

Presentation pattern October to October

Qualification description

The Masters in Education qualification has over 3000 students and is the largest postgraduate programme of its kind in Europe. It offers qualifications for students who have some experience of teaching, training, the education advisory service, educational administration, youth or children's services or an allied field.

The usual entry requirement is either a bachelors degree (in any subject area) or its equivalent. Further information on entry requirements and the structure of the qualification can be found at <http://www3.open.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/qualification/f01.htm>

The Master of Arts in Education or the Master of Education is awarded when a student has successfully completed postgraduate modules worth 180 credit points as follows:

- Educational enquiry (E891) worth 60 points
- 120 credits from optional modules as shown on the website (this can include transferred credit worth 60 points)

Students usually need to be able to work with learners, but not necessarily in a formal teaching situation. They are encouraged to relate the content of the modules to their own experiences and to develop skills of independent study and critical enquiry. Students on the programme are attached to an associate lecturer who provides group tutorials and individual support by telephone, correspondence and electronic communication. As an associate lecturer you would not usually have more than fifteen students and are expected to assess five pieces of work and an extended end-of-module assignment from each.

Module description

ED841 is for people working with children and young people and looks at children's development and learning in cultural, educational and social contexts. It explains how theoretical and methodological frameworks contribute to understanding developmental change and how psychological research can inform educational and clinical practice. Students will learn about how children actively contribute and shape their own development through meaningful interaction with others and how the study of atypical development and individual difference contributes to theory and practice. Students will carry out a small-scale, observational study and will design an extended research proposal relevant to their own professional interests.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the [generic person specification](#) for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- a degree in psychology or child development (preferably at postgraduate level), or have studied modules in at least one of the following areas – developmental psychology, educational psychology, child development – as part of an undergraduate or postgraduate degree
- experience of teaching at undergraduate or masters level in at least one of the following areas: developmental psychology, child development, lifespan developmental psychology, the psychology of education, psychological research methods. Experience of carrying out research in one or other of these areas would be desirable.
- an interest in applied aspects of developmental psychology, such as psychology and schooling; teaching, learning and pedagogy; early years education or psychological interventions for children with learning difficulties

- a good understanding of research design and methods used by developmental psychologists (e.g. experimental design, non-participant observation, systematic classroom observation, categorical coding, quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques).

It would be an advantage to have:

- carried out research at doctoral level in one of the areas specified above.

Additional information

- Students come from different backgrounds in education and related professions, and the module does not assume that they already have an extensive knowledge of psychology.

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	60
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	5
Method of submission for assignments:	1a
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	15
Salary band:	5
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	3.5

There may be opportunities for ALs to undertake associated assessment work for which there will be additional payment and about which you will be contacted separately if applicable.