



Dear Applicant

Welcome to our latest programme newsletter. We are busy making preparations for 2017-18 and have been working hard to continue to develop our teaching and programme preparation so that our students feel well supported and challenged - in equal measure! In this update you can meet the programme team, find out about programme developments and you are encouraged to play a full part in the life of the department beyond your face to face teaching by joining research centres and networks.

### ***Introducing your Units***

The programme is supported by experienced and committed colleagues who are research experts in their field. We use research engaged teaching whereby programme tutors use their own research, as well as the latest national and international developments, to work with you on your areas of interest.



Dr Ioanna Bakopoulou will be leading 'Controversial Issues in Special and Inclusive Education' for 2017-18. This unit focuses on theoretical and conceptual frameworks that are used to explain and account for the developments in practice in the field. This unit is important for developing critical thinking skills and critical analysis and you will be supported to ask questions, to debate controversial positions within practice and to learn about international perspectives in relation to Inclusive and Special Education. The unit is excellent preparation for other key skills you will need throughout your studies. Previous students have commented on this unit by saying ***"This was a brilliantly organised and structured course, and was delivered exceptionally well by all staff involved. Our tutor delivered sessions in a way to make them completely riveting, that were sensitively inclusive and far more informative than expected or than I could have hoped for. I looked forward weekly to these sessions. Thank you for a great course!"*** and ***"The whole unit has been amazing - the resources, the tutors, the conference, everything! The Tutor was inspirational, thank you everyone so much!!"***



Dr Jo Rose will be leading the core unit 'Working Together: Professional Collaboration for Inclusive Education'. The use of professional collaboration is vital in meeting the diverse needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. In this unit you will focus on understanding and evaluating the opportunities that professional collaboration can provide. You will critically consider the processes and models of collaboration with colleagues across health, social care and education and this unit is a great

opportunity to learn about the wider processes of supporting learners beyond the classroom. Previous student's feedback about Jo's teaching highlights ***"The final day with outside speakers about collaborative work was incredibly interesting, and really useful. It really consolidated what we had learned. So great that Jo went beyond the minimum expectations for this unit - she didn't have to organise such a cool day to finish off, but I'm so glad she did!"*** and ***"We all got to contribute and reflect on our own practice in relation to our learning. Felt like a Master's class more than other units, and I feel this is the unit I learned the most in. Also enjoyed fact that Jo was clearly really familiar with and passionate about the material. We could acknowledge when things were a bit dry, but Jo was always able to turn it around and make it into something interesting"*** (Collaboration Unit 2014-15)

You can read about Jo's research, teaching and publications [here](#).



Dr Amanda Williams will be leading on the core unit 'How Schools can Respond to Diversity'. The unit aims to make links with the previous units in thinking about the ways that our theoretical and relational positions impact on what we would then see practitioners doing in the classroom. In previous years in this unit we have had 'experts by experience' sharing their good practice, visits to schools and an opportunity to reflect on your own practice and experiences in schools. Previous student feedback on Helen's work this year has said ***"I thought the tutor was a fantastic teacher and put her heart and soul into the unit. We grew as a group and developed together, and she was attentive to our***

***needs and interests throughout. The feedback given over email for the draft was also extensive and very helpful'*** and ***'... is an extremely passionate lecturer and a helpful tutor, she made the module so interesting and managed to keep my attention 10-5pm which is difficult. This was my favourite module of the year.'*** (Counselling Young People and Families Unit Summer 2016)

You can find out more about Amanda's research and publications [here](#)

As well as the three core units outlined above you have the opportunity to develop your own interests in your optional unit choices. GSoE has a range of [optional units for 2017-18](#). Sometimes students opt to take units related to the pathway and sometimes students choose to extend their experience and take optional units outside the pathway. It's your choice and you will have opportunities to discuss these choices with your Personal Tutor when you arrive.

As well as attending face-to-face teaching and learning sessions, you are warmly encouraged to take part in the wider life of the School and take advantage of the excellent research environment. We have a large number of doctoral researchers, some working in the field of Special and Inclusive Education and it would be a good idea to find out about their work. We have active [Research Centres](#) within the School and you should check out their work and you should join to be part of their work. There will be a host of different seminars, conferences and work in progress meetings that you can attend, and as I am sure you can imagine all of these activities are important as you develop your critical reading and writing skills.

### **Checklist of things to do before arriving**

- **Apply for Accommodation** - The Accommodation Office is accepting [applications](#) from offer-holders who are commencing study in September 2017. University accommodation is very popular and the deadline of the end of this month (**31 July 2017**) is fast approaching.
- **Accept your offer** - The earlier we know the more preparation we can do for your arrival. If you have not already done so please [respond](#) to your offer of study.
- **Apply for a Visa (*International Students only*)** - If you are an international applicant now is the time to apply for your Tier 4 visa. Unconditional offer holders who have paid a [deposit](#) can request a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number. The University of Bristol has an excellent [International Office](#) and our colleagues there have vast experience in offering applicants advice and support. Contact details are available on the link above and we would recommend making use of their expertise.
- **Meet Any Conditions of Offer** - We appreciate that conditional offer-holders will meet their conditions at different points throughout the application cycle. Please ensure that as soon as you have the documents to satisfy a condition of offer that you get in touch [with us](#). We will then update your application accordingly.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Graduate School of Education.

With best wishes,

The Special and Inclusive Education Team

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