



St. Angela's College, Sligo
Coláiste San Aingeal, Sligeach
A College of NUI Galway

CENTRE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

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St. Angela's College

St. Angela's College, Sligo, a College of the National University of Ireland, Galway, is a provider of University-level education and research in the North West of Ireland. As a College within the wider National University network we are a dynamic, fast-growing educational institution that recognises our strategic location in Sligo and the North West. We are fully responsive to the local/regional needs and aware of our contribution not only to University-level education but to the social and economic development of the region.

The College is founded on over 400 years of education tradition. This is a tradition which values both Christian ideals and academic excellence. As a College within the wider National University of Ireland network there is a strong community environment which is recognised for its friendly, caring, atmosphere characterised by respect for the individual.

St. Angela's College, Sligo, has a well-deserved reputation for delivering high quality programmes at pre-undergraduate, undergraduate and postgraduate levels across the academic departments of Education, Nursing and Health Studies, Home Economics. Although established as a College of Education for Home Economics Teachers in recent years the College has expanded far beyond its original remit and currently its profile of academic programmes of study also includes: Education, Special Educational Needs, Nursing & Health Studies, Theology, Food and Consumer Studies, Science, Irish, Economics and Social Studies.



Studying at St. Angela's College

Students at St. Angela's College, Sligo are afforded a high quality of University education with small classes, state of the art resources within a strong community environment while being given the wider opportunities of being registered students at NUI Galway.

The landmark new Àras Michael Building is home to the well-equipped McKeown Library which has developed an extensive range of publications in the area of Special Educational Needs.

The overall aim of programmes provided by Centre for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity (CSENID) is to enhance professional knowledge and develop career opportunities. They are designed to provide a student-centred, flexible, accessible, coherent framework for personal, professional and academic development of participants. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their own work practices and to link their study to their working environment.



Special Educational Needs (SEN) Programmes at St. Angela's College

The Centre for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity (CSENID) at St. Angela's College provides a range of pre-undergraduate, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes as well as shorter professional development courses and standalone on-line blended learning modules. The work of CSENID includes:

- Curriculum planning;
- Programme delivery;
- Research;
- Resource Development.

CSENID offers the following programmes:

- MA/Postgraduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- MA/Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate in SEN (Autistic Spectrum Disorders)
- MA/Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate in Professional Studies in SEN
- MA/Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate in Specific Learning Difficulties
- Certificate in SEN for Special Needs Assistants

CSENID offers a range of standalone on-line blended learning modules. These include:

- Adult, Disadvantage and Intercultural Education
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs)
- Challenging Behaviour
- Educational Research Methods
- General Learning Disabilities
- Inclusion for Learning
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Specific Learning Difficulties 1 (Communication, Speech and Language Difficulties and Dyslexia)
- Specific Learning Difficulties 11 (Dyscalculia, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder)

Successful completion of standalone online modules amasses 15 European credit transfers (ECTS) at Level 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). All Postgraduate Certificate programmes have a 30 ECTS weighting and all Postgraduate Diploma programmes have a 60 ECTS weighting. These programmes are accredited by NUI Galway.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

LEVEL 9

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The aim of the programme is to provide substantial theoretical and practical continuing professional development for teachers working with students with special educational needs and for teachers working in recognised mainstream and other educational settings with those students requiring learning support teaching.

PROGRAMME CONTENT & STRUCTURE

The Programme runs annually from September to May and involves block release for a total of 8 weeks over the academic year, 4 Saturdays of face-to-face tuition and distance learning, together with supervised work in the teachers' own schools/centres. The programme also includes supported ongoing study throughout the year using a variety of modes of delivery. The programme structure is comprised of four core modules and a specialist study module. For the specialist study module participants can choose two areas from the following range: Specific Learning Disabilities; Autistic Spectrum Disorders; Adult/ Disadvantage/ Intercultural Education; and Challenging Behaviour.

Normally, lectures take place at St. Angela's College, Sligo. Students are required to undertake a one-week placement in a school/centre other than their own. Students complete the remainder of the year in their own school/centre.

PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

Participants will be assessed on the basis of full attendance at the programme venue, successful completion of selected tasks and written assignments, supervision of their work in schools/centres and final assessment.

SUBSTITUTION

Substitution, which must be approved by the managerial authority of the school/VEC will be allowed. The substitution must be deemed necessary to cover the approved periods of absence of the teacher from teaching duty for attendance at the course.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES AND PROGRESSION

The programme will develop the skills necessary to affect whole school collaboration and implement inclusive practice in SEN and is a progression pathway (Year 1) to a Master of Arts in SEN. See Page 13 for further details.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Programme is for registered teachers who are currently working as Learning Support/Resource teachers in recognised Primary Schools including Special Schools and recognised Post-Primary Schools. Applications are also invited from qualified teachers employed by VECs as literacy/numeracy tutors in Youthreach, Community Projects or in the Prison Service.

Intake: Annual

Application: The Department of Education and Skills provides an application form as part of the relevant Circular entitled Postgraduate Diploma of Continuing Professional Development in Special educational Needs for Teachers. This Circular is issued by the Department annually, normally in Spring each year.

Duration: 1 Year full-time

Contact: Centre for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity
Education Department,
St. Angela's College,
Lough Gill,
Co. Sligo.
Tel. 071 9195550/071 9195551/0719195552
Email: education@stangelas.nuigalway.ie

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS – ASDS) LEVEL 9

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This programme is for registered teachers who hold a post currently funded by the Department of Education and Skills and who are currently working with students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) or will be working with students with ASDs for the duration of the Programme in recognised Primary schools including Special Schools and recognised Post-Primary Schools. The programme is designed specifically to assist teachers in meeting the learning and teaching needs of students with ASDs. Potential applicants must therefore have a teaching role in relation to students with ASDs. The programme is offered and assessed by CSENID and the Special Education Support Service (SESS) in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills (DES).

PROGRAMME CONTENT & STRUCTURE

Students may choose to access the programme at either Certificate or Diploma and participants will not necessarily be required to complete individual modules sequentially. However all elements of all modules must be completed within a consecutive two-year period. The programme will require from a minimum of eighteen days (Certificate) to thirty-seven days (Diploma) release from school over the two-year period. As a result of accreditation of prior learning (APL) for individual teachers the number of days release required may also be reduced. In addition, attendance on at least five Saturdays at a central venue will be a requirement for successful applicants.

Postgraduate Certificate Modules are:

- Understanding Autistic Spectrum Disorders (Core Module), and
- Assessment, Planning, Applications and Curricular Access, or
- Teaching Approaches for Students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

Postgraduate Diploma Modules are:

- Understanding Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Assessment, Planning, Applications and Curricular Access
- Teaching Approaches for Students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Understanding and managing the behaviour of children on the autism spectrum

PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

Participants will be assessed on the basis of full attendance at the programme, successful completion of selected tasks and written assignments, in addition to their work in schools. Consideration will be given to applications for accreditation for prior learning (APL) with regard to certain course elements provided by the SESS.

Class visits from SESS and St. Angela's personnel for the purposes of support provision and practicum assessment respectively are an essential component of the programme.

SUBSTITUTION

Substitution, which must be approved by the managerial authority of the school/VEC will be allowed. The substitution must be deemed necessary to cover the approved periods of absence of the teacher from teaching duty for attendance at the course.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES AND PROGRESSION

This is a specialist qualification and will enable graduates to effectively meet the needs of students with ASDs. It is a progression pathway to a Master of Arts in SEN (ASDs) – see page 13 for further details.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Programme is for registered teachers who are currently working with students with ASDs or will be working with students with ASDs for the duration of the Programme in recognised Primary Schools, including Special Schools and Post-Primary Schools.

Intake: Annual

Application: The Department of Education and Skills provides an application form as part of the relevant Circular entitled *PostGraduate Certificate/Diploma Programme of Continuing Professional Development in Special Educational Needs (Autistic Spectrum Disorders) for Teachers*. This Circular issued by the Department annually, normally in Spring each year.

Duration: 1-2 Years

Contact: Centre for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity,
Education Department,
St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo.
Tel. 071 9195550/071 9195551/0719195552
Email:education@stangelas.nuigalway.ie

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) LEVEL 9

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The aim of the programme is to provide substantial theoretical and practical continuing professional development for teachers working with students with special educational needs and for teachers working in recognised mainstream and other educational settings with those students requiring learning support teaching.

PROGRAMME CONTENT & STRUCTURE

This is modular on-line blended learning programme which includes e-tivities, discussion boards and face-to-face workshops.

Postgraduate Certificate students must complete **two** modules from those listed below. Postgraduate Diploma students must complete **four** from those listed below. For further information on the modules below please see page 17.

- Adult, Disadvantage and Intercultural Education
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs)
- Challenging Behaviour
- General Learning Disabilities
- Inclusion
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Educational Research Methods
- Specific Learning Difficulties 1 (Communication, Speech and Language Difficulties and Dyslexia)
- Specific Learning Difficulties 11 (Dyscalculia, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder)

PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

Assessment is continuous, with each module assessed independently through e-tivities, discussion boards and a written assignment or equivalent.

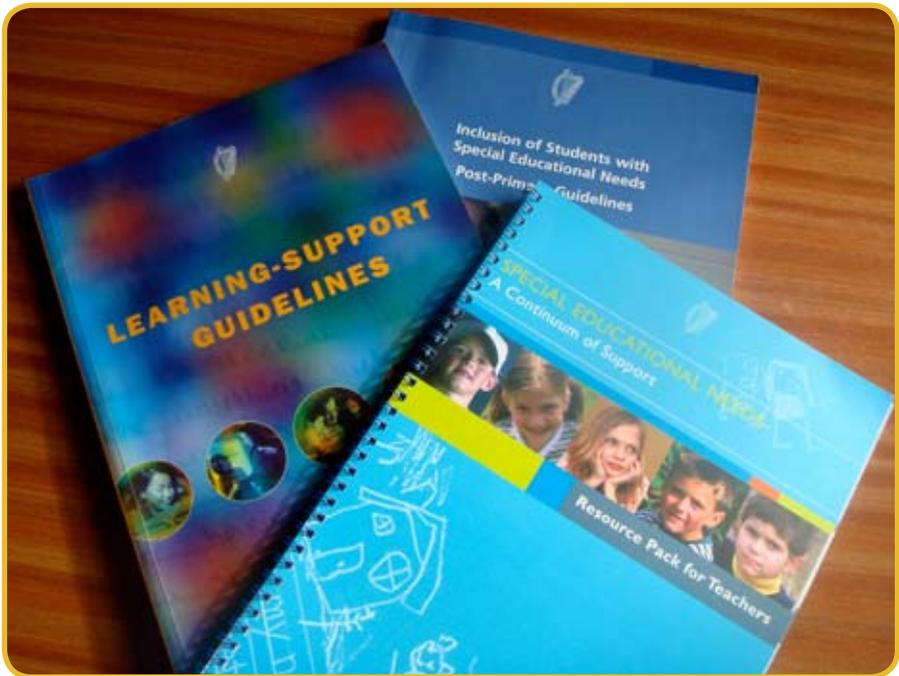
PROGRAMME OUTCOMES AND PROGRESSION

A Master of Arts in Professional Studies in Special Educational Needs is also available for those who wish to progress to MA level. For further details see page 13.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate degree or equivalent

- Intake:** 1-2 years
- Application:** CSENIID application form
- Duration:** 2 years
- Contact:** Centre for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity
Education Department,
St. Angela's College,
Lough Gill,
Co. Sligo.
Tel. 071 9195550/071 9195551/0719195552
Email: education@stangelas.nuigalway.ie



POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA IN SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (SLD)

LEVEL 9

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This Postgraduate Level 9 on-line blended learning programme has been designed to develop the professional skills required to identify and support learners with specific learning difficulties in a variety of settings.

This innovative programme aims to meet the needs of Principals, Co-ordinators of SEN, Mainstream teachers, Learning Support/Resource teachers, tutors in other educational settings and members of multidisciplinary teams in relation to SEN. The programme has strong links between current research and the impact this has upon practice.

PROGRAMME CONTENT & STRUCTURE

This is modular on-line blended learning programme which includes e-tivities, discussion boards and face-to-face workshops.

Postgraduate Certificate Modules are:

- Specific Learning Difficulties 1 Communication, Speech and Language Difficulties and Dyslexia and/or
- Specific Learning Difficulties 2 Dyscalculia, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder and/or
- Literacy

Postgraduate Diploma Modules are:

- Specific Learning Difficulties 1 Communication, Speech and Language Difficulties and Dyslexia
- Specific Learning Difficulties 2 Dyscalculia, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder
- Literacy
- Educational Research Methods

For further information on the modules listed above see page 17.

PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

Assessment is continuous, with each module assessed independently through e-tivities, discussion boards and a written assignment or equivalent.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES AND PROGRESSION

This is a specialist qualification and will enable graduates to effectively meet the needs of students with SLD. It is a progression pathway to a Master of Arts in SLD – see page 13.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate degree or equivalent.

- Intake:** 1-2 years
- Application:** CSENID application form
- Duration:** 2 years
- Contact:** Centre for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity,
Education Department,
St. Angela's College,
Lough Gill,
Co. Sligo.
Tel. 071 9195550/071 9195551/0719195552
Email: education@stangelas.nuigalway.ie



MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAMME
MA IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)
MA IN SEN (ASDs)
MA IN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN SEN
MA IN SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
LEVEL 9

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Participants are invited to become more discerning professionals in an evolving, developing and emerging society by understanding the potential contribution of research towards the learner in society. Participants will be enabled to become more effective practitioners by further enhancing their investigative, analytical, collaborative and critical competences.

PROGRAMME CONTENT & STRUCTURE

Research methods are critical to successful study at MA level and will incorporate problem-solving activities, action research in professional contexts and the opportunity to link theory and practice in general and in terms of the execution of coursework.

At the beginning of the MA year, participants accepted onto this stage of the programme will have achieved an increased level of competence and confidence within their chosen pathway. They will also be looking forward to choosing the area of study for their MA dissertation and beginning to reflect on possible research methodologies for their dissertation. The Advanced Research and Dissertation Module will provide students with the opportunity to make and implement informed choices regarding professionally relevant areas of research for their dissertation and to do this with the guidance and support of tutors and peers. Lectures take place at weekends between September – December and students use the remainder of the year to carry out research for their MA Dissertation.

PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

The final dissertation will be a maximum of 20,000 words and the topic chosen by the participant must be related to the specific pathway chosen by the participant.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Honours at Postgraduate Level (on completion of Year 1 of the Programme or equivalent).

- Intake:** Every Two Years
- Application:** By application form
- Duration:** Students have up to three years to complete their MA Dissertation.
- Contact:** Centre for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity
Education Department,
St. Angela's College,
Lough Gill,
Co. Sligo.
Tel. 071 9195551/0719195552
Email: education@stangelas.nuigalway.ie



CERTIFICATE IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS (SNAs)

LEVEL 7

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This programme is offered at pre-undergraduate level in collaboration with Education Centres in the Border, Midland and Western (BMW) region for SNAs. The programme is for SNAs who are eligible to apply under the criteria as outlined by the Department of Education and Skills (DES), and is funded by the DES. The programme aims to:

- develop skills, knowledge, attitudes and understanding of the role of the SNA in order to respond adequately to the SEN of pupils;
- promote good practice amongst SNAs working with pupils experiencing SEN in mainstream primary and post-primary schools, special schools and classes;
- provide a specialist qualification for SNAs;
- provide a basis for further study and career development.



PROGRAMME CONTENT & STRUCTURE

A modular course completed over one year. Modules are:

- Introductory module - Overview of SNA support - Role of the SNA
- Students with Special Educational Needs
- Social and Curricular Inclusion for students with SEN – A Whole School Approach

PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

Assessment is continuous, with each module being assessed independently on the basis of an assignment or equivalent.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Must have completed 20-hour Introductory Course provided by Education Centres in the region and working as a Special Needs Assistant.

Intake: Normally, two programmes offered annually in two Education Centres in the BMW region.

Application: Applicants must apply to their local Education Centre.

Duration: One-year part-time (60 hours over 7 weekends)

Contact: Centre for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity
Education Department,
St. Angela's College,
Lough Gill,
Co. Sligo.
Tel. 071 9195551/0719195552
Email: education@stangelas.nuigalway.ie

STAND-ALONE ON-LINE BLENDED LEARNING MODULES

MODULE CONTENT & STRUCTURE

The aim of the modules is to provide substantial theoretical and practical continuing professional development for those interested in and/or working with learners with special educational needs.

PROGRAMME CONTENT & STRUCTURE

These standalone online blended learning modules involve e-tivities, discussion boards and face-to-face workshops. All on-line modules have a weighting of 15 ECTS. Modules are offered regularly over the academic year. All modules are completed within a six-eight-week timeframe.

Completion of two modules from the suite of on-line blended learning modules listed below (30 ECTS) = Postgraduate Certificate

Completion of four modules from the suite of on-line blended learning modules listed below (60 ECTS) = Postgraduate Diploma

Participants may progress to Masters level on successful completion (an honours standard) of four modules from those listed below which must include the on-line blended learning module on Educational Research Methods. See page 13 for further details on the MA year.

MODULE ASSESSMENT

Assessment is continuous, with each module assessed independently through e-tivities, discussion boards and a written assignment or equivalent.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate degree or equivalent.

Intake: Annually

Duration: 6-8 weeks

MODULE 1 - ADULT, DISADVANTAGE AND INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to develop an awareness of legislation, policy documents, reports and guidelines pertaining to the areas of Adult, Disadvantaged and Intercultural Education. In addition, to develop an understanding of the inclusion of marginalised young people and adults in the various educational settings and its implications for teaching and learning.

MODULE 2 - AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASDs)

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to effective teaching of learners with ASDs and the theories that consolidate the implementation of a learner-centred philosophy which employs a combined-skills approach to meeting the needs of learners with ASDs.

MODULE 3 - CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to enable participants to acquire a thorough professional knowledge and understanding of Challenging Behaviour, including theoretical and conceptual dimensions and equip them with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies to be effective in supporting the education of those with Challenging Behaviour in various contexts. Participants will be enabled to develop an holistic and systemic approach to meeting the needs of individuals with Challenging Behaviour.

MODULE 4 - EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH METHODS

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module will focus on developing initial research knowledge and skills. The module will provide the participant with an overview of research, knowledge of data collection methods as well as an understanding of approaches to data analysis. The concept of research will be explored and consideration will be given to quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods of research.

MODULE 5 - GENERAL LEARNING DISABILITIES

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to develop knowledge and understanding of General Learning Disabilities and the implications for teaching and learning. Understandings of General Learning Disabilities are presented and explored in the context of current educational policy and legislation. Participants are introduced to a broad range of approaches designed to facilitate the inclusion of learners with General Learning Disabilities across all educational settings.

MODULE 6 - INCLUSION FOR LEARNING

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to equip the participant with a knowledge and understanding of the development of inclusion, nationally and internationally, considering current legislation, policy and practice. The participant will critically analyse the concept of inclusion with emphasis on theories and models of good practice and examine the concept of inclusion in the context of professional practice. The participant will demonstrate the skills, understanding and attitudes of the 'reflective practitioner' and will be able to critically appraise the role of advisor, consultant and manager of the learning environment.

MODULE 7 - LITERACY

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module will focus on developing an in-depth understanding of the concept of literacy. The module will provide the participant with an overview of literacy, focusing in particular on the areas of reading and writing. It will also enable the participant to develop an understanding and knowledge of assessment procedures with regard to literacy and to critically appraise strategies and approaches to developing literacy.

MODULE 8 - NUMERACY

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to provide a thorough understanding of the concept of numeracy. It will enable the participant to have an in-depth knowledge of assessment procedures with regard to numeracy, and to critically appraise appropriate teaching and learning numeracy strategies and approaches. In addition, it will enable the participant to

critically appraise the implications of numeracy in the development of a broad and balanced curriculum, to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of adaptive reasoning and to critically reflect on factors which influence productive disposition with regard to numeracy.

MODULE 9 - SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (SLDs) I

(Communication, Speech and Language Difficulties and Dyslexia)

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to develop an awareness of the theory relating to SLD in the area of communication, speech and language difficulties and dyslexia, and to become knowledgeable of appropriate assessment, teaching and learning pedagogies in the provision of inclusive education for learners with SLDs.

MODULE 10 - SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (SLDS) II

(Dyscalculia, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
and Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder)

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to develop an awareness of the theory relating to SLD in the area of Dyscalculia, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder, and to become knowledgeable of appropriate assessment, teaching and learning pedagogies in the provision of inclusive education for learners with SLDs.

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