SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (DYSLEXIA)
MA / 2019/20 ENTRY

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Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia) MA /

This leading programme in the field of dyslexia prepares teachers to critically evaluate and develop evidence-based practice to become specialist teachers and assessors of learners with literacy difficulties. This programme is recognised by the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) for Approved Teacher Status (ATS) Approved Practitioner Status (APS) and Associate Member of the BDA (AMBDA).

Degree summary

Students will gain an understanding of how learners typically develop literacy skills and what happens when difficulties occur. Students will learn how literacy difficulties can be identified and how to develop an individualised support programme. As part of this programme students will administer standardised tests (in their own educational setting) and teach (in similar settings) learners with literacy difficulties.

This programme is taught by a range of leading researchers and professionals in the field of dyslexia. It uniquely offers a rigorous academic programme combined with professional practice qualifications fully recognised by the British Dyslexia Association and UCL Institute of Education, an internationally recognised university.

Critical engagement with current research and evidence-informed practice, supported by professionals and researchers, will enable the participant to reflect on their learning and enhance workplace practice.

Professional practice is supported by a team of AMBDA specialists. It will provide the understanding, knowledge and skills required to teach and assess children and young people with literacy difficulties.

We encourage students to study over 3 years via Flexible Modular mode. If you choose to take a government loan, you will need to complete your studies in 2 years. This programme is delivered via face-to-face daytime lectures and evening sessions at UCL Institute of Education. It is assessed by coursework assignments, recordings of administering assessments and teaching pupils, plus a research report. The Dyslexia Modules are generally taught on Wednesdays, and Research Design and Methodology on Tuesday evenings every Autumn term.

Accreditation

Please note that whilst this course is accredited by the BDA, the BDA is not responsible for the day to day running of the course. Any feedback or queries should therefore be addressed directly to the Programme Leader at UCL Institute of Education.

Degree structure

Mode: Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: up to 5 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students are encouraged to take this demanding programme over 3 years in flexible/modular mode. Students who apply for a government loan will need to complete the full MA in just two years.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of four core modules (150 credits) and a research report (30 credits).

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

**COMPULSORY MODULES**

- Understanding SpLD (dyslexia)
- Evidence-Based Practice SpLD (dyslexia)
- Assessment of SpLD (dyslexia)
- Research Design and Methodology
- Research Report

**OPTIONAL MODULES**

There are no optional modules for this programme.

Visit the UCL Institute of Education website for more information, including module descriptions, which can be seen by clicking on the module title.

**RESEARCH PROJECT/REPORT**

All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a research report of 6,000 to 7,000 words. The report is written over the course of the final year with support from a supervisor (days and times TBC by prior arrangement).

Students are required to work with children and young people under the age of 16 to demonstrate core competencies of the programme. Additional learners under 18 are allowed.

Students must find and have access to pupils: we do not find placements for students. Approximately 30 hours of teaching Intervention is required and students will need to find 3 pupils they can assess.
Graduates of this programme are currently working within a broad range of areas. Some are working as specialist teachers of children with SpLD (dyslexia), while others have jobs as specialist teacher assessors; many combine both. Graduates can also be found working as headteachers, special educational needs co-ordinators, local authority advisors, university lecturers, disability advisors and in research roles.

**Employability**

Successful completion of the programme will allow students awarded the ATS/APS to support learners with dyslexia (up to the age of 18 years), and with the AMBDA qualification to undertake diagnostic assessments and support learners with dyslexia.
Entry requirements

A minimum of a second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university in a relevant subject, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard is required. A minimum of two years’ teaching experience is also a requirement and ideally, appropriate experience of working with children with literacy difficulties. Students will need access to pupils under the age of 16 with literacy difficulties to teach and assess. Students will need DBS clearance for modules two and three and the research report. (There is an additional charge of approximately £85 if you need to obtain DBS clearance.)

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good. Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding should take note of application deadlines. When we assess your application we would like to learn:

- why you want to study Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia) at graduate level
- why you want to study Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia) at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to the chosen programme
- how your academic and professional background meets the demands of this challenging programme
- where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. Further information can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

// UK: £4,720 (PT)
// EU: £4,720 (PT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Students website.

Fees for flexible, modular study are charged pro-rata to the appropriate part-time Master's fee taken in an academic session.

Part-time students may apply for the UK Government Postgraduate Loan.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 31 July 2019

Details on how to apply are available on the website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

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EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit