



National Association of

Virtual School Heads



Postgraduate study in professional practice the education of care experienced children

2020-2021

Flexible part-time programme for busy professionals interested in the education of care experienced children



Stand-alone masters level module

30 credits accepted on to the full MA Professional Practice course within 5 years of completion

Teaching starts in September 2020 and will take place online and at convenient locations in London and Manchester, supported by online tutorials and resources.

Who's it for?

This course will be of interest to people working with care experienced children including foster carers, adoptive parents and carers, teachers, social workers and virtual school heads and team members. Anyone with a first degree can apply. You do not need to be a member of NAVSH.

What will I learn?

The courses will give you an overview of research findings on the education of care experienced children and attachment, trauma and learning. You will be able to specialise in areas of interest to you.

How will I be taught?

- Face-to-face group sessions
- Webinars
- Distance one to one tutorial support
- Personal study and literature research
- Online learning

Hear what previous students have to say

Go to the NAVSH website www.navsh.org.uk (click on 'Support') and listen to the podcast of students talking about their experience of the course.

Stand-alone module content

A study of the theory and practice in the education of care experienced children

Preparatory work

We'll ask you to undertake some reading and written work during the summer to get you ready for the course and to introduce you to some of the key concepts and areas of research around the education of care experienced children.

Working at postgraduate level.

We start the academic year with webinars to welcome you to the course and explain how to use the online resources and the support available for you as you work through the course. We'll also describe the academic expectations of postgraduate work including reading, writing and referencing.

The education of care experienced children

We hold our first face to face sessions in London and Manchester where we review and discuss some of the key research in this area and how to analyse it at postgraduate level. The tutor will set your first assignment and explain the requirements to pass. The face-to-face session will be followed up with webinars expanding on some of the key themes and you will be able to access tuition support for your first assignment.

Attachment, trauma and learning

We hold our second face to face sessions where we look at some of the current thinking and criticism around attachment, trauma and learning. Your tutor will set the second assignment and again, these sessions will be followed up with webinars.

Assessment (30 credit total)

- Analysis of current research on the education of care experienced children (3750 words)
- Analysis of current research on attachment, trauma and learning. (3750 words)

Timeline

March - mid May 2020

- Applications open

May - June

- Places confirmed by NAVSH

June - August

- Preparatory work

July

- Invoices and contracts issued

September

- Students given access to Bath Spa online resources
- Introductory webinars

October

- Face to face day 1 – the education of care experienced children
- Follow up webinars
- Assignment 1 set for submission by January 2021

January 2021

- Face to face day 2 – attachment, trauma and learning
- Follow up webinars
- Assignment 2 set for submission by April 2021

August 2021

- Module complete
- NAVSH scholarships awarded

How much work is there?

You should be able to commit to around half a day to a day a week of private study in term time and several days during school holidays. You will need to think about how you will fit this around your other commitments.

Key information

Qualifications

Once you have passed the assignments you will receive an academic transcript that states that you completed a 30-credit module called EDU7113-30 Independent Study. You can count these credits towards the full MA Professional Practice course if you do so within 5 years of completion of the module. The credits may also be accepted for further study at other higher education institutions.

Tuition

NAVSH has commissioned Richard Parker to lead the course content. Richard has been a youth worker, a researcher, and a secondary school teacher. He worked for many years in local government within education and children's services. In 2010 he joined Bath Spa University as Director of the Centre for Education Policy in Practice, developing a range of projects including Emotion Coaching, In Care, In School, and Attachment Aware Schools. He is now a Visiting Research Fellow at the university and is working on a critical study of the impact of attachment-aware approaches in schools. Richard is a trustee of the Attachment Research Community.

NAVSH invites leading experts to present webinars. In previous years presenters have included Professor Judy Sebba, Professor David Berridge, Professor Sonia Jackson and Dr Janet Rose.



Applications and costs

How to apply

The application form is on the on the NAVSH website www.navsh.org.uk (click on 'Support'). Please complete this by Friday May 15th 2020.

NAVSH will then advise you of the next steps which will include applying to register as a student at Bath Spa University. NAVSH will also send you a contract and an invoice. The contract is available on the NAVSH website. Please note that the contract includes a sliding scale of reimbursements if a student withdraws from the course after September 1st 2020.

Please note that we need to recruit at least 20 students for the course to be viable. We will let you know by the end of May 2020 if we have recruited enough numbers. If the course is oversubscribed NAVSH will score each application and maintain a waiting list.

How much does it cost?

The stand-alone module costs £1900 which is payable to NAVSH. This includes:

- Tutorial support, assessment and online resources from Bath Spa University.
- Face to face tuition and webinar fees.
- Venue and catering costs (but not travel/accommodation).
- Administration costs

The fee is payable either as a one-off lump sum payable by August 28th, 2020 OR in three equal instalments of payable by August 28th, October 30th and December 31st 2020. Payment by instalments is only available for students paying as private individuals.

The NAVSH Scholarship for postgraduate study

Once completed, students can apply to NAVSH for a £500 scholarship if they:

- Submit the two assignments to Bath Spa University and which receive pass marks
- Share their learning with others, for example through a webinar or at a short workshop at the annual NAVSH conference

Progression to a master's degree and postgraduate certificate in professional practice with Bath Spa University

Once you have obtained your 30 credits from the stand-alone course you may wish to apply to take a Master's degree or a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice. The 30 credits from the stand-alone module also may be accepted for study or qualifications at another higher education institution. You will need a total of 180 credits for the MA and 60 for the Postgraduate Certificate. You may be able to obtain 30 or 60 credits from your prior learning and/or experience – see below for more information.

You can obtain more credits in the following stages:

Stage 1. (MA or Postgraduate Certificate).

You take one or two of the following modules:

- SEN and Inclusion:Autism and Spectrum (EDU7121-30). This is 30 credits and includes online learning and two face to face Saturdays in Bath.
- Investigating and Developing Practice (EDU7127-30) This is 30 credits and is all online. In this module you undertake a critical independent study of several areas related to educational practice in schools. You have a choice of areas to engage with.
- You may choose other modules, but there will be weekly face-to-face sessions which you will need to attend in Bath. See the Bath Spa MA in Professional Practice web-page for more information (link below).

Stage 2. (MA only)

You then take two short modules on research methodology:

- Research and the Professional Part 1 (EDU7102-15) and Research and the Professional Part 2 (EDU7103-15). Each module is 15 credits, total 30 credits. Both are taught online with tutor support. You could exit here with a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice (120 credits).

Stage 3. (MA only)

You then proceed to the dissertation which is 60 credits.

This is taught online with tutor support. This brings your total to 180 for which you will receive a Master's degree in Professional Practice.

Full details of the Master's degree in Professional Practice at Bath Spa University are here: <https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/courses/pg-professional-practice/>. Please note that the fee given on the website is for the full 180 credits for the 2020-2021 academic year. The fee will be lower if you have credits from the stand-alone module and prior learning/experience. Please note that fees are reviewed annually by the University.

Accreditation of prior learning and experience

You may be able to obtain 30 or 60 credits from your prior learning and/or experience.

Accreditation of Prior certificated Learning (APL) can be offered if you have successfully completed previous Level 7 modules at another university within five years of the start of your MA studies.

It is also possible to gain accreditation for other kinds of professional developments by compiling an independent study portfolio of professional development (APEL – Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning). Every student's experience is different so please email admissions@bathspa.ac.uk with queries about your own circumstances.

Applying and paying for the Master's degree at Bath Spa University

Students apply to NAVSH and pay NAVSH for the stand-alone course, but for further study you apply directly to Bath Spa University yourself and the fee is paid by you or your LA/sponsor to the university. The NAVSH board of trustees will be delighted if people do go on to further study and they'd like to know if you do apply and whether NAVSH can support you in any way. Just contact NAVSH at info@navsh.org.uk.

For more information

Go to the NAVSH website www.navsh.org.uk (click on 'Support'). Listen to the podcast of former participants talking about their experience of the course. You'll also find this flyer, the terms and conditions and the application form on the website.

Any queries? Email postgrad@navsh.org.uk.

www.navsh.org.uk

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