

Programme specification

Foundation Certificate Trauma and Attachment for Foster Carers

<i>School:</i>	School of Education
<i>Entry in:</i>	September 2017
<i>Awarding Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery Location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit Awards:</i>	None
<i>UCAS Code / GTTR / Other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>	Not applicable
<i>Mode/s of Study:</i>	Part-time one year
<i>Language of Study:</i>	English

Introduction and Special Features

This programme has been jointly designed by City of York Council's Children's Social Care and the University. It aims to provide access to a University Foundation Certificate in Trauma and Attachment for Foster Carers. The programme will be delivered by School of Education staff and will be quality assured and accredited by York St John University. The special features of the programme are that it will be delivered on an evening, part time over a year to meet the needs of the students (Foster Carers). A particular strength of this vocationally-orientated programme is the work related learning; learning which takes place in the workplace should enable you to apply your academic learning in their working context within both modules. All modular content and assignments have been designed to balance intellectual and practical skills, and to enable you to relate your developing understanding of subject knowledge to context-specific situations. On successful completion of this course you could be interviewed for the Foundation Degree Programmes (Working with Children and Young People/Supporting Learning).

Admissions Criteria

In addition to the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study, you:

- must be a new or existing City of York Council Foster Carer

The programme meets the specific educational and training needs of City of York Council. Level 3 enhance widening participation opportunities for mature students who have no previous experience of HE study.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

Programme Aims

- To give Foster Carers an understanding of the impact of trauma and attachment issues on Looked After Children;
- to enhance the quality of their Foster Care to meet their child's developmental needs.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 3 / FHEQ L3

- 1) Explain the impact of early experiences of trauma and attachment issues on Looked After Children and how this may impact on development;
- 2) Apply your learning to enhance the quality of your Foster Care;
- 3) Reflect on your role as Foster Carer.

Programme Structure

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Modules for the Programme

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
OGV100	3	Semester 1*	Understanding Trauma and Attachment	20	CP
OGV101	3	Semester 2**	Caring for Children with Trauma and Attachment Issues	20	CA

***C**: Compulsory, **CP**: Compulsory for progression to the next level, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

Normally start dates to be agreed with the Local Authority

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

This programme has a number of distinctive features, notably it is developed in consultation with City of York Council's Children's Social Care and supports the professional status of Foster Carers. It aims to give Foster Carers an understanding of the impact of trauma and attachment issues on Looked After Children, thereby enhancing the quality of their Foster Care.

The two modules bring together experts in the field of trauma and attachment who have a wealth of experience of dealing with issues associated with fostering. The modules also bring together a group of adults who, through their experience in roles as Foster Carers, have collectively had to deal with a wide range of issues associated with this. It follows a social constructivist model of learning in which you as students can share your experiences with each other and with your tutors and set those examples against a strong theoretical underpinning, which will shed light on their experiences.

These modules formalise the learning undertaken on Local Authority courses and provide meaningful accreditation. The experienced tutors are used to working with a range of learners, some of whom have not been engaged with formal learning or training for some time. The strength of such a group is that the participants are knowledgeable and bring a wealth of experience to the learning situation. The skill of the tutor is to bring out that collective knowledge through a variety of approaches, including group discussions, seminars, lectures, case studies and role-play. This gives confidence to the learners, so that they can relate theory to practice and build on their knowledge, skill and experience.

The assessment of the first module, which requires formative learning entries (short reflections or learning points) leads to the submission of a summative learning journal which

will capture the learning outcomes.. The second module which requires a group discussion and report on their practice offers complementary opportunities for the sharing of practice and is entirely consistent with the pedagogy. These encourage students to begin to engage with related theory and apply this learned theory in their role as Foster Carers.

The modules are taken by students who are themselves Foster Carers and, therefore, ideally placed to reflect on their role and relate theory to practice. This dialectic is encouraged by way of interactive teaching sessions and, most importantly, by the use of journals. You will be given guidance and stimulus material to enable you to produce in-depth reflections and accounts. Journals supported by on-going reflection are time-consuming to put together and this combined with reading and other activities justifies the time allocation for OGV100. The programme is designed to provide you with learning opportunities to enable you to integrate knowledge, experience and skills in the workplace. Access to Moodle will also be provided.

Progression and Graduation Requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]

Further Information

Recruitment will be carried out by City of York Council's Children's Social Care. Responsibility for checking the candidates' qualifications and experience as Foster Carers will be the responsibility of York St John University and that of Children's Social Care within City of York Council.

Date written / revised: Nov 2012 QSC approved. Reviewed: September 2014 (no change)

Programme ran in 2013 only due to York CC funding.

Minor amendments made 1.6.16 (QSC PASP approved) to run again from 2016/17.

Updated July 2017