

## Programme Specification

|           |                             |                                                                            |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Programme title</b>      | PgDip in Specialist Assessment and Teaching for Maths-Related Difficulties |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Awarding institution</b> | Middlesex University                                                       |
| <b>3a</b> | <b>Teaching institution</b> | Real Group Ltd, trading as Dyslexia Action                                 |
| <b>3b</b> | <b>Language of study</b>    | English                                                                    |

|           |                                             |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>4a</b> | <b>Valid intake dates and mode of study</b> |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|

| <b>Mode of Study</b> | <b>Cohort</b> | <b>Delivery Location</b> | <b>Duration</b> |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Part time            | September     | Online                   | 2 years         |
| Part time            | January       | Online                   | 2 years         |
| Part time            | May           | Online                   | 2 years         |

|           |                        |                    |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>4b</b> | <b>Delivery method</b> | Distance Education |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|

|                                                                  |
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| <b>5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body</b> (if applicable) |
|                                                                  |

|           |                                                |  |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Apprenticeship Standard</b> (if applicable) |  |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|--|

|                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7. Final qualification(s) available</b>                                 |
| PgDip in Specialist Assessment and Teaching for Maths-Related Difficulties |
| PgCert in Specialist Teaching for Maths-Related Difficulties               |

|                                        |         |
|----------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>8. Academic year effective from</b> | 2026/27 |
|----------------------------------------|---------|

|                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9. Criteria for admission to the programme</b>                                                                  |
| Prospective students will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An honours degree or equivalent.</li> </ul> |

- Candidates with English as an additional language will need a high level of competence in the use of English, equivalent to a GCSE result of C/4 or an IELTS result of at least 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in all components).
- GCSE Maths grade C/4 or higher (or equivalent).
- Recent and relevant experience (minimum of two years in a teaching/teaching support role).

Applicants who do not fulfil all the requirements above may be considered for 'special entry' if they can demonstrate other relevant academic and professional experience. Such applicants are advised to apply in the first instance and fully explain their experience in their application statement.

Applications for recognition of prior learning are accepted on this programme for up to two-thirds of the total credit needed for an exit award.

## 10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Enable students to develop critical thinking skills, reflective practice and disciplined enquiry to Master's level and to provide students with a thorough theoretical grounding in the complex field of maths-related difficulties including those characterised as dyscalculia.
- Challenge practitioners to reappraise their current practice in the light of their studies and to enhance the life opportunities of people with maths-related difficulties.
- Produce enlightened, reflective practitioners who have the specialist subject knowledge necessary to competently assess, plan intervention programmes and educate learners with maths-related difficulties.
- Develop participants' ability to deal systematically with complex educational issues and to communicate their specialist knowledge to specialist and non-specialist audiences in a range of settings.
- Develop practice using the findings of published research and via critical analysis of the evidence base for assessment paradigms and interventions for maths-related difficulties.
- Develop skills as practitioner researchers.

## 11. Programme learning outcomes

### A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have an advanced knowledge, and systematic understanding, of:

1. A range of research perspectives and factors that can affect numeracy acquisition and cognitive processing.
2. The way in which theory and research contribute to the development of professional practice in maths teaching.

3. The theoretical underpinnings of structured, sequential, cumulative, multisensory tuition for maths-related difficulties.
4. The principles and practice of the psychometric assessment process.
5. Statistical and qualitative analysis and how these can be employed to appraise learner performance on a range of assessment tests.

## **B. Skills**

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

6. Adaptively plan, prepare and deliver a teaching intervention that effectively addresses the individual study requirements of a learner with maths-related difficulties using structured, cumulative multisensory methods.
7. Critically reflect on observations and experiences of professional teaching practice and make links with theories and research relevant to maths-related difficulties.
8. Effectively select, administer and interpret a range of educational tests, and report the findings in a way that is intelligible to a lay person.
9. Competently conduct assessment processes including the compilation of professional assessment reports for a variety of purposes.
10. Perform a consultative role to support practitioners working in the field of maths teaching.

## **12. Teaching/learning methods**

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- Guided study utilising the online learning platform, webinars, online discussion forums, online tutor support.
- Critical analysis of current research.
- The application of new theoretical and professional knowledge to their practice.

Students learn skills through:

- Self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems.
- Acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.
- Assigned tasks within their applied educational setting and coaching.
- Problem based and enquiry-based learning scenarios.

|                                                                                                                                         |          |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| <sup>1</sup> Approx. number of timetabled hours per week (at each level of study, as appropriate), including on-campus and online hours | FT<br>NA | PT<br>0  |
| Approx. number of hours of independent study per week (at each level of study, as appropriate)                                          | FT<br>NA | PT<br>12 |
| Approx. number of hours on placement (including placement, work-based learning or year abroad, as appropriate).                         | FT<br>NA | PT<br>24 |

<sup>1</sup> This information will be used as part of our submission to Discover Uni (previously Unistats).

### **13. Employability**

#### **13a Development of graduate competencies**

These awards are professional postgraduate qualifications that expect students to have already significantly developed the graduate competencies prior to registration through their previous qualifications and employment experience. However, all of these are developed by the programme through the focus on professional development and reflection that is embedded within the modules.

#### **13b Employability development**

This programme aligns to the professional standards expected within the field of SpLD teaching and assessment, and successful completion of any of the exit awards will allow registration with one of the SpLD professional membership bodies.

#### **13c Placement and work experience opportunities (if applicable)**

As part of this programme students must undertake at least 20 hours of specialist maths teaching, as well as at least 4 hours administering psychological assessments.

#### **13d Future careers / progression**

These awards allow graduates to carry out new roles upon completion. The Postgraduate Certificate trains students to become a specialist maths-difficulties teacher, who is able to design and implement interventions for pupils with a relevant SpLD diagnosis.

The Postgraduate Diploma will allow graduates to apply for an Assessment Practice Certificate (APC), which allows them to carry out legally recognised SpLD assessments as well as carry out assessments under the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations for exam access arrangements.

### **14. Assessment methods**

Students are assessed by:

- Written coursework comprising critical analysis, applied practice analysis and reflective analysis.
- Analysis of the needs/problems of current work setting.
- Critique of current theoretical perspectives.
- Critical literature reviews.
- Engagement in problem-based learning scenarios.
- Critique of local policy and practice.
- Action research that includes rigorous design/procedure/ justification.
- Multimedia presentation/seminar with accompanying notes.

### **15. Programme Structure (level of study, modules, credits and progression requirements)**

The programme is only offered as part time and has three entry points per year in September, January and May. The programme consists of four compulsory modules that are studied consecutively; DAPP22-01, DAPP22-02, DAPP22-03, and DAPP22-04. The modules are all 6-months long.

Students who fail to complete the full PgDip, but do successfully complete DAPP22-01 and DAPP22-02, are eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Teaching for Maths-Related Difficulties.

The modules on this programme all relate to PSRB accreditation requirements and are non-compensatable.

## Year 1

### Level 7

| Module Code | Type                                  | Module Title                                                              | Credits at FHEQ Level | Full time /Part time | Semester |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| DAPP22-01   | <i>Compulsory - Non-compensatable</i> | Mathematical Understanding and Teaching Initiatives - Underpinning Theory | 30 at Level 7         | Part time            | NA       |
| DAPP22-02   | <i>Compulsory - Non-compensatable</i> | Maths Teaching and Intervention Planning                                  | 30 at Level 7         | Part time            | NA       |

## Year 2

### Level 7

| Module Code | Type                                  | Module Title                                          | Credits at FHEQ Level | Full time /Part time | Semester |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| DAPP22-03   | <i>Compulsory - Non-compensatable</i> | Psychometric Assessment of Maths-related Difficulties | 30 at Level 7         | Part time            | NA       |
| DAPP22-04   | <i>Compulsory - Non-compensatable</i> | Consulting on Maths-Related Difficulties              | 30 at Level 7         | Part time            | NA       |

#### 16. Programme-specific support for learning

- Support for online learning will be given as this programme is delivered via distance learning.
- Students entering the programme may have a range of recent academic experience, with some continuing students, and some with a gap between their last studies at higher education and/or master's level.
- Advice is available on all the modules to support any student with the study skills they need to undertake the programme including: critical analysis, critical writing and academic referencing.
- Students are also encouraged to think critically about the area of special educational needs relevant to their particular educational setting.
- Technical support for the virtual learning platform and any general technology support issues is provided by the Real Group IT department.
- Pastoral support is also provided by the tutor team who ensure each student's needs are treated according to their individual situation.

#### 17. HECos code(s)

Specialist Teaching: 101085  
Psychometrics: 101383

#### 18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)

None

#### 19. University Regulations

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations: [Policies | Middlesex University](#)

The programme is accredited by SASC and all course outcomes required by SASC must be met. These requirements have been designed to be met through the learning outcomes of these modules. However, due to the level of critical understanding required of these elements this requires these modules to have a minimum pass mark of 50%.

#### 20. Reference points

- Middlesex University regulations. These can be found at: <https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/>
- The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, Second Edition (2024) <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/qualifications-framework>
- Master's Degree Characteristics Statement - (2020) <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/characteristics-statements/characteristics-statement-masters-degrees>
- SpLD Assessment Standards Committee (SASC), APC Course Outcomes <https://www.sasc.org.uk/approved-spld-qualifications/apc-course-approval/>
- SpLD Assessment Standards Committee (SASC), Guidance on Assessment of Mathematics Difficulties and Dyscalculia 2025

**21. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of learning**

In addition to the standard methods for reviewing and evaluating the quality of learning, this programme is reviewed annually as part of Real Group's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQi) Strategy.

The programme is also accredited by SASC and undergoes periodic reaccreditation.

**22. Other information *(if applicable)***

- Access to a computer with word processing and suitable internet connection is a requirement for online study.
- The module DAPP22-02 requires students to have access to an appropriate setting to carry out teaching interventions and to at least one suitable learner to work with.
- The modules DAPP22-03 and DAPP22-04 require students to have access to a range of psychometric tests, an appropriate setting to carry out psychometric testing and a range of suitable learners to work with.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

## 23. Curriculum map for PgDip in Specialist Assessment and Teaching for Maths-Related Difficulties

### 23a Programme learning outcomes

#### Knowledge and understanding

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A1 | On completion of this programme the successful student will have an advanced knowledge, and systematic understanding, of a range of research perspectives and factors that can affect numeracy acquisition and cognitive processing.                        |
| A2 | On completion of this programme the successful student will have an advanced knowledge, and systematic understanding, of the way in which theory and research contribute to the development of professional practice in maths teaching.                     |
| A3 | On completion of this programme the successful student will have an advanced knowledge, and systematic understanding, of the theoretical underpinnings of structured, sequential, cumulative, multisensory tuition for maths-related difficulties.          |
| A4 | On completion of this programme the successful student will have an advanced knowledge, and systematic understanding, of the principles and practice of the psychometric assessment process.                                                                |
| A5 | On completion of this programme the successful student will have an advanced knowledge, and systematic understanding, of Statistical and qualitative analysis and how these can be employed to appraise learner performance on a range of assessment tests. |

#### Skills

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B6  | On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to adaptively plan, prepare and deliver a teaching intervention that effectively addresses the individual study requirements of a learner with maths-related difficulties using structured, cumulative multisensory methods. |
| B7  | On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to critically reflect on observations and experiences of professional teaching practice and make links with theories and research relevant to maths-related difficulties.                                                    |
| B8  | On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to effectively select, administer and interpret a range of educational tests, and report the findings in a way that is intelligible to a lay person.                                                                         |
| B9  | On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to competently conduct assessment processes including the compilation of professional assessment reports for a variety of purposes.                                                                                          |
| B10 | On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to perform a consultative role to support practitioners working in the field of maths teaching.                                                                                                                              |

**Programme learning outcomes**

Highest level achieved by all graduates

| A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | B6 | B7 | B8 | B9 | B10 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7   |

**23b Mapping by level of study and module**

| Module Title                                                                     | Module Code by Level of study | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | B6 | B7 | B8 | B9 | B10 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| <b>Mathematical Understanding and Teaching Initiatives - Underpinning Theory</b> | DAPP22-01                     | X  | X  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| <b>Maths Teaching and Intervention Planning</b>                                  | DAPP22-02                     |    |    | X  |    |    | X  | X  |    |    |     |
| <b>Psychometric Assessment of Maths-related Difficulties</b>                     | DAPP22-03                     |    |    |    | X  |    |    |    | X  |    |     |
| <b>Consulting on Maths-Related Difficulties</b>                                  | DAPP22-04                     |    |    |    |    | X  |    |    |    | X  | X   |