

Foundation Degree Learning and Teaching

Location:

University Centre Milton Keynes

Park Campus Northampton & Other off-site venues

Duration:

2 years full time
(1 day per week, linked workplace learning)



Wider Schools' Workforce Division:

The School of Education is committed to the principle of lifelong learning. Our portfolio ranges from short course to foundation degrees: from Honours degree programmes to Master's and Doctorate awards, with clear routes to support students in moving forward in their learning and their practice.

Gaining a Degree:

Foundation degrees are designed to work in conjunction with your employment, enabling you to apply your work-based experience to the way you approach the course. For this reason the Foundation Degree in Learning and Teaching (FDLT) is only available to those working within an educational setting. It includes taught sessions one day each week which you attend either at The University of Northampton, Park Campus or at a location nearer to where you live and work.

The FDLT is equivalent to the first two years of a University Degree.

There is the opportunity to receive an honours degree BA (Hons) in Learning and Teaching via a third year of study. Where possible the third year will be run on the same day and at the same venue as the FDLT course, although this cannot be guaranteed.

Programme of study:

The course, leading to the award of the Foundation Degree Learning and Teaching (Schools), is designed for Teaching Assistants who are currently working in schools and who wish to gain a recognised qualification specific to their role. It aims to broaden and deepen Teaching Assistants' understanding of children's learning and to develop their ability to support teachers in raising pupil achievements. Students are encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of their work by analysing it in the context of relevant principles and research.

Course participants study the core subjects (English, mathematics, science and ICT), professional studies, the theory and practice of supporting learners and approaches to supporting pupils with special educational needs. They develop their understanding of the aims of the National Curriculum and gain an understanding of the underlying principles of curriculum planning. The work-based modules develop teaching assistants' wider understanding of the context of curriculum delivery, assessment and liaison with professional colleagues.

Programme of study continued...

The course supports students aiming to achieve Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) status, with some students choosing to gain a place on an HLTA programme to coincide with their FDLT study. It is also important to note that the FDLT significantly extends the skills, knowledge and understanding of students who have already achieved the status.

There is some exemption from assessment for students who have already achieved appropriate higher education qualifications and for students who already have HLTA status.

Typical Modules Include:

- Core Curriculum, ICT Subject-Based and Cross-Curricular Issues
- General Issues and Special Educational Needs
- Learning and Teaching in Educational Organisations
- Professional Studies in Learning and Teaching
- Reflecting on Practice
- Support for Learning and Teaching

Teaching and learning methods:

A range of teaching and learning methods are used within each module. You will be involved in discussion of ideas and interactive learning. Learning strategies include lectures, seminars, group work, role-playing, case studies, demonstrations, presentations, creation of practical resources, work-based learning projects, portfolios of practice, reflection on practice, analytical assignments, tutorials, individual learning and observations.

Overall, we want you to think of your course in terms of co-operative pooling of experience and engagement in cooperative activity. Since, in addition to a qualification in learning support, the course is conceived as one that may lead you to apply for a place on a route to achieve Qualified Teacher Status, it is recognised that the teaching and learning strategies involved should exhibit variety so as to broaden your experience.

Assessment:

Assessments include; assignments, practical projects, presentations, observations and portfolios of work practice.

Special Features:

- This is an employment-based course designed to fit in with your work as a teaching assistant.
- Modules are designed to help you develop excellent models of practice underpinned by theoretical understanding.
- You will have the opportunity to demonstrate and develop your classroom skills through the work-based modules.
- There are no examinations.
- You are supported by a school-based mentor and by visits from a personal academic tutor.

Opportunities on graduation:

The Foundation degree provides a qualification which supports teaching assistant career opportunities. There is a progression route to the BA (Hons) Learning and Teaching degree. For appropriately qualified candidates, the course also provides a route via further training to become a qualified teacher. This may be through application to an employment-based route or through further study on a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

Entry Requirements:

All students must demonstrate the ability to undertake intermediate degree level study through prior qualifications at NVQ Level 3 or equivalent. Appropriate levels of Numeracy and Literacy are required to support learners in schools. The usual expectation is a minimum of 2 years' experience in an educational setting. Applicants will require a positive employer's reference, from the Headteacher (or equivalent) stating their support for study during term-time.

Contact:

Admissions Office
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Northampton
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