

Intellectual (Learning) Disability Studies

MSc / PG Dip / PG Cert (Distance Learning Course)



This course is designed for experienced professionals involved in the care of people with an intellectual (learning) disability and attracts a wide variety of professions including nurses, social workers, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, teachers, physiotherapists, further special education lecturers, staff of social education centres, managers of care organisations plus many more.

This course provides professional education on a part-time distance learning basis and students study mostly from home via specially-prepared study texts that are available on our secure website, as well as weekend schools

and local tutorial groups. This is the only course in the UK and Ireland which covers the whole field of intellectual disability and attracts students from a variety of backgrounds and countries.

Intellectual (Learning) Disability Studies

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The course aims:

- to develop and extend knowledge of the diverse needs of people with an intellectual (learning) disability
- to develop skills in promoting the empowerment and quality of life of people with intellectual (learning) disabilities
- to promote the capacity to critically evaluate theory and practice
- to support students in becoming effective agents of change
- to teach research skills

Course content

The main subjects covered in each of the four taught modules include:

- The Needs and Rights of People with Intellectual (Learning) Disabilities
- Development and Communication among People with an Intellectual (Learning) Disability
- Health and Healthcare for People with an Intellectual (Learning) Disability
- Research and Professional Practice

Why study this course?

This course:

- is affiliated to the British Institute for Learning Disability (BILD), which allows students to have access to its information services
- allows for total flexibility to study at your own pace and in your own time without having to take time out to travel to weekly lectures
- provides local support groups/tutors who are available as and when required

- is the only course in the UK that offers a total spectrum of intellectual disability studies can contribute towards improving your career prospects
- gives access to the e-library

Duration of study – Flexibility in mind

This course is a distance learning programme that is run over 1 year of full-time study or 3 years of part-time study which means you are able to study flexibly, from your own home, at your own pace, and do not need to travel to formal lectures.

Information for employers

The Masters in Intellectual (Learning) Disability Studies will be of great value to staff with a professional qualification and experience of work with people with an intellectual disability.

Supporting a member of staff by paying fees provides the following gains:

- Improvement in the practice and policy-analysis skills of key staff who are usually at the stage of being promoted to senior professional posts
- Information about research-based practice in intellectual disability
- Information about the needs of people with an intellectual disability and evaluating clinical practice
- Supervised research and development, based on student assignments and dissertations

Entry requirements

You should have a first degree and appropriate experience of working with people with intellectual (learning) disabilities OR a professional qualification such as RNMH/ RNLD and appropriate experience of working with people with intellectual (learning) disabilities.

Contact us

For further information including full details of all modules, fees, application deadlines and how to apply, as well as access to our online application form, please visit our website www.medicine.bham.ac.uk/ids or contact the Programme Administrator on 0121 415 8118 or email ids@contacts.bham.ac.uk



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This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be dropped and new ones offered in their place.