

## **Inclusive Practice Conference 2020**

### **Transitions - Initiatives to Support students with ASD as they move into, through and out of University by Kim Lawson**

During the workshop, colleagues from three areas of the University of Nottingham will talk about the projects they're involved in to support students with autistic spectrum disorder, or ASD.

These projects are: our pre-entry residential summer school for students with ASD, our autism social network, which runs throughout the year, and a range of resources that have been developed for students with ASD as they prepare to graduate. These projects meet three key agendas.

Firstly, the Office for Students have challenged universities to close the attainment gap for disabled students in the next 5 years. Students with ASD have been highlighted in particular. The second is that set by the University of Nottingham's sphere programme, part of Nottingham's strategic delivery plan for EDI. This plan highlights neurodiversity as an area for attention, of which ASD is a part. Finally, we will look at a 2018 report that shows that students with ASD face greater challenges in securing full-time graduate positions, compared with all other students.

This workshop will be relevant to you if you are addressing the same concerns, wishing to find a way of improving the experience of university life for students with ASD. By the end of the workshop, you'll be able to see how these three areas of work support students with ASD and that student involvement in these initiatives is essential.