

Hearing Impairment

BPhil, PGDip, MEd
Distance Education

Is this programme for you?

This Training and Development Agency (TDA) approved programme for training teachers of deaf children is offered as a two-year distance education programme. Successful completion of the programme leads to GTC recognition as a qualified teacher of the deaf.



The programme aims to equip teachers who are already qualified to teach school-aged children in England to meet the relevant TDA standards to achieve qualified teacher of the deaf status from the General Teaching Council for England. Applicants who are not qualified teachers of school-aged pupils may take the University award but will not be eligible to obtain qualified teacher of the deaf status from the GTC.

The programme can be taken at two levels, as a BPhil Degree (Level H) or as a Postgraduate Diploma (Level M). All students receive the same course materials and seminar support. The difference comes in the assessment of the programme.

What does the programme offer?

The non-mandatory programme consists of 5 core modules

Educational Audiology

This module covers the anatomy and physiology of the ear, the physics of sound and acoustics, the assessment and diagnosis of hearing loss, and the effective use of residual hearing in children.

The Educational Management of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Pupils

This module covers the history and current educational provision for deaf children and young people, literacy, language and communication approaches, the curriculum, educational management in primary and secondary schools, and further and higher education for deaf students.

Language and Communication in Deaf and Hearing Impaired Pupils

This module covers an introduction to linguistics and language acquisition, early communication and language acquisition in deaf children,

acquisition of spoken and sign language, issues around language in the classroom, and the assessment of language and communication skills.

The Development of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children

This module covers deaf children and the family, multi-professional work with families of young deaf children, cognitive development, deaf children with additional difficulties, psychological assessment, and deafness and disability.

Teaching and Learning in Deaf Education (Portfolio)

The module draws upon learning from the previous four modules in a range of practical tasks. It is based on case studies of two deaf children, visits to schools and clinics, a log of practical activities, and a practical audiology test.

Optional module

Assessed Teaching Placement

Those teachers who wish to obtain GTC recognition as a qualified teacher of the deaf or wishing to complete the mandatory programme must complete the five modules above plus this further module. This module is based on two periods of assessed practical teaching, a reflective assignment, and evidence of INSET work. Also, students are required, as a minimum, to have obtained a pass in BSL CACDP Stage 1 (or equivalent qualification in BSL or ISL).

Study and Awards	
BPhil + PGDip	Five core modules
BPhil MQ + PGDip MQ	Five core modules plus optional module
MEd	Five core modules plus PIE and dissertation

How do you study?

The programme is offered by distance education. Each student has a personal tutor in a regional tutor group. Study is supported through study packs, tutorial groups, telephone, email and online WebCT contact which allow students to learn with each other. Internet access is required for the programme. There is a University based residential week in January each year of the programme, at which attendance is compulsory.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to standard entry requirements, candidates wishing to gain the GTC recognition as a qualified teacher of the deaf must already be qualified to teach school-aged children in England. Other candidates must meet the standard entry requirements.

How do I 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. An early application is advised as places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Learn more

For more information please contact Louise Oram on 0121 414 4451 or email l.oram@bham.ac.uk

