



**Lincoln Bishop
University**

MA Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

(Part-time Online)

Programme Specification

This document provides a concise summary of the main features of the course(s) & associated award(s) offered through this Programme Specification, and includes the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, curriculum content, teaching/learning, assessment methods for each module and on the Programme's relationship to QAA Subject Benchmark Statements may be found in the dedicated student handbook for the Programme. The accuracy of the information in this document is reviewed periodically by the University and may be subject to review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education or by other national bodies.

Versioning of Programme Specification

This programme specification is valid for the period of approval confirmed at the time of the approval/last review event and relates to provision approved at that point. Programme specifications may be updated during the period of approval to include modifications approved through the University's quality assurance processes.

This version provides a description of the programme as approved for the academic session(s) indicated in section 3 of the following table.

1	Senate approval – date and outcome of last approval	10 July 2025
2	Next Scheduled Review Date: [Month/Year]	July 2030
3	Programme Specification - Effective date: [Day/Month/Year]	1 September 2025
4	Version Number	v1.0

Modifications to Programme Specification

Modifications to the programme specification since approval/ last review, and the cohort(s) of students affected by the change, are listed in Section H (Log of Modifications) at the back of the document.

Cross Referencing of Programme/Module Specifications

Modifications to any elements of Module Specifications attached to this Programme will be updated and then changes made to this document to reflect that. On each Module Spec the Programmes it relates to are clearly indicated for cross referencing.

Programme Specification

The information in this document is organised into the following sections:

Section A – Administrative and Regulatory Information

Section B – Outcomes

Section C – Structure

Section D – Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Section E – Programme Management

Section F – Mapping

Section G – Graduate Attributes

Section H – Log of Modifications

SECTION A – ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

1	Programme Specification Title
	MA Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) online
1a	Programme Code
	EDSNDD_1.0
2	Brief Summary (for Marketing Purposes)
	<p>The part-time distance-learning MA SEND is an exciting two-year programme designed for ambitious professionals aspiring to develop their knowledge and understanding of SEND, so that they can make a meaningful impact within their professional context. This course offers a great deal of flexibility because it is 100% online and largely asynchronous. Despite this, the learning experience is interactive throughout, allowing learners to learn from peers working in other contexts while being supported by a team of expert specialists.</p> <p>This part-time programme consists of five modules aimed at developing your expertise in SEND. During the first year of study in Trimester 1, you will explore several key challenges and contemporary issues of SEND practice whilst reflecting on the influence of policy. This is followed by two specialist modules in Trimesters 2 and 3 in which you will develop your understanding of specific SEND issues and consider how different practices, as well as your own positionality can be utilised to maximise impact. During the second year of study, you will undertake a module about research skills in preparation for conducting a research project focusing on an area of your choice.</p> <p>The MA SEND aims to develop in-depth and advanced knowledge informed by current practice, scholarship, and research. This will include a critical awareness and understanding of theory and practice, which will inform and develop effective SEND practice. Building upon prior knowledge and /or experience, you will explore multiple perspectives on key issues through structured learning,</p>

independent study, and research. The programme is suited to a wide variety of contexts; education, social and care, and relevant to practice across different age ranges in SEND. With a strong focus upon creating change, challenging your thinking and understanding, you will gain skills in analysis of theory and practice. The programme encourages sharing of experience and encourages reflection and contributions.

3	Awarding institution	Lincoln Bishop University		
3a	Programme Length	Full-Time N/A	Part-Time 2 years	
3b	Mode(s) of Study	Part-time, Distance Learning		
4	Home Academic Programme Portfolio	Education, Health and Lifelong Learning		
5	HECoS/CAH2/ITT/UCAS code(s)	HECoS/CAH2 100459 / CAH22-01-01	ITT N/A	UCAS code generated at QAC stage by Admissions
6	Framework for HE Qualifications position of final award(s)	Masters (Level 7)		
7	Alignment with University Credit Framework	Postgraduate		
8	Compliance with University Assessment Regulations	Academic Regulations Governing Taught Qualifications		
9	Progression routes with Foundation Degree (FdA) or Top-up	N/A		

Awards

10	Final Award title(s)	MA Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
10a	Exit or Fall back Award title(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (60 credits) Postgraduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (120 credits)

10b	Pathway	N/A
11	(i) Combined Honours Awards available e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc/BA (Hons) XX BSc/BA (Hons) XX and YY 	N/A

Arrangements with Partners

12	Approved Collaborative partner(s)	Partner Name	Type of Collaborative Partnership
		N/A	N/A
13	Articulation Arrangements with Partners	Partner Name	Details of Arrangements
		N/A	N/A

Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies

14	PSRB(s) associated with final award of any route within the programme specification	N/A
15	Date and outcome of last PSRB approval/accreditation	N/A
16	Expiry Date of PSRB approval	N/A

SECTION B - OUTCOMES

17	QAA Benchmark Statement(s)
	<p>The QAA does not provide Benchmark Statements for postgraduate level in SEND. Therefore, Benchmark Statements have been aligned to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies that states:</p> <p>Master's degrees are awarded to learners who have demonstrated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice 2. a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship 3. originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline 4. conceptual understanding that enables the student: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline b. to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses. <p>Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and nonspecialist audiences 2. demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level 3. continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level. <p>And holders will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility b. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations c. the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

18	Programme Aim
	<p>The MA SEND is an exciting and engaging programme designed to support and challenge thinking about education and contemporary education-related issues. Informed by current scholarship, research, and practice, it provides an opportunity for learners to develop transferrable skills and gain advanced knowledge and understanding in a specific area of professional interest, as well as other key aspects of SEND.</p> <p>The aim of the MA SEND is to develop postgraduates who can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a detailed and systematic knowledge and understanding of key contemporary SEND issues. • Develop and articulate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of a specialist area in education within the current educational context. • Develop a critical understanding of research and reflection, and the implications for professional practice. • Examine the relationships between theory and practice in education, drawing on relevant literature, published research and professional practice. • Develop a secure conceptual understanding that allows for critical evaluation of a wide range of SEND literature. • Evaluate and critique a range of methodologies and methods used in research and understand the relevant ethical issues. • Plan and undertake independent research using appropriate methodologies and methods and be able to communicate the outcomes of this to specialist and non-specialist audiences. • Apply research findings to elicit new insights for a relevant context and their professional impact.
19	Programme Specific Outcomes
	<p><u>Final Award Learning Outcomes</u></p> <p>On successful completion of MA Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), learners will be able to:</p> <p><u>Knowledge and Understanding</u></p> <p>KU1: Demonstrate a detailed systematic knowledge and understanding of key contemporary issues relating to SEND.</p> <p>KU2: Demonstrate a comprehensive and critical understanding of how a range of complex factors inform a wide range of policy and practice and can impact on SEND.</p> <p>KU3: Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of methodologies and research design in contemporary SEND research.</p>

KU4: Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

Subject Specific Skills

SPS1: Demonstrate individual development through exploration of professional values and personal responsibilities to enhancing SEND and inclusive practice.

SPS2: Demonstrate an ethical commitment to inclusion, diversity, social justice, and protecting and caring for children and/ or adults with SEND.

SPS3: Demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the diverse and complex interpretations of SEND and inclusive practice

SPS4: Apply own knowledge and understanding of educational research to successfully undertake a research project within a specific educational context.

Intellectual Skills

IS1: Demonstrate conceptual understanding that allows for critical evaluation of a wide range of SEND literature.

IS2: Demonstrate originality in the articulation of knowledge to deal with complex issues systematically and creatively.

IS3: Demonstrate conceptual understanding that allows for critical evaluation of methodologies and methods in SEND research.

IS4: Evaluate own research critically and synthesise findings with existing knowledge to propose new hypotheses.

Transferable Skills

TS1: Communicate effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences, both orally and in writing.

TS2: Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

TS3: Demonstrate self-direction, autonomy and originality in planning research.

TS4: Make sound judgements and apply the research undertaken to successfully elicit new insights for the relevant context.

20	Exit Award Learning Outcomes
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On successful completion of a Postgraduate Certificate in Educational, learners will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

KU1: Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of key contemporary issues.

KU2: Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of a specialist area within the current SEND context.

Subject Professional Skills

SPS1: Demonstrate individual development through exploration of professional values and personal responsibilities to enhancing SEND and inclusive practice.

SPS2: Demonstrate an ethical commitment to inclusion, diversity, social justice, and protecting and caring for children and/ or adults with SEND.

Intellectual Skills

IS1: Demonstrate conceptual understanding that allows for critical evaluation of a wide range of literature.

IS2: Demonstrate originality in the articulation of knowledge to deal with complex issues systematically and creatively.

Transferable Skills

TS1: Communicate effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences, both orally and in writing.

TS2: Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

On successful completion of a Postgraduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), learners will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

KU1: Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of key contemporary issues.

KU2: Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of a specialist area in SEND within the current context.

KU3: Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of methodologies and methods frequently used in contemporary research.

Subject Professional Skills

SPS1: Demonstrate individual development through exploration of professional values and personal responsibilities to enhancing SEND and inclusive practice.

SPS2: Demonstrate an ethical commitment to inclusion, diversity, social justice, and protecting and caring for children and/ or adults with SEND.

SPS3: Demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the diverse and complex interpretations of SEND and inclusive practice.

Intellectual Skills

IS1: Demonstrate conceptual understanding that allows for critical evaluation of a wide range of literature.

IS2: Demonstrate originality in the articulation of knowledge to deal with complex issues systematically and creatively.

IS3: Demonstrate conceptual understanding that allows for critical evaluation of methodologies and methods in research.

Transferable Skills

TS1: Communicate effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences, both orally and in writing.

TS2: Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

TS3: Demonstrate self-direction, autonomy and originality in planning research.

SECTION C – STRUCTURE

21a	Structures, modes of delivery (e.g. FT/PT etc), levels, credits, awards, curriculum map of all modules (identifying core/option status, credits, pre or co-requisites) potential entry/exit points and progression/award requirements
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Year 1; Trimester 1	Year 1; Trimester 2	Year 1; Trimester 3
EMC701D_1.0 Vision, Practice and Policy: Shaping the Future 30 credits	SEN707D_1.0 Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 30 credits	SEN708D_1.0 Raising Achievement: Meeting Pastoral & Welfare Needs 30 credits
Year 2; Trimester 1	Year 2; Trimester 2	Year 2; Trimester 3
EMC702D_1.0 Research Skills 30 credits	EMC703D_1.0 Research Project 60 credits	

This programme is designed to have multiple entry points.

21b	Module Structure
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Level 7

Core Modules				
Code	Status	Module Title	Period (number)	No of credits
EMC701D_1.0	Mandatory	Vision, Practice and Policy: Shaping the Future	1	30
SEN707D_1.0	Mandatory	Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	2	30
SEN708D_1.0	Mandatory	Raising Achievement: Meeting Pastoral & Welfare Needs	3	30
EMC702D_1.0	Mandatory	Research Skills	1	30
EMC703D_1.0	Mandatory	Research Project	2&3	60

SECTION D - TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

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Curriculum Design

The curriculum of the MA SEND programme is aimed at engaging learners to debate and reflect upon SEND practice and to synthesise their insights with the wider body of research. They will also have opportunities to develop their expertise in specific areas within SEND which are most pertinent to their own interests and aspirations. The programme is designed to develop learners' in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to current and changing SEND practice. The modules provide learners with opportunities to investigate different social and educational contexts building and demonstrate acquisition of systematic in-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of key issues related to SEND.

The MA SEND part time online is designed to engage stakeholders from a wide range of diverse backgrounds acknowledging experience of SEND gained both professionally and personally. SEND contexts may include educational settings, e.g. primary, secondary, special, Further Education, Higher Education, privately-owned education providers, care and caring and the non-profit sector. With the versatile modules and flexibility regarding assignment foci, learners in different roles, such as teaching assistants, home tutors, social care or newly qualified practitioners will all be able to take advantage of what the programme can offer. The MA SEND (part-time online) is a distance-learning course, allowing flexibility to integrate learning with working and/or care giving. Given the aim of the programme, all the assessments are linked to learners' experiences of SEND, practice and context.

Being a part-time programme, the MA takes two years to complete. In year 1, learners will undertake one 30-credit core module within each trimester. During Trimester 1 learners will take 'Vision, Practice and Policy: Shaping the Future', in trimester 2 learners will take 'Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs and Disabilities', and in Trimester 3 learners will take 'Raising Achievement: Meeting Pastoral & Welfare Needs'. In year 2, learners will undertake a 30-credit 'Research Skills' module, followed by a 60-credit 'Research Project' module in which they will complete their dissertation. Overall, learners will complete 180 credits.

The modules

The suite of modules is specifically designed to cover various aspects of SEND which are relevant to practitioners from a wide range of settings and sectors. More specifically:

Vision, Practice and Policy: Shaping the Future

The module explores key elements of effective practice, guiding learners to engage with contemporary and potential future challenges related to professional contexts. Learners will reflect upon competing ideologies which shape and influence policy visions. By linking theory and practice, learners will develop strategies to address real-world challenges within a range of settings. The reflective nature of the module makes it highly relevant for professionals across various disciplines.

Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

This module advances understanding of how different concepts and categories of learning needs and disabilities are developed, and promotes confidence in finding, critiquing and dissemination of research-based evidence of specific needs.

Raising Achievement: Meeting Pastoral & Welfare Needs

This module critically explores values and principles, which underpin learning strategies and services delivered through collaboration to foster emotional, psychological, social and spiritual wellbeing in children and young adults.

Research Skills

Explores a range of methodologies and methods frequently used in social science educational research, examining their potential strengths, limitations and the associated ethical considerations. During the module, learners will develop their understanding of research concepts such as reliability, validity, trustworthiness, credibility and generalisability. They will also consider how to plan research using a suitable methodological approach, whilst taking into account the ethical issues they may encounter.

Research Project

The module will facilitate learning and teaching in research skills. The module will lead to competence and confidence in what determines personal and professional standards for postgraduate research requirements. The module develops learners as ethical researchers who are able to undertake a suitable research project, develop realistic plans for disseminating their research findings to the wider academic and/or professional community. In addition, learners will be supported to extend and deepen their understanding of the chosen area of investigation and will be able to design and carry out projects that are useful to their professional development and/or interests, and employability.

Distance-learning by design

The programme has been specifically designed with distance-learning in mind, allowing learners to reap the benefits of what such a learning mode has to offer. Firstly, the online and largely asynchronous nature of the course offers learners significant flexibility, something that is especially important to those working full-time or in different time zones. Secondly, learners undertaking the MA have access to a plethora of multimedia learning materials, covering a wide range of topics. Given the flexible nature of the assessment tasks, learners can select a specific area that they want to focus on whilst still able to enrich their learning by exploring all the topics on offer. Thirdly, despite most of the tasks being asynchronous with learners typically working independently, multiple interactive and formative assessment opportunities have been incorporated, meaning learners are able to work within a community and receive regular tutor support.

Graduate attributes

The MA is designed to help learners develop all six areas of BGU's Graduate Attributes:

1. **Academic literacies:** Learners are enabled to develop academic literacy through engagement with a range of learning materials and research during the course and in their assignments. Throughout the programme, learners will have the opportunity to critically analyse, evaluate and synthesise academic sources/research findings to inform their own work. Additionally, assessments are

designed to support learners in developing their academic competency, e.g. tasks that require learners to apply their critical thinking.

2. **Global citizenship:** Through the taught sessions and learning materials, learners will have the opportunity to examine a range of contemporary issues from an international perspective and hold discussions about how these compare with their own experience. Throughout the course, learners will also consult a range of literature and research from around the world, such as case studies, to inform their module assignments. They will consider how the findings and insights from these sources can be applied in their own context.

3. **Information literacy:** Information literacy will be developed throughout the programme via curriculum design and learners will be required to independently search for academic sources through platforms such as WorldCat and LibGuides. Engagement with the University Library and The Hub will support individuals to develop these skills, and tutors on the programme will help embed the capabilities within each learner to create well-written assignments.

4. **Digital fluency:** Assessments are designed to support learners in developing digital fluency through a range of assignment tasks presented in portfolios, including an academic blog and a presentation with visual elements. As a distance-learning programme, learners will be required to complete a range of learning activities via the VLE throughout the programme. The teaching team will also model the use of digital technology through session delivery where appropriate to facilitate communication of ideas and practices.

5. **Employability:** Learners are enabled to develop their professional practice through academic study and work-based learning throughout the programme. For example, they will be required to reflect on their professional experience and consider how they can apply their learning in the workplace, while at the same time, using current academic research to inform their practice. As Graduate Attributes are embedded into all modules, it is also anticipated that learners will further enhance their employability skills.

6. **Being enterprising:** This course puts a strong emphasis on helping learners to address practical issues within their own learning, leading to professional development. This means learners will have the opportunity to develop problem-solving skills through directed independent learning. Throughout the programme, learners will be challenged to put forward proposals and reflect on their own experience, in turn develop their entrepreneurial competency.

23	Learning and Teaching Strategies
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As a distance-learning programme aimed at learners both in the UK and across the world, the MA SEND is a programme that predominantly utilises asynchronous delivery. This allows learners in full-time employment and/or any time zone to undertake the course remotely and complete the learning at a time that best suits their individual context and needs.

To provide learners with an engaging and high-quality learning experience, a variety of activities and resources are used. These include:

- Pre-recorded learning materials - both audio and video
- Visual presentation
- Suggested reading of key sources relevant to the programme
- Specially designed prompt questions and activity sheets
- Extended reading lists covering a diverse range of sources relevant to module topics
- Academic blog
- Reflective diary
- Tutorials

A range of EdTech platforms, as integrated within the VLE, will be used to support some of the activities above. Where possible, multiple formats of learning materials, such as audio and written, will also be provided to enhance accessibility and inclusivity. The approach to learning and teaching for the MA is underpinned by three key principles: model, scaffold and feedback. This means all tasks will be accompanied by good-quality examples and clear instructions to get learners started. Learning will then be broken down into shorter activities and aided by prompt questions or activity sheets. All modules have also incorporated multiple formative assessment opportunities where tutors will check learners' understanding and provide timely and developmental feedback. For example, to optimise learning, asynchronous discussion boards will be used regularly in addition to the other learning activities to help learners to reflect on what they have learnt from the various module topics. After the learners have participated, the module leader will then provide the whole cohort with collective formative feedback, e.g. via email or a post in the comment section.

As evident in the module overviews [see Appendix A], regular engagement points will exist within each module to structure the learning. Not only will the expectations be made explicit during the course induction, but these engagement points will also be clearly outlined in the module handbook, and again, reiterated during the 'module introduction video' as well as on the learning platform itself. Student engagement will be regularly recorded and monitored by the module leaders. Throughout the course, the programme team will work closely with staff with responsibilities in distance learning, such as Digital Learning developers, to ensure consistency of materials in terms of length, visual appearance and content to provide an easy-to-follow, predictable learning experience that promotes confidence for learners. All materials will be checked regularly to ensure that there are no technical issues such as broken links or display issues.

Whilst the programme is designed to offer learners flexibility to work at their own pace, recommended duration for activities and specific formative assessment deadlines will be set to help learners manage their learning effectively and prepare them for their summative tasks. Learners will be informed about the key tasks at the beginning of each module, and this will allow them to plan ahead and work flexibly. To ensure learners have the best learning experience, VLE functions such as 'forced sequence' and 'time release' will be applied to some of the materials. This is so that learners do not miss any important information or get overwhelmed by the volume of materials available. Some activities which require participation of the whole cohort will also only be made available during a specific timeframe to maximise interactivity.

Peer learning is an important feature of this programme. Thus, opportunities for learners to learn from each other have been embedded throughout, e.g. discussion board tasks. The purpose of such an emphasis is to encourage learners to share with others their professional experiences, as well as the knowledge and insight gained from their own setting. With the MA being a practice-oriented programme, authentic and current professional experiences from other practitioners is invaluable. In addition to peer learning, all learners are guided to reflect on their own professional practice in each module, so that they can identify opportunities to develop as a practitioner and apply what they have learnt from the course to their work setting.

To establish and maintain a positive distance-learning community, the programme team will ensure the following:

1. All learners are allocated a personal tutor.
2. Regular engagement points throughout each module to keep learners engaged, including:
 - Induction and introduction activity at the beginning of the programme to establish sense of community.
 - One module introduction video and a module handbook made available at the beginning of each module to help learners get familiarised with what to expect and to receive initial directions.
 - Two Q&A opportunities per module, with either a follow-up assignment webinar or tutorial.
 - One assignment webinar per module featuring student contributions to explain assignment tasks.
 - One asynchronous online interactive activity per module involving contributions from the whole cohort.
 - Two draft submission opportunities per module for learners to acquire formative feedback for different elements of the assignment.
 - Two one-hour online tutorials, or equivalent, per module to provide learners with support and formative feedback.
3. Learners are encouraged to engage with professional services, including the Hub.
4. All literature required for the programme is available electronically via the library's website.
5. Support for Study would be used where appropriate to provide learners with additional support.

The programme is underpinned by principles for effective distance-learning set out in the University's in-person and online delivery guidance framework, and the Blended Learning VLE Template. The intention is to offer learners occasional synchronous sessions such as the 'assignment webinar' and tutorials to maximise student engagement and interactivity. It will also provide a good opportunity for tutors to build relationships with their learners, which is crucial for maintaining a positive learning community.

Given the potential challenge associated with these types of activities for distance learners, the programme team will work flexibly with learners each year to ensure their specific time-zone, and any challenges will be taken into account when scheduling these sessions. In accordance with the University's Engagement Policy, learners are required to attend their scheduled tutorials. They will be required to engage with all of the asynchronous online activities and complete tasks set throughout the programme, e.g. posting on discussion boards, as all of these form part of the learning hours stated in the module specifications. The programme team will work closely with the wider University to identify any engagement-related issues and put in place appropriate interventions to help resolve them.

To ensure all learners are familiar with the expectations and the specific assessment approaches associated with HE studies, clear guidance will be provided by the programme team during the induction, module introductions and assignment webinars. They will also be directed to all the key relevant materials offered by the Hub to help develop their academic skills. Furthermore, learners are expected to learn by reflecting on their professional practice as part of their workplace and independent learning throughout the programme. This experiential learning is used to inform the asynchronous activities set as well as module assignment tasks. To meet the intended learning outcomes, learners are required to complete other independent learning activities outside of the scheduled tasks, such as module reading and assignment preparation.

24	Assessment Strategies
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The MA SEND provides a mixture of assessment methods, offering learners more than one way to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding. Each assignment/portfolio is split into at least two related tasks, allowing learners to demonstrate how they have met the learning outcomes, whilst getting the opportunity to develop a range of skills relating to academic study.

For example, the module 'Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs and Disabilities requires each learner to create a presentation as part of their assessment. Individual presentations are then followed by a real-time Q&A where learners are required to relate the module Learning outcomes to their own experiential contexts and the impacts of theory to practice. In year 2 for 'Research Skills' learners will write an evaluation of the different methodological approaches related to their area of interest. Within Trimester 2 and 3 learners may wish to develop their research skills project idea in the form of a dissertation. All the assignment tasks and descriptions can be found in the assignment briefs provided.

With many of the prospective learners likely to be working full-time or have other substantial commitments, this part-time programme offers learners opportunities where their 'work in-progress' for each portfolio can be discussed with their tutor formatively and receive developmental feedback which will enable them to further develop their work (see Section 23 and Appendix A). The deadline for summative assessments will take place at the end of each module, which coincides with the end of each trimester in year 1, and in trimesters 1 and 3 during year 2.

Module Code	Module Description	Credits	Year	Assessment and learning methods		
				Exam/Written	Practical	Coursework
				%	%	%
EMC701D_1.0	Vision, Practice and Policy: Shaping the Future	30	1	-	-	100
SEN707D_1.0	Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	30	1	-	-	100
SEN708D_1.0	Raising Achievement: Meeting Pastoral & Welfare Needs	30	1	-	-	100
EMC702D_1.0	Research Skills	30	2	-	-	100
EMC703D_1.0	Research Project	60	2	-	-	100

The indicative submission dates for assessments are deliberately timed to give learners the opportunity to complete assessments during the main holiday periods (January/May/August).

Indicative Assessment Strategy

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Indicative Assessment Type and weighting	Indicative Submission	Indicative Assessment Date
EMC701D_1.0	Vision, Practice and Policy: Shaping the Future	30	Portfolio 100%	6,000 words	January
SEN707D_1.0	Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	30	Portfolio 100%	6,000 words	May
SEN708D_1.0	Raising Achievement: Meeting Pastoral & Welfare Needs	30	Portfolio 100%	6,000 words	August
EMC702D_1.0	Research Skills	30	Portfolio 100%	5,000 words	January
EMC703D_1.0	Research Project	60	Dissertation 100%	12,000 words	August

25	Inclusive Practice and Personal Development Planning
	<p>The University is committed to widening access and participation and adheres to a strict policy of non-discrimination. Learners will be supported throughout their programme and given full access to a range of services offered by the Hub and the Students' Union. This MA adheres to the University's Equality and Diversity Policy, in order to recognise and benefit from enhanced learning opportunities that emerge from a diverse cohort of learners. Therefore, an inclusive strategy is adopted throughout all stages of the programme. Learners will be signposted to these services during their induction and via personal tutors. The VLE will provide relevant links and introductory videos to ensure learners are aware of these policies.</p> <p>The curriculum of the MA has been specifically designed to support learners in the enhancement of their career prospects, e.g. through the embedding of Graduate Attributes opportunities throughout the programme. As explained in Section 23, the distance learning and part-time delivery mode is also inclusive by design, taking into account the needs of our prospective learners. Furthermore, all learners will be assigned a personal tutor when they begin the MA. With support from their personal tutor, all learners will be guided to develop their Personal Development Plan (PDP).</p> <p>Learners will be encouraged to access the wider services of the Hub for professional career advice and opportunities, and where appropriate, in liaison with the International Office. Where time zones make direct contact with professional tutors impracticable, the University will work with the learner to seek workable solutions, so that they are sufficiently supported.</p>
26	Technology Enhanced Learning
	<p>As a distance learning course, this MA will make extensive use of the University's virtual learning environment and learners will be expected to have suitable IT and internet access. All learning materials will be accessed through the VLE, hosted on separate pages for each module and then organised into folders. Module materials will be well-signposted and structured in a way that is easy for learners to navigate. A plethora of informative multimodal resources such as visual presentations, audio clips and videos will be hosted on the VLE, alongside links to other external materials, e.g. web-based articles. Module reading lists, hosted by the library, will also be available via the VLE with direct links to the library's catalogue. To optimise student experience, an electronic module handbook will be made available on the VLE for every module and will include a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section, so that learners can easily locate key information while further developing their independence during their study.</p> <p>During the course, the programme team will facilitate a range of structured, but asynchronous interactive activities, such as discussion boards. The aim of these activities is to complement the workplace and independent learning that learners undertake, whilst offering significant flexibility. All learners will be required to attend two online tutorials per module (subject to tutor availability) to receive the support they need to succeed. At the start of the MA, learners will be given information relating to the equipment and IT skills required and how they can access further support. The programme will be delivered in line</p>

with the validated Distance Learning template. Throughout the programme, learners will be encouraged to apply their existing digital skills and also to develop new ones. Resources from the Hub, such as those relating to online collaboration tools, will be available to ensure that learners can acquire new knowledge and confidence in using technology. Meanwhile, the Library has an extensive range of online resources related to the subject, such as electronic journals and e-books.

27	Work-related Learning
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Learners are expected to hold a professional role (paid or voluntary) within a relevant setting for the duration of the course, typically 5 hours a week. In order to link theory and practice, learners will use these 'work-related learning hours', as directed by the set learning tasks, to consider how the topics they study are reflected in their professional experience. During some parts of the programme, learners may also be required to carry out specific activities in their workplace to inform their module work. This learning based on engaging with professional practice will be monitored by module tutors working on the programme. If a learner's workplace or professional setting requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, the learner will be responsible for covering this cost. Whilst not a requirement, learners are likely to undertake research in their own workplace as part of their research project module. If this is the case, learners will still be expected to maintain ethical requirements in terms of gatekeeper access and informed consent.

If a learner loses access to their work/volunteering setting during a particular module, they may continue with their study, as long as they are still able to complete the summative assessment tasks and meet the intended learning outcomes. If this is not possible, Support for Study or a break in study may be offered to allow the learner some flexibility for securing alternative employment or volunteering opportunities.

28	Employability
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There has been significant consultation with employers about programme delivery and the curriculum design. Owing to the part-time and distance learning nature of the programme, learners can enjoy a great deal of flexibility, being able to study alongside their work. In terms of curriculum design, consultation has mostly focused on the topics covered in the programme. Employers are keen for learners to undertake work that reflects current priorities relating to SEND provision, so that the learning has the potential to benefit their working setting. With this in mind, the suite of modules available on the MA programme, such as 'Understanding Specific Educational Needs and Disabilities' and 'Raising Achievement: Meeting Pastoral & Welfare Needs' offers learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding in contemporary issues pertinent to different contexts and at various levels.

In addition to having access to the support and guidance made available by the Hub throughout the course, as explained in Section 22, learners will also have opportunities to develop all six areas of the Graduate Attributes, in turn enhancing their employability.

SECTION E - PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

29	Programme Specific Admission Requirements
<p>The entry requirement for MA SEND is normally a second-class degree or equivalent (2:2 or above) in a relevant discipline. However, it is recognised that some practitioners did not study a first degree in SEND, and similarly, some who did not achieve a 2:2 or above in their first degree may have demonstrated the capacity to successfully work at postgraduate level since graduating. Therefore, admission to the MA will be made on a case-by-case basis. Due to the distance learning nature of the course, all learners must also have regular and reliable internet access.</p> <p>Learners are required to be working or volunteering in a relevant setting for the duration of the course, typically for a minimum of 5 hours per week or equivalent. This equates to 75 hours per trimester.</p> <p>English language requirements are IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6 in each component.</p> <p>Some learners may be eligible to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice for Recognition of Prior Learning</i>.</p>	
30	Programme Specific Management Arrangements
<p>This programme is managed through the Faculty, led by its Programme Leader, who reports to the relevant Head of Programmes and is supported by the Faculty Administration Office. Module leaders are responsible for the planning, delivery and assessment of each module, in partnership with the Programme Leader.</p> <p>The programme will be taught by academic staff from within the Faculty who are qualified to master's level and above. Visiting lecturers and speakers may also contribute to modules for currency and specialist content. An additional level of oversight and line-management is provided by the Executive Dean of Faculty.</p> <p>Yearly reviews of programme quality and delivery are conducted by Programme Leaders (Annual Monitoring Reports) which are informed by module evaluations, learner and staff feedback, External Examiners' comments and the University's Learning and Teaching strategy. Targets for year-on-year development are set and effected to enhance programme delivery.</p> <p>The programme team will work closely with the International Office to maintain links between the University and learners who are studying from outside of the UK. They will also work alongside the Hub to ensure that the online nature of the programme is successful, and that learners can access all materials.</p>	

31	Staff Responsibilities
<p>Programme Leader: leadership of the programme, its management and planning, monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring academic/quality standards.</p> <p>Module leaders: planning, administration, delivery, marking and moderation at module level. Module leaders will act as academic and, in some cases, personal tutors to learners on the programme.</p> <p>Dissertation supervisors: supervision and marking of individual learners' MA dissertations according to expertise.</p>	
32	Programme Specific Academic Student Support
<p>For learners who enrol onto the MA, it may have been a significant period of time since they previously engaged in academic study. For this reason, learners are made aware of the support offered by the Hub from the outset. Close engagement with the wider professional services as part of the student experience will be embedded within the programme via a dedicated area on the VLE for the Hub, in line with the validated Distance Learning template. Using the appointment system accessible via the VLE, learners from different time zones will be able to book an online appointment with professional services such as Student Advice at a time that suits them (subject to availability). In addition, learners will have access to all the online materials shared by these professional services. Meanwhile, learners studying this MA can also benefit from the support made available by the Students' Union.</p> <p>All learners will be allocated a personal tutor to provide pastoral and academic support shortly after their enrolment. They will also receive a comprehensive induction from the programme team, introducing them to the learning platform, the structure of the programme and how the learning should be completed. A module introduction video as well as a module handbook will be used at the start of each module to help learners commence their study and there will be multiple opportunities such as the assignment webinar and tutorials to ensure that they are on track. Learners will have opportunities to receive formative feedback by taking part in interactive activities and submitting the allowed proportion of their assignments, as drafts, to their tutor (see Appendix A to see what the learning journey looks like).</p> <p>The Programme Leader will work regularly with the programme team as well as the Faculty Administration Office to provide personalised support where appropriate, e.g. by using a specific Support for Study plan. Moreover, learners will have full access to the library's online catalogue and can book one-to-one online appointments with the relevant Librarian at a time that suits them (subject to availability). The programme team will ensure that all core sources required for the programme will be available on WorldCat and that links provided on the VLE are in working order.</p>	

Given the distance-learning nature of the course, it is vitally important to establish and maintain a positive learning community and this has been taken into account during the programme design stage. For more information, please see Sections 22 and 23. Furthermore, learners will be regularly signposted to the guidance and support offered by Digital Learning as well.

33	Programme Specific Student Evaluation
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The Programme complies with current institutional evaluation policies.

Programme Specific Evaluation

Learners will be offered the opportunity to undertake module evaluations to provide module-specific feedback to the programme team.

Learners will elect representatives who will meet with the Programme Leader via the Students' Union Representative Feedback System (RFS) at the end of each trimester to provide wider programme-level feedback.

Both module and RFS feedback will be used to enhance the programme and ensure that student voice is heard and used to provide a positive student experience.

SECTION F – OUTCOMES MAPPING

MAP I

Module Name	K&U1	K&U2	K&U3	K&U4	SPS1	SPS2	SPS3	SPS4	IS1	IS2	IS3	IS4	TS1	TS2	TS3	TS4
Vision, Practice and Policy: Shaping the future																
Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs and Disabilities																
Raising Achievement: Meeting pastoral & welfare needs																
Research Skills																
Research Project																

SECTION G

MAP 2

Graduate Attribute Mapping

Please indicate (with a X) which of the Graduate Attributes that you have considered and where they are considered within the course.

Attribute	Programme Learning Outcomes															
	KU1	KU2	KU3	KU4	SPS1	SPS2	SPS3	SPS4	IS1	IS2	IS3	IS4	TS1	TS2	TS3	TS4
Academic Literacies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Global Citizenship	x	x			x	x			x							
Information Literacy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Digital Fluency								x	x				x	x		
Employability	x	x			x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x
Being Enterprising		x				x	x	x		x		x		x	x	x

Graduate Attributes

- GA1. [Academic Literacies](#) This covers the range of academic skills that you develop through undertaking university-level study.
- GA2. [Global Citizenship](#) This is about understanding the global context in which you live, study and work
- GA3. [Information Literacy](#) This is about being able to search for, locate, utilise and manage information effectively and ethically
- GA4. [Digital Fluency](#) These are the skills and practices of using digital technology effectively for learning, working and participating in society
- GA5. [Employability](#) This is all about how best to support you in developing the knowledge, skills, behaviours and attitudes which will enable you to be successful in work and life
- GA6. [Being Enterprising](#) This can be defined as a set of behaviours, attitudes and skills which allow both individuals and groups to create positive change through creativity and innovation

SECTION H

MAP 3

Approved Modifications to Programme Specification since Approval/Last Review

The following log provides a cumulative of minor and major modifications made to the Programme Specification since its approval/last review.

QASA Reference	Brief Outline of Light/Minor Modification/ Major Modification <i>(Light/Minor - include level & title of modules & a brief description of modification)</i> <i>(Major - include details of change such as new routes, pathways etc)</i>	Date of QASA Approval (or event)	Approval effective from:	Details of cohort of students who will be affected by the modification <i>(e.g. students entering Level 5 from September 2016 onward)</i>

SECTION I

MAP 4

Mapping of PSRB requirements against the Programme

The following should be used as a guide to identify and specify all PSRB requirements that have to be met in order to qualify a learner against the PSRB.

	PSRB Name/Standard:					
	PSRB Requirement <i>Please details requirement of PSRB here</i>	PSRB Requirement <i>Please details requirement of PSRB here</i>	PSRB Requirement <i>Please details requirement of PSRB here</i>	PSRB Requirement <i>Please details requirement of PSRB here</i>	PSRB Requirement <i>Please details requirement of PSRB here</i>	PSRB Requirement <i>Please details requirement of PSRB here</i>
Met?						
Modules Identified in:						
Evidence of Requirement met						
Location of PSRB Approval Document						

Appendix A

Academic Year 2025-2026 Trimester 1

Vision, Practice and Policy: Shaping the Future

Week	Learning activities/tasks	Assessment	Recommended checkpoints*
Week 1 20/9/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course enrolment/induction (2 hrs) • Introduction activity 		
Week 2 29/9/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 701 module introduction (1 hr) 		<i>Begins topic 1 study</i>
Week 3 6/10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: assignment brief and module handbook • Q & A submission for webinar 		
Week 4 13/10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment webinar (1 hr): host and release 		<i>Begins topic 2 study</i>
Week 5 20/10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: chosen source for assessment task 		
Week 6 27/10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create blog draft 		<i>Begins topic 3 study</i>
Week 7 3/11/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A submission for tutorial 	Submit blog draft	
Week 8 10/11/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutorial (1 hr): discuss blog and chosen theme 		<i>Begins topic 4 study</i>
Week 9 17/11/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to formative feedback 	Posting own final blog	
Week 10 24/11/25			<i>Begins topic 5 study</i>
Week 11 1/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive activity (1 hr equivalent): reading peer's blog and compose comment 	Posting comment for peer	
Week 12 8/12/25		Appraisal draft submission	<i>Begins topic 6 study</i>
Week 13 5/1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutorial (1 hr): discuss draft and final submission 		
Week 14 12/1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to formative feedback 		
Week 15 19/1/26		Final assignment submission	

1. **Synchronous mandatory activities** = learners to complete these activities on or by a specific date/time. Regarding tutorials, learners should liaise with their tutor to arrange a date/time that is mutually suitable.
2. **Asynchronous mandatory activities** = learners to complete these activities/engage with materials provided whenever suitable within a specified timeframe, e.g. 1 week.

3. **Formative assessment** = learners are expected to complete these formative tasks in order to receive feedback from tutor.
4. **Hosted events** = events which learners are expected to engage with either synchronously or asynchronously.
5. **Recommended activities** = activities which learners are encouraged to complete.

*Recommended checkpoints are 'recommended' only, learners are free to complete the topics in their own preferred timeframe.