

# Education of Children with Visual Impairment (Non-Mandatory)

**BPhil, PGDip, MEd**  
Distance Education

## Is this programme for you?

This non-mandatory programme of study is open to professionals with appropriate qualifications, working with children and young people with visual impairment, who are not eligible for, or do not require the 'Mandatory Qualification for Teachers of children with Visual Impairment'.



### The Aims of the programme are:

- To develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that will enable teachers to work confidently and effectively in a variety of educational settings with children who have visual impairment, with their families and with the professionals who support them
- To develop critical and analytical enquiry-based learning skills to enable teachers to work successfully in the range of contexts where children with visual impairment are educated
- To provide a conceptual framework that is derived from relevant literature and research, and structured around the TTA National SEN Specialist Standards for a qualification in visual impairment

### What does the programme offer?

#### Compulsory Modules:

- 1 Assessment of Children with Visual Impairment: Understanding and Meeting Individual Needs**  
This module is designed to develop knowledge and understanding of vision and visual processing, as well as the possible effects of ocular and cerebral visual dysfunction for learning and development.
- 2 Curriculum Access for Learners with Visual Impairment**  
This module has been designed to enable participants to relate their experience to the overall developments in provision for pupils with visual impairment at both regional and national levels. A key emphasis will be on roles and responsibilities within the context of inclusion and the changing role of the specialist teacher and other professionals.

#### 3 Curriculum Access for Learners with Visual Impairment

This module explores the range of methods available for children with visual impairment to access the curriculum. The module will focus on the possible implications of a visual impairment for access in a number of curriculum areas, including communication/literacy and numeracy.

#### 4 Social and Emotional Development in Children with Visual Impairment

The focus of this module is to offer participants opportunities to develop and evaluate forms of intervention most likely to support the social and emotional well being of the children they work with, as well as to consider the role of the different professionals when working within a multi-disciplinary team.

#### 5 Dissertation / Special Study

This module provides students with the opportunity to investigate a particular professional issue and assess its educational and practical significance. Students registered on the BPhil will be required to submit a 10,000 word dissertation and on the PGDip, an 8,000 word special study project module.

On completion of the PG Diploma, students may be eligible to transfer to the MEd programme and will be required to complete an additional research module (PIE) and a 15000 word dissertation.

Study and Awards	
BPhil	Four core modules plus dissertation (Honours level)
PGDip	Four core modules plus Special Study (Masters level)
MEd	Four core modules plus Special Study, PIE module and dissertation

### How do you study?

Delivery is mainly through Distance Education although students will be required to attend residential weekends and regional tutorials as specified throughout the programme. Some elements of the programme will be delivered online and we strongly recommend that students have access to Broadband at home before commencing their studies.

There will also be a negotiated programme of visits to specialist provision. Students on the non-mandatory programme can also choose to complete the taught braille component.

### What are the entry requirements?

This programme of study is open to professionals with appropriate qualifications, working with children and young people with visual impairment, who are not eligible for, or do not require the 'Mandatory Qualification for Teachers of children with visual Impairment'. Applicants will normally have a minimum of three years teaching experience, and must demonstrate that they will have access to children with visual impairment throughout the duration of the programme.

### 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](mailto: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 further information please contact the programme tutors:  
Dr Mike McLinden email [m.t.mclinden@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.t.mclinden@bham.ac.uk)  
Dr Steve McCall email [s.mccall@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.mccall@bham.ac.uk)