

Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy

Validated by the University of York 2011-2012

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Mission Statement

"Our vision is a world where barriers to learning, employment and personal fulfilment have been removed for people with dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties".

Dyslexia Action is a national charity that through education improves the lives of people with dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties. With over 30 years of experience, Dyslexia Action is the UK's leading charity in this area, providing a range of services and support for both children and adults including assessments (testing), teaching and training and the development and distribution of teaching and learning materials. Dyslexia Action conducts major research in the field of dyslexia where our tried and tested methodologies are widely accepted nationally and internationally. Our vision is that:

- We are passionate and professional
- We are ambitious for people with dyslexia and with learning difficulties
- We care about quality services
- We respect individual differences

Dyslexia Action Training and Professional Development provides training programmes for specialist teachers and other professionals. These include Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses, the prestigious Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes and awareness raising courses and webinars.

Disability and Learning Related Support

Dyslexia Action welcomes all participants with a disability and/or learning support requirement. This includes physical disabilities and cognitive disabilities such as dyslexia.

Dyslexia Action is committed to making reasonable adjustments to enable participants to participate fully in our courses. In order to give you appropriate support, we would like you to provide some further information about your study support needs relating to your learning support or disability requirement.

It is important to inform the admissions staff and the Disability Adviser if you have a disability or learning support requirement at the application stage or as soon as possible thereafter and to indicate the special needs or adjustments that may be required.

Dyslexia Action Training and Professional Development tutors and administrative staff will provide whatever reasonable support they can within the resources available. Please note that we cannot guarantee that a specific special arrangement will be possible but will always review particular requirements in full.

Participants may wish to apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) which can provide additional funding subject to eligibility criteria and which may be used to purchase additional resources in support of studies. This could for example take the form of IT equipment or additional personal tutorial time from a tutor. More information about DSAs can be found at:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898

If you have any further questions or if you would prefer to receive this information in an alternative format, please contact the Training Office on 01784 222304

Email: pgmail@dyslexiaaction.org.uk

Course Outline

The Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy is a unique online qualification designed for qualified teachers who wish to train as specialist teachers in Dyslexia and Literacy. The aim of the programme is to train teachers to be informed, skilled practitioners who understand the theory and practice of teaching and assessment of dyslexic learners of all ages. The programme begins with an attendance induction day and then moves to a completely online programme with personalised tutor support.

Upon successful completion of the Diploma course participants will be able to:

- carry out detailed diagnostic dyslexia assessments, to meet requirements of the Assessment Practising Certificate.
- teach learners using structured multisensory literacy programmes
- plan and teach a literacy programme over a minimum of 30 hours, leading to eligibility for AMBDA (subject to a minimum number of years teaching experience. [Click here for further information](#).)
- gain further expertise and skills to enable them to support and advise colleagues and parents, including coaching and mentoring skills
- gain further insight into professional practice of self and others, the individual learning needs of learners with literacy difficulties and the impact of their practice in educational settings
- develop good problem-solving abilities
- develop skills in teaching and assessing 16+ learners
- secure critical self-evaluation skills
- further develop professional communication and first-stage counselling skills to use with learners, parents and professional colleagues as appropriate in a range of settings.
- write a Professional Experience and Impact Report, reflecting on their learning, the impact they have on learners and their professional situation
- evaluate the benefit of a range of interventions
- work in greater depth in partnership with a group of peers online.

Who is the course for?

The Dyslexia Action Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy is a **continuation** programme for qualified teachers who have successfully completed the Dyslexia Action Postgraduate Certificate in Dyslexia and Literacy.

The course provides:

- flexibility for learning in a personalised way which enables studying to be fitted around personal and professional commitments.
- regular support from a personal tutor and the course team to support you with the postgraduate level study skills and studying online.

Entry requirements

- Dyslexia Action Postgraduate Certificate in Dyslexia and Literacy
- A minimum of one year's teaching experience (full time equivalent)
- Excellent spoken and written English
- IELTS 7 for applicants with English as a Second Language
For further information see the IELTS website www.ielts.org
- Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure is a requirement of this course for all UK-based participants and the cost is included in the course fee. Please visit www.crb.gov.uk for further information

Demands of the course

All candidates should note that the Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy is a demanding postgraduate programme. Although the course is delivered through blended and online learning enabling a flexible form of study, candidates will need to be able to balance the demands of their studies with existing work and home commitments in order to gain the Diploma. Candidates should allow for:

- 6 modules (minimum 100 hours of study per module)
- **Minimum** 15 hours per week of study
- 30 hours of teaching practice in total, carried out alongside the theoretical modules (this will not include any preparation time you may need to do in school to set up your teaching lesson)

Candidates who are unable to commit to the demanding course schedule may like to consider enrolling on one of our CPD programmes. See the website for further details at:

<http://training.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/cpd>

Progression Pathways

The October 2011 -2012 Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy is the final programme to be validated by the University of York. Subsequent programmes will have a new validating body.

Once completed, the Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy confers 120 credits at Master's Level as the Postgraduate Certificate in Dyslexia and Literacy previously obtained is subsumed within this award.

Candidates who complete the course successfully will qualify as a specialist teacher able to carry out diagnostic dyslexia assessments. Following successful completion of the Diploma programme, you may apply for an Assessment Practising Certificate in Dyslexia and SpLD. You may also be able to progress onto a Master's degree (normally 180 credits required) using all or some of the credits you have gained.

Assessment Practising Certificate

The Postgraduate Diploma course enables you to apply for an Assessment Practising Certificate which qualifies you to carry out diagnostic assessments, including those for Disabled Students' Allowances.

British Dyslexia Association (BDA) Associate Membership

The York validated Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy also leads (subject to a minimum number of years teaching experience) to the award of Associate Membership of the British Dyslexia Association (AMBDA) and See www.bdadyslexia.org.uk for further details.

Certificate in Competence in Educational Testing

This five day course may be taken after the Certificate or Diploma programme and promotes a wider conceptual model of assessment and further enhances understanding of assessment.

Examination Access Arrangements

This online course supplements the programme and takes about 10 hours to complete, at a time to suit you, over a period of 6 weeks. This is an updating course to enable teachers qualified in dyslexia and SpLD to comply with JCQ Regulations and undertake Examination Access Arrangements. You may take this course concurrently or at the end of your postgraduate programme.

Guild Membership

Candidates on the Diploma programme are able to become Community members of The Dyslexia Action Guild a membership network and professional association for practitioners in Dyslexia and SpLD. See: <http://training.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/guild>

Where will I study?

The key introductory element to this programme is delivered during the first Induction Day held during October, so it is important to attend this part of the course. A further Induction Day held later in the year (Easter vacation) will consolidate aspects of the programme and enable you to liaise with tutors on your progress and address any areas of concern.

The rest of the postgraduate programme uses the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) known as Moodle as the method of delivery. Each module is delivered through Moodle and some require you to be involved in practical teaching and assessment whilst others are more theoretically based. The core curriculum is delivered by means of a range of e-learning resources. These include presentations, articles, exercises, videos and follow-up activities and tasks for participants to carry out at intervals.

What kind of technical equipment will be required for the course?

You will need regular access to the Internet and a personal email in order to access the teaching materials and participate in the programme, as the main elements of the course are distributed via the VLE Moodle over the Internet. Participants can expect to spend several hours a week online, even if they download materials and work offline. In addition to accessing Moodle, participants will need to use the Internet to locate a wide range of resources, scholarly articles and relevant information.

Minimum Hardware Requirements

To access our virtual learning environment, any computer capable of browsing the internet will suffice. Most participants have no problems accessing course materials using an Apple Mac Computer. However please note that we are unable to offer support for such users.

Minimum Software Requirements

You will need to use an office suite such as Microsoft Office or the free Open Office (or any other software capable of saving documents in formats compatible with MS Word, PowerPoint and Excel). Participants will also need a PDF viewer such as Adobe Reader or FoxIT (downloadable free) and multimedia player (free VLC recommended).

Internet Connection

A cable or DSL Broadband connection is highly recommended. Mobile broadband varies widely depending on location but when reliable, it can be used to access most content including live webinars. Note that many mobile broadband providers impose limits on monthly data usage. Participants can expect to use 3-5GB a month. Moodle can be accessed via dial-up, although larger files will take some time to download and most multi-media content may not be streamed live. Any modern web browser is acceptable but Firefox is strongly recommended. Internet Explorer version 6 or below is no longer supported and may result in incompatibilities.

Email Account

Participants will need to have their own personal email account. Dyslexia Action cannot communicate with individuals or register them on Moodle except via a personal email account. Please note that you must not register on Moodle VLE or use an email account during the course that is shared with colleagues or family members; this would contravene the requirements of the Data Protection Act. Participants who do not have a personal email address at the start of the course must set up a personal account straight away. This is easy to do and is free. Gmail is recommended but Hotmail, Yahoo or others will be acceptable.

Video Camera

Participants will need access to a video camera to record some of the teaching and assessment sessions. Any camera from which the video can be extracted into a digital file is acceptable. A camera that records directly into an .mp4 or .avi files such as the Flip or Xacti cameras is recommended. Many webcams are not suitable for recording lessons but some higher-quality models may be acceptable. Older tape-based camcorders can be used but note that they may require additional hardware (firewire cable or card) to convert the video into a digital file. You will be required to submit teaching practice recordings as a video file on a USB memory stick and should purchase at least a 4GB USB stick.

Induction Days

There will be two Induction Days held during the programme. The first one is held at the beginning of the course and an additional day will follow during the Easter vacation. The Induction Days are a key element of the programme and are used to consolidate the programme and in particular to enable more practical elements relating to specialist teaching and assessment to take place. This part of the course is also an opportunity for participants to meet with each other and with tutors and to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the programme. The first Induction Day will include amongst other things an introduction and overview of the course; critical evaluation of the examined assignments; essay writing techniques and an overview of teaching and testing for adults. The first induction date is:

Saturday 29 October 2011

at the Sunningdale Park Hotel, Larch Avenue, Ascot, Berks. SL5 0QE

W: www.devere.co.uk/our-locations/sunningdale-park

The date of the second induction day will be released later in the year.

Course Syllabus

The programme is structured as a series of interlinking modules. Each module requires about 100 hours of study and leads to 10 credits at Master's (M) Level.

2011 / 2012 Syllabus for the Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy (October 2011 course validated by the University of York)		
Module Title	Module Description	Credits
Introductory Module		
Important introductory information and activities.	The time before the Induction Day is for you to assimilate important information, become familiar with the Diploma area of the VLE, do some preparation for the first Induction Day and begin your study on Module 4.	
Induction Days		
Two Induction Day events (Autumn and Spring)	The Induction Days are used to introduce and consolidate the course and in particular to review the practical elements relating to specialist teaching and assessment of adults.	
M4 Theories of Dyslexia		
4 Developmental dyslexia and literacy difficulties.	This module covers the psychological theory that underpins dyslexia and the understanding and interpretation of research.	10 Credits
M5 Assessment and Practice		
5A Principles of and Practice of Assessment 16+	This module extends the test repertoire following the Certificate course and develops skills of analysis working with a 16+ learner.	10 Credits
5B Practical Teaching	This module gives insight into the way ICT can assist the teaching of literacy and study skills through the use and evaluation of an IT teaching programme with 16+ age range, using Units of Sound.	10 Credits
5C Diploma Case Study	This module involves the assessment and analysis of a learner, followed by the choice of an appropriate teaching programme, teaching intervention and evaluations.	10 Credits
M6 Professional Issues and Impact in the Workplace		
6A Dyslexia in Context	This module links directly to practice in the workplace and includes elements relating to coaching and mentoring, ICT resources to support dyslexic learners, and presenting skills. Current developments in education are also discussed.	10 Credits
6B Professional Issues	This independent study module is designed to broaden the knowledge of the wider educational and policy field, particularly as it relates to special educational needs, inclusion and personalised learning.	10 Credits
Total Credits		60

How will I be taught?

Each participant has a personal Education tutor who supports them through the course. They also have the benefit of tuition from a Psychology Tutor for the theoretical modules. Participants are organised into clusters for the duration of the programme. This enables all those involved to get to know one another and to develop a community of learning practice with other students and tutors as the course progresses.

How much time will I need to devote to the course?

You will need to set aside a **minimum** of 15 hours private study time per week throughout the course (a **minimum** of 600 hours overall) and will be expected to have timetabled as such prior to the start of the course. In practice many participants find that they need more time to assimilate and review materials. The course is delivered at Master's level and the expectation is that you will be able to cope with higher level study which is more demanding than undergraduate work.

Teaching practice is in addition to the academic work and may be set around your existing teaching role or could be specially arranged. In either case you will need to allow for suitable preparation time and for unexpected elements such as having to re-arrange lessons due to learner absence or for example when video-recording if technical difficulties occur.

Teaching Practice and Assessment

Supervised teaching practice is an essential part of this course. Candidates are required to submit evidence of teaching and assessment practice on an ongoing basis. Course tutors supervise the teaching practice and give support and feedback on the teaching materials, assignments, lesson plans and evaluations. Recordings of teaching practice are made with the appropriate permissions from the school, learners or parents and within the terms of the Data Protection Act.

Working with a learner

Supervised teaching practice is an essential part of this course. Tutors will supervise the teaching by giving support and feedback on the teaching undertaken, materials used, assignments, lesson plans and evaluations. Participants are required to find learners whose main difficulties are with literacy and who have NOT undergone any prior formal assessment or specialist teaching. Tutors will advise on the suitability of chosen learners, based on the information provided, but it is the responsibility of participants to select suitable learners. You will be required to obtain permission(s) from the school/college in which the teaching/ assessment takes place, as well as from the learner or learner's parent(s)/carer(s).

It is not advisable to work with a learner who has *complex or multiple difficulties* during the course as this may adversely affect your own training. In addition, all learners must be able to hold age-appropriate conversations in English and be educated in a mainly English speaking environment.

Learner 1: Must be in place for teaching for 90 minutes per week (or equivalent over two lessons per week) for 8 weeks during the autumn and spring term-time (12 hours' teaching) starting in the week immediately following the induction school. Regardless of your current teaching situation, Learner 1 must be 16+ years of age, as the focus for this first formative teaching practice is working with adults. This learner must have specific literacy difficulties. Prior to teaching, you will carry out a full, formal diagnostic assessment, with a wider range of assessment materials, which will require a minimum 2-hour slot.

Learner 2: Work with Learner 2 commences later in the Spring Term with a formal assessment followed by 9 hours of teaching over 6 weeks. Lessons will again be 90 minutes per week (or equivalent over two lessons per week) and include higher reading skills and extended writing, so you must ensure that your chosen learner is able to manage such tasks. Learner 2 can be of any age, but should also have specific literacy difficulties and meet the criteria detailed above. You are advised NOT to consider using a learner in an intensive examination year such as UK GCSEs.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment strategy for this course covers both theoretical and practical elements and is designed to develop practical skills in specialist teaching and assessment and encourage evaluation of the research and evidence-base, so that theory is integrated into practice. A combination of assessment tools is used and these include:

- Assignments (Formative and Summative), Essays and Assessment Reports
- Exercises and peer evaluation discussions on Moodle, Open Book Tests
- Practical Teaching Material Assignments
- Quizzes and other self assessment instruments on-line
- Reflective Professional Experience and Impact Report and Teaching Diary
- Weekly lesson plans and evaluations
- Video evidence of Assessment and Teaching Practice

Fees for 2011/2012

Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy	Paid in full before the start of the course	Paid in instalments
UK / EU Applicants	£2,950	£3,050
Overseas Applicants	£4,410	£4,510

Additional Costs

Applicants should note that the Dyslexia Action Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy qualifies a teacher to work as a specialist dyslexia and literacy teacher in a school or educational setting. You will be sent a full list of required resources including assessment tests, practical teaching materials, books and materials. You will need **personal copies of your own test materials**, books and resources on the course and you will then be able to use these for your own professional practice following the course. You should allow for a **further £600** approximately to cover the cost of these resources **in addition to the course fees**.

Application Details

All applications must be made online via the link on the Diploma page.

**Dyslexia Action Training and Professional Development
Admissions Office**

Tel: + 44 (0)1784 222 304

Email: pgmail@dyslexiaaction.org.uk

Website: training.dyslexiaaction.org.uk