



Our motivation is to help develop not only knowledge and skills, but also understanding and empathy.

Rita Jordan,  
Professor in Autism Studies



### **Autism (Children)**

AdCert, BPhil, PGCert, PGDip, MEd

Full-time, part-time, or by distance education

For more information please contact:

Distance Course: Dr Glenys Jones on 0121 414 7102 or [g.e.jones@bham.ac.uk](mailto:g.e.jones@bham.ac.uk)

Campus-based Course: Dr Mitzi Waltz on 0121 414 7607 or [m.waltz@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.waltz@bham.ac.uk)

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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#### ***What qualifications can I gain?***

At Level H: Advanced Certificate (1 year); BPhil (2 years)

At Level M: Postgraduate Certificate (1 year); Postgraduate Diploma (2 years); MEd (2+ years)

#### ***What are the entry requirements for joining the course?***

Academic and professional qualifications, and any prior experience, are taken into account during the admissions process. In some cases experience can form a key part of the entry requirement.

For an overview of the entry requirements, please refer to the "Admission requirements" page:

<http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/admissions.shtml> \*

(\*Please note that "1<sup>st</sup> degree" does not refer to the degree classification awarded (i.e. a 1:1) – it simply means an undergraduate degree.)

If you are unsure of what information to submit, please send as much information as possible to demonstrate qualifications and experience.

## ***How is the course delivered?***

### **CAMPUS-BASED**

The programme is offered as a full- or part-time taught course on the University of Birmingham campus.

Students will have access to the University's extensive resources and dedicated staff, and can choose taught modules from closely related programmes in addition to the core autism modules.

Students will be expected to read a range of books and journal articles, and to attend regular sessions. Seminars, guest speakers and other campus events will also be helpful. Some assistance may be available to set up observation and research opportunities for postgraduate students.

Students will attend weekly lectures for most modules. These are often interactive, with small-group work and discussions that relate the material taught to situations students face at work or at home.

### **DISTANCE EDUCATION:**

Learning and teaching take place through:

- ***Self-study materials*** in the form of booklets, sometimes with CDs, DVDs or other materials, which are sent to students in the post. In addition to the programme booklets, students will be expected to read a range of other books and journal articles, especially at Masters level;
- ***Regional tutorials*** with a tutor and other students, to support students in their learning. At the tutorials students discuss course materials, plan assignments and share their experiences of practice in the field of ASD. The tutorials are a compulsory part of the course and must be attended. In exceptional cases, it may not be possible to find a local tutor group and students will then be supported by an online University tutor;
- ***Study weekends*** at the University of Birmingham, arranged in September and March/April. Attendance is compulsory in the first year of study and if attendance is missed for other than medical reasons, the University tutor will negotiate another activity with the student. Study weekends operate from Friday lunchtime to Sunday lunchtime. The first residential school acts as an induction to the course. It introduces many of the ideas in the course and prepares students for the particular approaches to study. The second weekend offers a mix of lectures and workshops. In both weekends, it is a chance to visit the University, buy relevant books, mix with students and tutors and meet people with ASD who are able to articulate what their autism means to them.

## ***What course materials will I receive?***

### **CAMPUS-BASED**

The Education Library offers a full range of journals and books, and all students will also have access to ebrary: a huge collection of books and journals in electronic format. Other libraries at the university may also prove useful—for example, the Art Library has a selection of books on art therapy. The course is supported by a WebCT

area where additional materials developed for taught sessions are archived and where students can discuss topics outside of class hours.

Some optional modules taken in independent study mode use materials originally developed for distance learners, in conjunction with regular tutorials.

## DISTANCE-EDUCATION

Course materials cover a wide range of topics related to research and practice issues within the field. Active researchers and practitioners, many with international reputations, contribute to the materials. Writers include researchers and practitioners with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum. Materials are constantly revised and updated so that they reflect current best practice.

The WebCT area is an online learning environment available to all Autism DE students throughout their studies. As well as accessing study materials and course information on WebCT, students can join discussions and chats to develop their own study support network. In this way, students can be supported through their studies and, importantly, feel part of a learning community.

### ***How much studying will I have to do?***

It is estimated that each 20-credit module will require approximately 200 hours of student effort, although this will vary between individuals. The 200 hours includes time spent reading, attending tutorials and writing assignments.

### ***I know the distance education course has Web-based elements, but how 'techie' do I have to be?***

Don't worry, you don't have to be a computer whizz to use our web-based techniques. Everything is written for ordinary people. And where we do have to use the odd techie word, we'll put a clear explanation of what we mean right next to it.

Here are the kinds of things that we're looking for:

- You know how to use a computer
- You can find information on the Web
- You can use your Web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox etc)
- You can send and receive emails
- You can download and install software from the Web

### ***What technical equipment do I need?***

We don't expect users to have the latest, greatest computers and blistering-fast, high-speed broadband Internet connections.

However, once again, there are a few things we'd like you to have:

- Administrator access to a computer: in other words, to be able to download and install software, make changes to your Web browser, etc.

- A fairly modern computer running Windows 2000 or later (or a comparable Mac or Linux operating system), and with Web browsing software.
- Broadband Internet connection if possible. While dial-up connections do work, they take longer to access our systems and may not be as reliable.

### ***How is the programme structured?***

Core modules are studied (at either Level H or Level M) in the first year and lead to the award of AdCert (Level H) or PGCert (Level M).

For students wishing to gain a PGDip (Level M), three more modules from one other field of study are explored in the second year.

For students wishing to gain a BPhil (Level H) or MEd (Level M), further modules in other fields are studied and a dissertation submitted (this also must be in the area of Autism [Children]).

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

### ***What will I learn in each of the modules?***

Core Modules:

These three modules are studied in the first year and lead to the award of AdCert (Level H) or PGCert (Level M):

#### **Special Educational Needs of Children with Autism**

This module aims to increase a practitioner's understanding of ASD and how autism impacts upon children and young people in a variety of settings.

#### **Curriculum and Approaches for Children with Autism**

This module aims to develop awareness of educational and other approaches for use with children and young people who have ASD. It examines the effectiveness of each approach and explores issues of curriculum entitlement and access.

#### **A special studies (project) module**

This is an independent investigation on a topic relating to the support or education of children with autistic spectrum disorders. The whole experience allows students to develop their investigative skills and reflect on their own practice.

Optional or Second/Third Modules: [if applicable]:

For students wishing to gain a PGDip, three more modules from one other field of study are studied in the second year. For students wishing to gain a BPhil or MEd, further modules in other fields are studied and a dissertation submitted. The dissertation topic must be in the area of autism.

### ***How will I be assessed?***

Learning is assessed through a written assignment at the end of each module. Level H = 3000 words, Level M = 4000 words.

The assignments for the first two modules on the programme are essays, addressing an issue that is of practical and intellectual significance to the student. Students are expected to draw on the literature and their own experience to support their arguments.

The third assignment in the first year is a project module in which the student undertakes and writes up a piece of reflective practice.

In the second year, students may stay within the autism field by taking a double project (which is all that is needed at Level H for a BPhil, followed by the dissertation of 10,000 words).

Masters students may also do a double project module, but in addition they need to do one or two other subject modules, which may be the second module from the Autism (Adult) programme of study or a module on Challenging Behaviour and ASDs, for example. MEd students then take the research module (PIE) followed by a 15,000 word dissertation.

### ***How much will the course cost?***

Further information on current fees can be found at:

[http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/courses/autism\\_children.shtml](http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/courses/autism_children.shtml)

### ***Is there financial support available?***

Should you require it, you can find further information about financial support on the Student Funding website:

[www.as.bham.ac.uk/study/support/finance/](http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/study/support/finance/)

Tel: 0121 414 7391

Email: [financialsupport@bham.ac.uk](mailto:financialsupport@bham.ac.uk)

## ***What other autism courses are available at the University of Birmingham?***

The University of Birmingham offers a range of distance education programmes in the field of autism. Details of all available programmes can be found at:

[http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/courses/autism\\_children.shtml](http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/courses/autism_children.shtml)

[http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/courses/autism\\_adults.shtml](http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/courses/autism_adults.shtml)

[http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/courses/autistic\\_spectrum\\_disorders.shtml](http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/programmes/cpd/courses/autistic_spectrum_disorders.shtml)

## ***How do I apply?***

To request a paper-based application form please email your name and address to: [education@bham.ac.uk](mailto:education@bham.ac.uk)

Alternatively, you can apply online: [www.apply.bham.ac.uk/cp/home/loginf](http://www.apply.bham.ac.uk/cp/home/loginf)

The deadline for receipt of applications is 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009. However, we do tend to get full very quickly, so we would recommend that you apply early to avoid disappointment.

## **Overseas/Non-UK Nationals**

### ***I live in the UK but I'm a non-UK national, can I claim 'Home' student fees?***

In order for non-UK nationals to be considered as 'Home' students for fee purposes, you must have the right to remain in the UK indefinitely, as well as meeting three years ordinary residence.

The University adheres to Government legislation when making fee status classifications, so all students are treated equally and according to this legislation.

For further information, please see the UKCISA website (UK Council for International Student Affairs), [www.ukcosa.org.uk](http://www.ukcosa.org.uk). For guidance regarding fee status classifications, please see the UKCISA 'Will I Pay the Home or Overseas Rate' guidance notes:

[http://www.ukcosa.org.uk/student/information\\_sheets.php#tuition\\_fees](http://www.ukcosa.org.uk/student/information_sheets.php#tuition_fees)

***Are there any minimum English language requirements for overseas/non-UK national applicants?***

Overseas/Non-UK National applicants may be asked to provide TOEFL or IELTS certification (less than two years old) to prove English language standards.

Minimum scores are:

IELTS: 6.5 with no less than 6.0 in any band

TOEFL (old): 580 paper-based or 237 computer-based, plus TWE 4.0

TOEFL (internet-based test): 93 with no less than 20 in any band

Alternative English language qualifications may fulfil the University's minimum entry requirements - please contact the Admissions Office for further information ([admissions@bham.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bham.ac.uk)).