and graduates with expertise in special educational needs and disability are in demand in a wide range of areas including education, health, social work and social care, local government, and business. In recognising the contributions of disabled people, we encourage you to replace needs with knowledge.

A supportive team of disabled and non-disabled academics will enable you to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence you need to become a future leader in this area. You will learn about the historical, social and cultural factors that shape our understanding of special educational needs and disability. Your understanding of academic theories and models will be deepened by activities which challenge you to explore how this knowledge can be applied in professional settings. As well as tutors' extensive professional experience, course content is informed by input from a range of guest speakers, and from our partner organisations, which include disabled-led and self-advocacy groups, education and care providers, charities, and disability arts organisations.

The Special Educational Needs course at Liverpool Hope is unique in that it is informed and enriched by the work of the Centre for Culture and Disability Studies, an internationally recognised centre of excellence in disability studies research, and the only UK research centre to focus on disability and culture.

## Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

## Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2025/2026 are £9,535 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of tuition fees, you also need approximately £200 to purchase key textbooks and to cover the cost of any fieldtrips.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university. Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: [www.hope.ac.uk/halls/](http://www.hope.ac.uk/halls/)

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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## CONTACT

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# Special Educational Needs Curriculum

## Year One

The first year provides you with a knowledge and understanding of the key ideas in Disability Studies that you will bring to your study of Special Educational Needs. You will study:

### Disability History

This will enable you to develop an understanding of the relationship between disability and society and the different ways that this has been understood over time.

### Disability and the Life Course

This aspect of the course will encourage you to explore disability in early years, disability and youth, adulthood and in later life and old age.

### Disability and Culture

This addresses important ideas regarding the ways social attitudes towards disability can be challenged or reinforced through, for example, media representations.

### Disability and Society

You will develop an understanding of the relationship between disability and social practices which significantly shape the everyday experiences of disabled people and the ways in which we think about SEN and disability.

### Diverse Experiences

You will explore the specificity of experiences of disability and SEN in greater depth, challenging the notion of disabled people as a homogeneous group.

## Year Two

### Social Theory of Disability

The second year of your course is underpinned by the social model of disability.

### Exploring Diversity, Disability and Education

You will engage with recent research that offers alternative readings of impairment such as work on neurodiversity, dyslexia and lexism.

### Exploring Professional Values and Attitudes

The relationship between embodied and professional knowledge forms an important core for this section of the course.

### Researching Disability

This final element of your studies engages with ethical and philosophical as well as practical dimensions of researching disability.

## Year Three

### Theories of Disability

Your final year begins with a study of contemporary work in disability studies and includes a study of critical disability theory.

### Inclusive Practice

Here you will explore a range of ideas that enable you to take theory to a consideration of inclusive practice.

### Disability and Ethics

This final theme offers important insights into the relationship between disability and ethics including the following topics.

### Dissertation Phase

In addition to this course of study, you will identify an aspect of study related to Special Educational Needs and develop a piece of independent research into your chosen area.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars of smaller groups and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 students. You will also use the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Moodle and will have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

For the Special Educational Needs part of your Combined Honours degree, in your first year of study there are approximately 6 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend 12-14 hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments that you may have.

## ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Throughout your three years of study you will have a number of assessments, including a portfolio, essays, written exams, posters, an annotated bibliography, journal analysis and information pack. In your final year you complete a dissertation research project.

You will receive formative and summative feedback. This will include written feedback with opportunities for a one-to-one discussion of feedback with your tutors.



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