

## POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE: AUTISM STUDIES

This Postgraduate Certificate in Autism Studies is offered by Stranmillis University College and delivered in partnership with Middletown Centre for Autism. This is a one-year course for educational professionals and consists of three modules, each worth 20 CAT Points. The Middletown Centre for Autism is a cross-border organisation established by Department of Education and Skills (Ireland) and the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) to support the promotion of excellence throughout Northern Ireland and Ireland in the education of children and young people with autism.

The autism-specific modules are delivered by a specialist team including staff from Stranmillis and Middletown, plus teachers with hands on experience of key school-based roles for example: SENCO's, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists. All will deliver lectures on related topics of use in an educational setting. Please note this course is taught fully online.

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING IN AUTISM** (EDC7063)

The module examines the distinct thinking styles in autism and provides strategies for addressing the learning needs of students with autism. This includes models of cognitive processing and their impact on the student's experience of the world; strategies of formal and informal assessment of cognitive processing; and the use of assessment to individualise educational planning. Students will be provided with strategies to address differences in learning and help students with autism engage with the curriculum in a meaningful way. All teaching and learning strategies will be delivered with a practical focus and within the context of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

### **SENSORY, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING** (EDC7065)

The module examines and extends understanding of how sensory and emotional differences impact on students with autism and explores how the autistic student experiences the classroom and school environment. The sensory elements of the module address the neurological base of sensory difficulties in autism and explore individual sensory systems and how they are affected by autism. The module looks at practical strategies to address sensory issues within the classroom and the school environment, and how teachers can use sensory strategies to promote access to the curriculum. The module also looks at anxiety management within the school and classroom environment; common triggers and anxiety escalation for students with autism and proactive anxiety and emotional regulation strategies to prevent escalation of anxiety and promote emotional wellbeing.

### **SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN AUTISM** (EDC7064)

The module explores the components of an 'autism competent environment' and how these can be implemented and promoted from the classroom, to the school and to the whole school community. This includes strategies for classroom management, tailoring the environment and the best use of resources

to promote engagement with the curriculum. Working on relationships and fostering communication between all school staff and positive communication with parents, family members and external agencies will also be explored, as well as building whole-school strategies for the development of a positive and inclusive school culture. All strategies explored are based on research and provide students with practical strategies and examples on the education of students with autism.





## CRITERIA

Students who have accumulated 60 points at M-Level may graduate with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education: Autism Studies. Students who wish to continue with postgraduate study can transition to the Master of Education (MEd) Education Studies. To be awarded an MEd Education Studies students must complete 60 Cat points gained from the Autism studies modules, plus a further 60 CAT points from any other specialist option including Research methods. In addition, students must complete a dissertation. The total CAT points needed for a full master's programme is 180 CAT points.

## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

For full fee information please visit:  
[www.stran.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-finance/](http://www.stran.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-finance/)

Scan for more information:



For further information please contact:

**Louise O'Sullivan**  
Stranmillis University College  
Stranmillis Road  
Belfast  
BT9 5DY

T: **+44 (0) 28 9038 4327**  
E: **masters@stran.ac.uk**

**stran.ac.uk**