

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Aim and Title	MA Youth and Community work
Intermediate Awards Available	PG Cert / PG Diploma
Teaching Institution(s)	University of East London
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	N/A
UEL Academic School	Cass School of Education and Communities
UCAS Code	
Professional Body Accreditation	National Youth Agency (JNC) professional qualification
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Youth and Community Work (2009)
Additional Versions of this Programme	N/A
Date Specification Last Updated	March 2019

Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- provide professional formation for students wishing to gain JNC qualification in Youth Work.
- encourage students to engage critically with theory, policy and practice issues relating to youth work
- provide students with the tools to plan and carry out in depth practitioner enquiry in relation to a topic of interest to them within their field work practice.
- provide a programme which supports participants to meet their professional development needs and interests with academic and practical rigour
- provide opportunities for professionals in the field of young people's services to develop their professional knowledge and understanding in relation to their current and developing roles in the workplace

What you will learn:

On completing the MA in Youth and Community Work programme, students will be able to:

Knowledge

1. demonstrate critical analysis and evaluation of theory, policy and practice issues

relating to Youth and Community Work

2. critically engage with research and current debate on leadership, professionalism and accountability in the provision and management of children and young people's services.
3. demonstrate critical awareness of the underlying assumptions of a range of epistemological and methodological approaches to research and scholarship

Thinking Skills

4. demonstrate critical awareness of current debates in the field of youth and community work
5. develop the skills and critical understanding of the reflective practitioner in order to create programmes of personal and social education

Subject-based Practical Skills

6. experience significant and challenging opportunities for professional development through youth and community fieldwork placements
7. critically evaluate the impact of youth policy and the restructuring of children and young people's services on youth provision and professional identity of youth workers
8. challenge oppressive and discriminatory discourses and practices within a value base of social justice and human rights

Skills for Life and Work

In addition to meeting the Learning Outcomes above students will be expected to use their placement experience to demonstrate competence in the following five key areas in the National Occupational Standards for Youth Work:

9. develop responsive intervention strategies aimed at facilitating the personal, social and educational development of young people
10. engage in the development and promotion of equality and diversity interventions to safeguard young people's interests and welfare
11. work collaboratively within inter-professional networks
12. contribute to the development and implementation of youth work strategies and interventions
13. develop leadership and management skills in line with the ethical principles of youth work

Learning and Teaching

We believe that students tend to learn most effectively through experience, reflection and dialogue and you will see this reflected in the programme modules and the style we adopt in lectures and seminars, reflecting the principles of participation, anti-discriminatory practice and empowerment. Lecturers will introduce key concepts and theory but ultimately it is you, the student, who will decide how best to apply these in a professional context, with the lecturer's support, especially through the field work practice (placement modules).

This is an intensive programme of study both academically and in terms of professional skills development. Hopefully you will be challenged and supported to question your own and others assumptions about society, young people's place in it and how youth and community work can be organised and delivered to improve the lives of young people.

Knowledge is developed through

- Guided reading
- Tutorial support and supervision
- Lectures
- Peer learning
- Online discussions and activities

Thinking skills are developed through

- Group work
- Lectures
- Reflective activities with feedback

Practical skills are developed through

- Online discussions and activities
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Placements

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Placements
- Planning activities with feedback
- Project work

Regular weekly lectures are undertaken in conjunction with fieldwork placements, which form the basis for theory and practice integration. These cover key themes explored under other core modules and consider their impact on practice. The lectures also focus on fieldwork practice issues emerging from student experiences and invite them to discuss any issues or concerns and share ideas relating to their placement settings. This engenders dialogical teaching and learning relationships within 'communities of practice'. Students will be encouraged to theorise their practice and to engage with and interrogate relevant literature in light of experience of working with young people and communities.

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Reflective writing
- Article reviews
- Research
- Essays
- Reports
- Case studies

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Reflective writing
- Article reviews
- Research
- Essays
- Reports
- Case studies

Practical skills are assessed by

- Practical reports
- Reflective writing
- Professional work placement assessment

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Essays
- Reports
- Case studies

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Programme Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme.

Work or Study Placements

Students undertake a total of 400 hours of fieldwork practice completed over two semesters as part of two different modules; ED7701 and ED7702.

In ED7701 Field Work practice 1. this amounts to 200 hours completed over twelve weeks (equivalent to 16 hours per week). Similarly ED7702 fieldwork practice 2. is a placement of twelve weeks, again equivalent to 16 hours per week to a total 200 hours. Part time students take their field work modules in their 2nd year of study.

Please note the students are expected to secure a fieldwork practice agency of their choice at the start of the academic year, but we will help you to do this. We have a pool of suitable placements which we make available to students including JNC qualified youth workers willing to act as mentors once an offer of a place on the programme is made. The field work module leader will oversee the fieldwork practice and ensure that students are adequately supported by the mentor.

Whilst on placement students are expected to undertake face-to-face youth work with young people between the ages of 13 to 19 for *at least* 50% of their fieldwork practice. The remaining 50% must be spent fulfilling a variety of youth work related duties commensurate with the job description of a Youth Worker.

Students are required to undertake fieldwork practice in two different settings (different in each placement) in order to experience working within different youth work context. If Students are employed full-time in a youth work setting they will be required to undertake their second placement in an alternative team or project from their habitual work setting.

Programme Structure

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Programmes are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this programme:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
7	ED7700	Policy, Theory and Practice in Youth Work	30	Core	N
7	ED7701	Field Work Practice 1	30	Core	N
7	ED7702	Field Work Practice 2	30	Core	N

7	ED7703	Community Development, Theory and Practice	30	Core	N
7	ED7704	Applied Research Project	60	Core	N

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the programme team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the programme module structure:

All modules on the MA in Youth and Community Work are core. Students complete two 30 credit modules per semester for full-time students and one module per semester for part-time students. The order in which students complete the programme will be determined by the point at which they enter the programme.

The MA in Youth and Community Work consists of four core modules and an Applied Research Project.

*A core module for a programme is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a programme is a module selected from a range of modules available on the programme.

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 180 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Programme Specific Regulations

This programme is validated by the National Youth Agency as a National (JNC) youth work qualification. Students are expected to develop their understanding of and adhere to the *Ethical Code for Youth Work* <https://nya.org.uk/resource/ethical-conduct-youth-work/>

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

PG

The duration of this programme is one calendar year full-time if enrolment is in September, and two calendar years part-time. For January enrolment, the duration becomes 15 months full time, and 27 months part-time.

The time limit for completion of a programme is six years after first enrolment on the programme.

Further Information

More information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The programme handbook
- Module guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- Cass School of Education and Communities web pages
- National Youth Agency <https://nya.org.uk/careers-youth-work/validation/>

All UEL programmes are subject to thorough programme approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our programmes by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

UEL does not cover the cost of travel to and from field work placements.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

N/A