

Autism (Adults)

AdCert, BPhil, PGCert, PGDip, MEd
Distance Education

Is this programme for you?

This is a programme designed for practitioners working with adults across the autism spectrum within colleges, residential care, vocational or support services. It is studied part time and draws upon each student's own experience as part of the content and assessment.



What does the programme offer?

The aims of the programme are to give students knowledge of the autism spectrum including Asperger syndrome, based on theory, research and practice. As a result, they are then able to interpret that knowledge for the support and education of adults with autism throughout the range of ability and in different settings. This programme also aims to develop skills in identifying and meeting the needs of adults with autism, and to improve the student's awareness of different approaches and models of service delivery. It gives a broad coverage, encouraging students to think for themselves and use their professional skills to select and research topics of relevance to their own situation.

There are three compulsory modules in order to get an Autism (Adults) qualification. And, in qualifications where a dissertation is involved, this also must be in the area of Autism (Adults). Work from the programmes can contribute to NVQ/LDAF qualifications and some aspects may also contribute to assessment within these qualifications.

Core modules:

Autism (Adults): Understanding and Working with the Continuum of Need

This module develops understanding of the diversity of individuals on the autism spectrum and illustrates the ways in which current research and theory can inform an autism-friendly approach.

Autism (Adults): Intervention, Support and Education

This module describes approaches that can facilitate autonomy and inclusion for adults with autism across a range of settings and with a range of supports.



A special studies (project) module

An independent investigation on a topic relating to the support or education of adults with autism, allowing students to develop their investigative skills and reflect on their own practice.

These are studied in the first year and lead to the award of AdCert (Level H) or PGCert (Level M). For students wishing to gain a PGDip, three more modules from one other field of study are explored in the second year. For students wishing to gain a BPhil or MEd, further modules in other fields are studied and a dissertation submitted.

Study and Awards	
AdCert	Core Modules (Honours Level)
BPhil	Core Modules plus 1 optional module and 10,000 word dissertation
PGCert	Core Modules (Masters Level)
PGDip	Core Modules plus 3 optional modules
MEd	Core Modules plus 2 optional modules, PIE and 15,000 word dissertation

How do you study?

The programme is offered by distance education. Each student has a personal tutor in a regional or online tutor group. Study is supported through study packs, tutorial groups, telephone, email and online WebCT contact, which encourages students to develop through shared experience. Internet access is required for the programme. There are two University-based study weekends in the first year.

What are the entry requirements?

The University of Birmingham's standard entry requirements apply.

How do you apply?

If you require an application form please contact the School of Education on 0121 414 4866 or at education@bham.ac.uk giving your name and address. Early application is advised as places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Learn more

For more information please contact: Andrea MacLeod on 0121 415 8442 or email a.g.macleod@bham.ac.uk

Further information

For further information on current fees, funding, admissions and more details of this and other autism courses, including Autism (Children) and Autism Spectrum (Webautism), please go to the Autism Centre for Education and Research website: www.education.bham.ac.uk/research/acer