Degree programme in Contemporary Education

Contemporary Education BA
Contemporary Education ranks in the top 10 in the UK for teaching, assessment and feedback, learning resources and personal development (NSS, 2015)
Education at Brunel University London has its origins in three of the oldest teacher-training colleges in the British Commonwealth – Borough Road College founded by Joseph Lancaster in 1798, the Maria Grey College and Shoreditch College of Education.

Each of these colleges had its own distinctive mission for the training of teachers, the education of women and the academic study of education. They were founded on principles of social justice, and viewed mass education as a tool for social transformation.

You’ll find that sense of commitment still vibrantly alive today in Brunel’s Department of Education, now based in the west of London. Our Contemporary Education course emphasises the importance of education to professions such as teaching, youth and social work, and provides a solid grounding for future qualifications such as QTS.

Society needs great educators. It’s hard work, but so rewarding – ask any of our students.

We hope to see you here soon.

Professor Viv Ellis
Head of Department
Why choose Education?

Inspire a Generation!

Contemporary Education at Brunel University London is an exciting programme that will equip you with the skills, knowledge and experience to support the next generation of children and young people.

If you are thinking about a career in teaching or in an education-related field - perhaps counseling, educational psychology, local authority work, social work, administration and education management - a degree in Education will give you a strong foundation from which to build.

Why choose Education at Brunel?

We believe education, culture and creativity are inextricably linked.

Study Contemporary Education at Brunel and you will gain a deep understanding of the role of education in a diverse society, both in the UK and beyond. The course is designed to equip you with the skills, knowledge and experience to support the next generation of children and young people.

Brunel’s commitment to the study of education is reflected in our expanding portfolio of innovative taught programmes and our increasingly strong research profile. Ours is a forward-looking approach, designed for changing times and to support and inspire students who will become decision-makers in the years to come.

Our schools network is diverse and well-established, which means you will gain highly valued teaching experience in vibrant multicultural schools. Back on campus our friendly academic staff teach in small classes so our programme can be tailored to your individual career aspirations - whether they lie in teaching, youth work or any other child or youth support role.

Profile

Zoe Forsythe
(Contemporary Education BA)

“The course has provided me with the opportunities to increase the educational experience I need to become the best teacher possible, to meet a diverse group of people and to develop my skills.

After Brunel I hope to go into Primary Teaching. The course has enabled me to develop my knowledge and skills in both academic and reflective practice which are both vital for any teacher. The multiple placements have also provided me with a solid foundation of institutional experience that are valued greatly by prospective teaching courses.”
Our course blends theory and practice-based modules meaning students leave with the skills desired by many education-based industries.
Our students undertake placements in a variety of educational environments including; community based organisations, the floating classroom at Groundworks, youth offending institutions, and faith schools.
What we teach

Our Contemporary Education course focuses on three core strands - education, culture and society; education, theory and development, and professional skills and practice.

Here’s a taste of what you can look forward to:

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<th>Level one (year one)</th>
<th>Level two (year two)</th>
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<td>• Understanding Learning</td>
<td>• Human Development: Childhood to Adolescence 2</td>
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<td>• Multi-disciplinary Perspectives</td>
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<td>• Study Skills and Methods of Enquiry</td>
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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure and the University will take all reasonable action to deliver courses and services in accordance with the descriptions set out in it.
How we teach

Learning happens in so many different ways in life, and the same is true of our degree course. You’ll be taught in lectures, seminars, tutorials, via student presentations and in practical sessions.

We offer one assessed professional work experience module per year. You are encouraged to take this as a weekly placement or, in a block over the holidays. When you go on placement you’ll be fully supported by your mentor and tutor.

You will also monitor your own personal development as you acquire study skills, research-related skills and develop your critical thinking. Methods include directed reading, reflective exercises, preparation for your work-based experience, lesson-planning and assessments.

Getting ready for work

When you graduate you’ll take with you a wealth of knowledge, understanding and skills in educational theory, policy and practice, plus lifelong learning techniques to support you as you prepare for further professional or academic qualifications, or take your first steps into an education-related career.

Some students go on to QTS teacher training courses en route to becoming primary teachers. Others apply for places on Brunel’s highly regarded Postgraduate Certificate of Primary Education (PGCE) course.

A Contemporary Education degree from Brunel also equips you with a range of transferable skills including critical reflection, systematic analysis, communication, collaboration, presentation and writing all of which are very attractive to employers across the board.

Jessica Stokes
(Contemporary Education BA)

“I applied as soon as I was finished my level 3 apprenticeship working at a Nursery. I went to a Brunel open day and the lecturers and other staff were so friendly and helpful! The campus looked vibrant and full of different things to do. I felt like the course was so well combined with my workplace, that I am completing my placement there this year! I have always loved children and I’m a creative, active person, so working in an office just wouldn’t suit me, which is why I opted for Education.”
Contemporary Education provides an excellent preparation for professionally qualifying courses such as QTS
**Useful information**

**Accommodation**
As a first year undergraduate you’re guaranteed a room on campus. We accommodate over 4500 students in five different complexes which creates a fantastic live/study atmosphere.

Flats come in different sizes accommodating from 4 to 16, and 30 of our 33 halls have en-suite facilities. The Isambard complex incorporates studio flats for co-habiting couples. Adapted and disabled rooms are available in the Isambard Complex, Mill Hall and Fleming Hall.

All rooms are fully furnished with bed and bedding, a desk, chest of drawers, wardrobe and free wifi. Accommodation costs vary between £104.00 to £132.50 a week (based on 2014-15 costs).

Find out more at [www.brunel.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/accommodation) or take a look at our Flickr account [www.flickr.com/photos/accom](http://www.flickr.com/photos/accom)

**Fees and funding**
For information about fees and scholarships, go to [www.brunel.ac.uk/ugfees](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/ugfees)

**Disability and dyslexia support**
We want you to make the most of life at Brunel and fulfill your potential.

Please get in touch [www.brunel.ac.uk/disability](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/disability)

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**Open days**
We run regular Open Days where you can chat with students and lecturers and explore the campus. Check our website for dates [www.brunel.ac.uk/openday](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/openday)

**Campus tours**
We run Campus Tours where our student ambassadors will show you around campus and answer your questions about student life at Brunel. Check our website for dates.

**Individual visits**
If you can’t make an Open Day, feel free to contact us on openday.booking@brunel.ac.uk and we’ll happily arrange for you to come in and chat with a member of staff.

**Getting here**
Details on how to find us are online at [www.brunel.ac.uk/directions](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/directions)
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure and the University will take all reasonable action to deliver courses and services in accordance with the descriptions set out in it. A contract is made at the point when an applicant accepts an offer from Brunel, meeting any conditions, and the acceptance is communicated to Brunel or the clearing system acting for Brunel, and this contract is confirmed. All students are required, as a condition of registration, to abide by and submit to the University's statutes, ordinances, regulations and rules, which are published on the University’s website (a hard copy is available from the Registry at the Uxbridge address). Note: the information contained within this course brochure is correct at the time of going to print (June 2015).