MA Special Needs

The MA Special Needs is suitable if you are:

• interested in developing your knowledge and understanding of children and young people with special educational needs
• working as a teacher or associated professional in mainstream education or specialised settings wishing to extend your skills and practice
• an experienced professional or new to working with children with additional needs
• UK-based or an international

The course offers a comprehensive focus on contemporary debates within special and inclusive education including local, national and international policies and approaches. We focus on the specific needs of children with learning difficulties and disabilities, communication impairments, literacy difficulties/dyslexia, autism and ADHD to illustrate the challenges encountered in professional practice. Critical exploration of current theory and research inform consideration of pedagogical approaches as well as the development of effective systems and structures for working with parents/carers and different agencies.

The MA Special Needs provides high quality professional development that offers flexibility for students to pursue areas of interest and specialisms.

The internationally respected MA Special Needs qualification supports career progression through:

• evaluating effective approaches to supporting disabled children and young people including those with moderate to severe and complex learning difficulties and/or personal, social, emotional and behaviour difficulties
• exploring values and beliefs, policy, legislation, multi-agency working and involvement of families and disabled children and young people
• building confidence in your professional practice skills
• promoting personal development through reflection and critical analysis of your own beliefs and practices
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Course content and structure
The MA Special Needs can be studied face-to-face or online. There are also Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate exit points.

The face-to-face course can be completed over one year full-time or two years part-time. It starts in September, but a January start is also possible for part-time students. Modules can also be taken in Summer School which starts in July.

Summer School offers the opportunity to study one 30-credit module in intensive teaching blocks, with continued academic support available during the subsequent period of self-guided study. Summer School modules can be combined with modules provided during other semesters. It is possible to study two modules over two Summer School periods.

The course comprises four 30-credit modules, plus a 60-credit dissertation:
- Debating Special and Inclusive Education
- Researching Special and Inclusive Education
- Relationships and Behaviour
- Communication and Literacy

Our course is also supplemented by a comprehensive seminar and workshop programme covering a range of additional learning needs and associated approaches to teaching and learning. You will also have the opportunity to volunteer at local schools to gain greater experience.

The online course starts in January in 2015/16 academic year and then for 2016/17 start dates will be September and February. The course can be completed over two years part-time. You can also opt to take one module face-to-face over one term or in an intensive block in Summer School.

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- Debating Special and Inclusive Education
- Researching Special and Inclusive Education
- Relationships and Behaviour
- Communication and Literacy

Assessment
Assessment methods include both formative assessment within each module and summative assessments such as:
- 6,000 word reflective essay
- 6,000 word literature and research design
- 6,000 word literature based review of evidence on a key debate
- a presentation accompanied by a 4,000 word commentary

Entry requirements
You would normally be expected to hold at least a second-class honours degree from an approved university/institute of higher education, or an approved equivalent professional qualification. There is no requirement for relevant work experience if you have obtained a qualification in education, psychology, teacher training or one of the caring professions (such as social care, therapy etc). Applicants with qualifications other than a first degree who have an approved professional qualification, or those with non-standard applications, will be considered on an individual basis.

If English is not your first language, you must achieve an overall score on the IELTS test of at least 6.5, with no less than 6.0 in each element.

Fees
Up-to-date fees information and advice on funding opportunities can be found at: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees/tuitionfees/index.aspx

International applicants can find out about a range of funding opportunities at: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/index.aspx

How to apply
You can apply online at: https://portal.nottingham.ac.uk

Find out more
For further information, please contact:

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