

Frequently asked questions

Postgraduate Diploma Inclusive Education (deaf learners)

1. What is the usual sequence of courses for part time students?

For teachers starting in 2016/17 who are aiming to complete in two years:

Year	Term One	Term Two	Term Three
16/17	Audiology and Audiometry (20cr) The sources of knowledge: Understanding and analysing research literature * (10 cr.)	Language and Communication (20 cr)	Placement A: Usual workplace 20 days (20 cr.)
17/18	Inclusive Pedagogy * (20 cr) Deaf Studies (10 cr.)	Promoting Achievement and Curriculum Access for Bilingual and Deaf Learners (20 cr)	Placement B: contrasting workplace 15 days

For teachers starting in 2016/17 who are aiming to complete in three years:

Year	Term One	Term Two	Term Three
16/17	Inclusive Pedagogy * (20 cr.)	Language and Communication (20 cr)	
17/18	Sources of Knowledge * (10 cr.) Deaf Studies (10 cr.)	Promoting Achievement and Curriculum Access for Bilingual and Deaf Learners (20 cr.)	Placement A: Usual workplace 20 days (20 cr.)
18/19	Audiology and Audiometry (20 cr.)	Placement B: contrasting workplace 15 days	

* courses can be taken online or mostly online

Students can also start intending to do the programme in 2 years but change to a 3-year pattern in case they need to take it more slowly.

2. What are the fees?

The link to the fee website is here: <http://bit.ly/28JaBh4>

20 credit courses for 16/17 are £945

10 credit courses are £475

So costs for the PG Diploma at 16/17 rates are £5,670

Rates may rise slightly from year to year. Invoicing is done each year and courses are applied for each year too at this web address:

<http://bit.ly/1TX3fDy>

3. Who is eligible to apply?

It is impossible to provide a definitive answer about individual eligibility without viewing the completed application, but the following requirements should be considered as a guide.

Teachers should hold a first degree, and we prefer students with a First or Upper Second Class Honours or equivalent, although teaching experience is also taken into consideration.

Applicants should already be qualified teachers. For Scottish school teachers this means registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland and for others in the UK their Teacher Reference Number.

Potential students must also satisfy an English Language requirement of Higher English C or above, GCSE English C or above, IELTS score 7.0 with 6.5 in writing. For further details and equivalents see:

<http://bit.ly/1Gsrf0>

Deaf and hearing students are welcome on this course. Deaf students can apply for Disabled Students' Allowance which will pay for the access arrangements they prefer, for example electronic notetaker, BSL / English interpreter. Assignments can be completed in BSL. We recommend early contact is made with the University's Disability Service: <http://bit.ly/14iCSSs>

Teachers should be currently working with deaf children in a school or college for at least two days a week. This can be voluntary work, but there must be a range of experiences with different deaf learners.

Applicants will need to have internet access either at home or school / college, preferably broadband. Most of the course materials are available online.

4. Can teachers on this course get any help with fees?

Most students have their fees paid for by their employers.

You may be able to apply for a scholarship or bursary. See this University of Edinburgh webpage for more information. Put into the search engine: *postgraduate taught*, your nationality and *Education* to see the scholarships you may be able to apply for.

<http://www.scholarships.ed.ac.uk/awards/>

When you have matriculated, or fully enrolled, the university also has a hardship fund to which you can apply:

<http://www.scholarships.ed.ac.uk/financial/hardship/index.htm>

If an applicant has graduated from the University of Edinburgh in the past, there is a 10% reduction in course fees.

You may also like to investigate other UK sources of help with fees, for example:

- The Society for the Education of the Deaf <http://www.gsedd.org.uk/>
- Birkdale Trust <http://www.grantsforthe deaf.co.uk/>
- Con Powell Memorial Scholarship <http://bit.ly/1RBezro>

5. How is the second teaching placement organised?

If for example if the teacher currently teaches in a peripatetic role, the second period of teaching placement (15 days) may be in a school with a resource base or in a deaf school. We ask employers to release teachers for the second teaching placement; it may be possible to arrange swaps between students on the course. In some cases this will mean services for deaf children will have to organise cover a long time in advance, so we will arrange the external placement early on in the programme.

6. Can teachers continue to get an MSc in Inclusive Education?

Yes. If teachers gain 50% or above for all courses, have at least 80 out of the 120 credits for the diploma at 50% or above, and don't need to resubmit at any stage then they will be eligible to continue to the MSc. The additional fees during 2016/17 for moving from a Postgraduate Diploma to a Masters are £3,315.

This includes:

Research Methods: Conceptualising Research (10 cr.) £475. January start *

Research Method: Planning Research (10 cr.) £475. March start *

Dissertation (50 cr.) £2,365. April start

The research methods courses are available online. Students will be supervised by the programme director to research and write a dissertation on a deaf education topic. Please contact Rachel O'Neill, the programme director, to discuss possible subjects for research. Supervisions can take

place by Skype to suit the student. These courses can take 2 years or can be completed in the period January to August if the student is available full-time.

Here are topics which have recently been researched in relation to deaf learners at the School of Education, University of Edinburgh:

- The Achievements of Deaf Pupils in Scotland
- Transition of young deaf people after leaving school
- English language modification and deaf learners
- Subject specific vocabulary in BSL
- Signed digital exam papers
- Acoustics, listening and comprehension skills in class
- Possibility of research or study visits to colleagues in Sweden, Greece and the USA because of close collaborative links with other universities.

There is a research culture at the University of Edinburgh about Deaf Studies issues. Teachers can, for example, join and lead regular seminars and lectures provided by EdSign:

<https://sites.google.com/site/edsignlectures/>

7. Is learning British Sign Language (BSL) part of the programme?

We expect teachers to achieve at least Level 1 in British Sign Language by the end of the programme in their own time. This can be with Signature, SQA or the Institute of BSL curriculum. Teachers will need to give in a copy of the highest level of BSL certificate they have before the end of the programme. If they are working with deaf children who use sign, they will need to plan how they can reach Signature BSL Level 3 or equivalent, which is really the minimum needed to teach effectively in the language. However, this is not part of the programme as it may take them several years to reach this level.

Students can join the Sign Language Society, a society of Edinburgh University Students' Association, to achieve low cost BSL tuition.

<http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/societies/society/signsoc/>

If you live near Edinburgh you may like to join the BSL courses available at the Languages for All section of the University, which take place at Moray House. There is a discount for students enrolled at the University of Edinburgh.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/short-courses/languages>

If you are unclear where you can go to learn BSL, please contact the programme director. There is now good provision across Scotland for learning BSL to level 6 and beyond to interpreting skills.

8. Is full time study possible?

Moray House also offers a full time MSc in Inclusive Education which teachers may want to investigate, but this will not qualify them to teach deaf children. It allows students to explore the concept of Inclusion at Masters level working alongside other postgraduate students who have an interest or experience teaching children with a range of disabilities. For more information in the MSc, email the programme director, Rachel O'Neill: Rachel.oneill@ed.ac.uk
Students on this full-time MSc course can take Deaf Education courses and do a dissertation on a Deaf Education topic.

9. Can teachers study this course from home by distance learning?

All programme materials are available in advance on Learn, the University of Edinburgh's virtual learning environment. This means that students can access all the key reading from their computer. Access to broadband is essential to view online lectures.

One course, Inclusive Pedagogy, is currently available either face to face or by blended learning with two single days at the University and the rest online. Another course, Sources of Knowledge, is available as an entirely online course requiring no attendance at Moray House. These courses are starred (*) on the first page of this guide.

In recent years we have experimented with offering individual courses taught at Moray House by distance-learning which has been very successful. If your authority would like to negotiate this with us, please do. It will involve your local authority posting in a video card we will return to you after each block of 2 or 3 days. So teachers studying in this way can complete the learning activities entirely outside their normal teaching timetable, provided the authority and student agree.

We hope this improved flexibility will mean that teachers from more remote parts of Scotland and the UK can attend the course on a fair basis. Tutorials will be available after each block by phone or Skype to check that the student is following everything.

However, there are many advantages of studying at least some courses all together: the friendships and contacts that students make with other course members provide a very important future professional network for teachers of deaf children.

10. Does the Postgraduate Diploma cover the competences in the Scottish Executive guidelines for teachers of deaf children?

Yes. All the courses in the Moray House programme are mapped onto these competences. Here is the web address of the Scottish Government competences for specialist teachers in the area of sensory impairment:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/29163203/0>

The Postgraduate Diploma in Deaf Education at Moray House has more detailed learning objectives which match those used by other universities in the UK to qualify teachers of deaf pupils, i.e. the English National College for Teaching and Leadership Standards for the Mandatory Qualification.

Please contact the programme director if you would like to see the mapping of the Scottish Government competences to the outcomes for the Postgraduate Diploma in Deaf Education or the English Competencies. We regularly have students from England on the programme too.

11. Can I apply for accreditation of prior learning?

Yes, there are two ways for teachers to do this. If you have completed a course at another university which has very similar learning outcomes, then you can apply for Accreditation of Certificated Prior Learning (ACPL) which is free. However, it can only be counted for APL if it has been completed in the last 5 years *and* you have not used it to gain another certificate or diploma. This means in practice that ACPL doesn't happen very often.

If a student has experience and can show they can achieve the outcomes for a course another way, they can apply for Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning, which is £80 per course. This means they will submit evidence of their experience and training and do the course assignment.

12. Why does the application website say the Diploma takes 4 years?

This is the maximum time allowed. Teachers usually complete in two or three years but some teachers may need additional time. On the application website please apply for the PG Diploma in 4 years and in your application form say if you intend to complete in 2 or 3 years.

13. How can I find out about dates and times of courses offered in 2016/17?

On this weblink. Also the following year's dates and times will be on the same page from April each academic year.

<http://bit.ly/1TX3fDy>

The Sources of Knowledge course is online for 5 weeks from mid September each year; further details are available from the course secretary for this cross-School course, Marie Hamilton: marie.hamilton@ed.ac.uk

14. Can you recommend some cheap accommodation in Edinburgh?

Here is information about university accommodation which may be fairly cheap - all nearby to the School of Education:

<http://www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/for-accommodation-internal/>

Masson House (in Pollock Halls area, 20 minute walk to Moray House School of Education right near Salisbury Crags) is £51 for bed only in the spring term. Pollock Halls 18 Holyrood Park Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5AY
0131 651 2189..

Holiday Inn Express at 300 Cowgate has rooms from about £90 bed and breakfast: <http://www.hiexpressedinburgh.co.uk>

15. Can I have an informal chat about my application?

Yes please do. Here are my contact details;

Rachel O'Neill
Programme Director MSc Inclusive Education
Moray House School of Education
Charteris Land 2.17
University of Edinburgh
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8AQ

Tel. 0131 651 6429

Email: Rachel.oneill@ed.ac.uk

Skype name: Rachel-paper (for Skype calls in BSL).

16. How do I apply?

All applications are now submitted online. Applicants will be prompted to send in certificates etc by post or scan them in.

The application website:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/degrees/index.php?r=site/view&id=378>

Apply for the part time MSc. You need to state in the application that you want the postgraduate diploma (deaf learners).

For further details about the application procedure please contact:

Ruth Lyon
Postgraduate Office
College of Humanities and Social Science
The University of Edinburgh
55-60 George Square
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Tel: 0131 650 4086

Email:

pgadmissions@ed.ac.uk

Ruth is our contact in the Postgraduate Office.

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