University of Essex

Online

Module code	EDP	NQF level	5
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

Educational Psychology

Module description

In this module students will consider how theory and research evidence from the core approaches to psychology (cognitive, individual differences, social and biological) can be applied within the field of educational psychology.

Students will develop their skills in the critical evaluation of research from a broad range of paradigms utilised within the applied Psychologies, which will inform their thinking about key debates within educational psychology.

This module aims to:

Develop students':

- understanding of the role of the educational psychologist, including the different stakeholders with whom they work, and the different levels at which they work in order to facilitate change
- critical thinking about the nature of evidence within the context of applied psychology
- knowledge and skills in applying key psychological theories in order to understand real world problems
- critical thinking about the key debates in educational psychology

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- understand the key aspects of the role of the educational psychologist within an ecological systems framework
- critically evaluate key psychological theories as applied to the field of educational psychology in order to comment on key debates in a way that would be useful to various stakeholders (for example, pupils, teachers and parents)
- critically evaluate a breadth of research methodologies utilised within applied educational psychology
- apply theory and research evidence in order to aid understanding of a real-life problem through the analysis of a case study

Syllabus

- The role of the educational psychologist within an ecological systems framework
- Issues regarding the application of theory and evidence to practice in applied educational psychology
- The historical context of inclusion
- Assessing skills for learning
- What is dyslexia?
- Understanding behaviour in the classroom
- Education for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Understanding bullying

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Learning and teaching methods

The pedagogical approach for this module is informed through the principles of collaborative enquiry, constructionism and scientific apprenticeship.

Collaborative enquiry is supported through our internet-mediated learning platform that aims to develop a learning community and support dialogue and collaboration between students. This is encouraged through online peer discussion and debate to construct a unique learning experience that enhances students' subject understanding through social interactions and empowers them to explain their understandings, and receive feedback from tutors and peers.

Learning through scientific apprenticeship will take place through the integration of scientific knowledge, principles and experience, and it's application to educational psychology through analysis of a case study.

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the University of Essex Online learning platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly online question and answer sessions (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility).

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students.

The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students will be given direction on required and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Collaborative learning question: Post a 500-word response to a tutor posed question. Respond to two of your peer's posts (300 words per response). Your answers must be evidence based and supported with psychological literature	1,100 words	Continuous	30%
Case study	2,000 words (not including tables)	End of module	70%

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