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Multisensory Impairment (Deafblindness) MEd/BPhil/Postgraduate Diploma/ Postgraduate Certificate/Advanced Certificate

This distance learning programme is open to teachers with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or equivalent, to work more effectively with learners who are deafblind (multi-sensory impaired). It is the only nationally recruiting programme leading to the GTC recognised Mandatory Qualification (MQ) in Deafblindness / Multi-sensory Impairment. An alternative non mandatory (Non MQ) programme is also open to teachers as well as other professionals with appropriate qualifications working with children and young people who are deafblind, who are not seeking the MQ.

This course is now full for 2014-2015 entry

Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham has been awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Continuing professional development, distance learning

Study Options: Distance learning

Duration: MEd: 3 years; PGDip: 2 years; BPhil; 2 years; PGCert: 1 year; Ad Cert: 1 year

Start date: September

Contact

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The School of Education (/schools/education/index.aspx)

Details

This distance learning programme enables qualified teachers and others working in education related fields to work more effectively with learners who are deafblind (multi-sensory impaired). It is the only nationally recruiting programme leading to the GTC recognised Mandatory Qualification in Deafblindness/Multi-sensory Impairment. While many students are practising teachers working with children, others are from further education, social services, paramedical or medical specialisms, or residential work. An alternative non mandatory (Non MQ) programme is also open to teachers (as well as other professionals with appropriate qualifications) working with children and young people who are deafblind who are not seeking the MQ.

The programme aims to provide an understanding of the effects and implications of dual sensory impairment on development, learning, and communication, through theoretical and practical work. It will include skills in assessment, monitoring and recording, a knowledge of teaching approaches and of support systems.

Download a summary flier for the Multisensory Impairment programme (PDF, opens new window) (/Documents/college-social-sciences/education/courses/CPD/multisensory-impairment.pdf)

You may also be interested in our programmes on Visual Impairment and Hearing Impairment

- **Teachers of Children with Hearing Impairment MEd/BPhil/Postgraduate Diploma (/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/teachers-hearing-impairment.aspx)**
- **Mandatory Qualification for Teachers of Children with Visual Impairment MEd/BPhil/Postgraduate Diploma (/postgraduate/courses/distance/edu/visual-impairment.aspx)**

Modules

Compulsory modules

Multi-sensory impairment; Causes and Implications

The developmental implications of dual sensory impairment, approaches to assessment, and the range and complexity of needs associated with deafblindness.

Multi-sensory Impairment; Communication

How communication develops, and how it develops differently in learners with deafblindness, assessment and promotion

of communication and language development, and responses to challenging behaviour

Multi-sensory Impairment; Sensory impairment

The process of sight and hearing, functional assessment and the interpretation of clinical assessment, the development of other senses, the use of assessment to inform teaching and adapt the learning environment

Multi-sensory impairment; Education and provision

Interdisciplinary work and work with families, a range of curricular approaches, the development of policy and provision, and approaches from inside and outside the UK

Special studies

An independent investigation on a topic relating to the education of deafblind learners, allowing students to develop their investigative skills and reflect on their own practice

Mandatory Qualification (MQ)

Students on Mandatory Qualification (MQ) programmes, which are specialist qualifications for teachers with UK qualified teacher status, also complete an assessed teaching placement and a teaching placement file. Students progressing to MEd also complete a Practitioner Inquiry in Education (PIE) and a 15,000 word dissertation.

Fees and funding

Fees Home/EU 2014-2015

Mandatory qualification

- Code 2810 BPhil £3,028 each year
- Code 2870 PGDip £2,990 each year

Non mandatory qualification

- Code 2750 AdCert £2,693
- Code 7010 BPhil £2,693 each year
- Code 2832 PGCert £2,655
- Code 7005 PGDip £2,655 each year
- Code 2921 MEd £2,655 first year; £2,655 second year; £1,980 third year

Fees for distance learning programmes are based on students studying 60 credits per year.

The fees shown above are also annual fees for students starting their courses September in 2014. Please note that where courses last more than one year, the annual fees for subsequent years on the course may increase due to inflation.

Fees overseas 2014-2015

Non mandatory qualification

Code 2750 AdCert £6,282.50
Code 7010 BPhil £6,282.50 each year
Code 2832 PGCert £4,555
Code 7005 PGDip £4,555 first year; £4,400 second year
Code 2921 MEd £4,555 first year; £4,400 second year; £4,250 third year

Fees for distance learning programmes are based on students studying 60 credits per year.

The fees shown above are also annual fees for students starting their courses September in 2014. Please note that where courses last more than one year, the annual fees for subsequent years on the course may increase due to inflation.

Funding for part-time students

From September 2012, the UK Government will provide non-means tested loans to cover the full cost of part-time tuition for all eligible English resident or non UK EU undergraduates. **Find out more about the funding for part-time students. (/undergraduate/fees/funding/part-time.aspx)**

Scholarships and studentships

Learn more about **fees and funding (/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx)**

Scholarships and studentships
Scholarships may be available. International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government. More details may be found on the **international scholarships (/International/students/finance/index.aspx)** page

For further information contact the School directly or the Student Funding Office via **online enquiries (http://www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk)** .

Entry requirements

Please refer directly to the **School of Education entry requirements (/postgraduate/courses/cpd/edu/progression-admission-requirements.aspx)** .

International students

We accept a range of qualifications, our **country pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx)** show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an **English language qualification (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx)** to the right level

- by taking and successfully completing one of our **English courses for international students (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx)**

How to apply

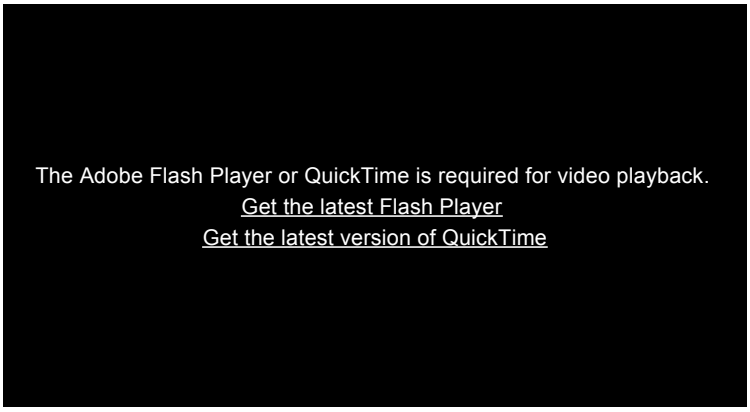
This course is now full for 2014-2015 entry

Related links

Scholarships and bursaries (/schools/education/scholarships/index.aspx)

Learning and teaching

Wendy Pallant talks about her role as a regional tutor on the MSI course.



Students will learn at their own pace and in their own homes and workplaces. Study is supported through study packs, web based learning, with online materials, discussions and interaction, and through an allocated tutor in a small tutorial group which allows students contact. Regular and broadband internet access is required for the programme, and students must have regular contact with learners with MSI for practical work throughout the programme.

There is a University based study-weekend twice a year. The dates for 2014-15 are:

- 19th -21st September 2014
- 27th - 29th March 2015 (provisional)

Related staff

Dr Liz Hodges (/staff/profiles/education/hodges-elizabeth.aspx)

Employability

Many of those who have completed the course continue to work with people with deafblindness (MSI) and some continue or progress to influential roles in specialist MSI units, or as advisory teachers for pupils who are deafblind. Others take key roles in such fields as managing further education for MSI learners or sensory impairment in an LEA or other setting, or go on to promoted posts in school or other management.

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