



**Mediation
Northern Ireland**
Building capacity for change

PgD / MSc in Work-Based Learning (Mediation Studies)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PgD/MSSc in Work-Based Learning (Mediation Studies)

Mediation Northern Ireland and Queens University Belfast School of Education (Work-Based Learning) have established a partnership to develop a new, collaborative postgraduate course of study which will bring together the academic expertise of the University and the professional knowledge and skills within Mediation NI.

Who is the programme aimed at?

The course is open to experienced mediators wishing to develop their critical reflective practice to enhance individual, organisational and institutional capacity.

Who should do the programme?

It will be targeted at individuals with experience and expertise in mediation who wish to enhance their understanding and qualifications in the area. This is both a professional development programme and an academic qualification; you can begin with a diploma and leave at this juncture, or progress to a Master's qualification up to 12 months later, if you wish.

Educational Aims of Programme

This programme aims to:

Inform students of the theoretical approaches in Mediation Studies and current mediation issues, to review the use of Mediation as a peace-building tool in Northern Ireland to enable students to engage with and address the application of Mediation approaches within both local and international contexts.

Programme Content (Dates to be confirmed):

YEAR I (2010-2011)

Induction: September 2011

1. **EDU 7120 Work-Based Research Methods (MS) (Queen's Staff)**
October 2011
2. **EDU 7121 Historical Overview of Mediation (Mediation NI Staff)**
February 2012

YEAR II (2011-2012)

3. **EDU 7122 Models of Mediative Intervention For Systemic Change (Mediation NI Staff)**
October 2012
4. **EDU 7123 Internal Dimensions of Mediation (Mediation NI Staff)**
February 2013
5. **EDU 7124 Dissertation (WBL Mediation Studies) (Queen's and Mediation NI staff)**

To be delivered by **September 2013** for a Christmas Graduation in December, 2013 or May 2014 for a July 2014 graduation (to be confirmed)

What is the course?

The PgD/MSSc in Mediation Studies and Work-Based Learning is a Post Graduate Diploma (PgD) or a Masters in Social Science (MSSc) for those students who successfully complete a 15,000 word dissertation.

What is the entry level?

For current general University and specific Faculty entry requirements for this pathway go to <http://www.qub.ac.uk/ado/>

Subject specific requirements for this pathway are:

- Applicants must normally have:
 - an honours degree (BA or BSc 2.2 or Higher) or an equivalent qualification
 - and two years experience in the field of Mediation.
- Applications will also be considered from non-graduates, with a minimum of 4 years vocational experience in Mediation.
- All candidates will also be required to take part in an interview

Please note that all successful candidates will be expected to have work-based access in order to apply the relevant themes of the course, to their paid, unpaid and / or voluntary work.

Which application date?

The deadline on the Queen's University website is earlier than that advertised by Mediation Northern Ireland. We assume this early date is due to other masters courses receiving over 200 applications annually. As we are expecting slightly smaller numbers, we are able to be more flexible with application deadlines. If you are unsure whether or not you are able to apply, please email Maire at master@mediationnorthernireland.org.

Why "Work-Based Learning"?

Mediation practitioners will, in an academic context, develop critical reflection of their work and how it develops in their specific context. This will be stimulated through interaction with the writings of others and the experience of the course delivers, and participants.

Work-Based Learning, in a broad way, will be a component of this learning programme which will focus on the application of theory in an authentic, work-based context. This element of the course will address specific competencies which will be identified for the acquisition of the PgD/MSSc qualification in Mediation Studies and Work-Based Learning. The latter will directly relate to the development of skills that will make the learner employable (or strengthen his/her current work position) and will assist in developing his/her personal skills and critical reflective abilities. Employer and professional bodies (e.g, Mediation NI) will be involved in the assessment of the

learner's portfolio work, together with Queen's University academic staff.

Can this be a distance learning course?

No, the programme is structured in the context of Northern Ireland and its post conflict environment. There are opportunities to meet and share experiences with practitioners in the field of mediation. Northern Ireland has a large and developed third sector which focuses on community relations and peace building and this provides a good networking and learning opportunity.

Why does the programme take 2 years?

This is a part-time programme designed over 2 years to accommodate work on a project relevant to your study and to apply that learning to the working environment.

Can I travel to the UK and study part time on this course if I am living outside of the European Union (EU)

While we welcome applications from overseas candidates, increased governmental restrictions on people coming to the UK from outside the EU are reducing the likelihood that such applicants will be successful in applying for a visa.

Can I register for this Postgraduate Diploma/ Masters course without a Primary (First) Degree?

Yes, if you fulfil the vocational criteria [4 years working experience (paid, unpaid/ voluntary) in the field of Mediation].

Are there formal exams as part of this PgD/MSSc course?

No, there will, instead be summative assessment (throughout the programme) – the student will, on average, be required to develop portfolios relevant to a previously agreed work theme (paid/unpaid/voluntary).

How many credits am I required to take at PgD/MSSc level?

The course will be worth 120 credit points at the Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) level and 180 points at the Masters level.

It will consist of a total of four modules (worth 30 credit points each) and a Dissertation thesis (the topic of which will need to be decided together with your allocated supervisor).

Successful completion of the four modules may allow you the choice to enter the Dissertation phase. If, you do not wish to graduate with a full Masters, you can exit at this stage and receive a Postgraduate Diploma. (PgD).

Where is this course going to be taught and what institution do I get my qualification from?

This is a Queen's University course been designed in partnership with Mediation Northern Ireland. It will be delivered at Queen's University, Belfast.

The Postgraduate Diploma or the Masters qualification will be awarded from Queen's University (School of Education)

Course admission and preliminary steps

The candidates who chose to apply to the course will be directed to the on-line application process. On receipt of the application form the successful applicant will be sent a welcome pack with reading material and a time-table. (Queen's reserves the right to reject applicants). The reading material will introduce students to studying on-line and the modules.

Induction

Students will be invited to a two-day induction programme in September, 2011 (**Date to be confirmed**). The aim of the induction programme is to introduce students to Queen's, the methods of study and the modules.

Duration

Participants will complete a number of taught modules, all of which are compulsory, normally completed over **two study blocks of 2 1/2 days each for a module**. For example a block of teaching would run from Thursday to Friday at 9.30am-6pm and on Saturday 10am – 1pm inclusive. All taught modules are at the same level.

Programme delivery

The course will be delivered by experienced and practising mediators and work based learning specialists from Queens University Belfast:

Mediation Northern Ireland Staff:

Peter O'Reilly, **Director**

Mary Lynch, **Services Manager**

Mary McAnulty, **Head of International Programme**

Queen's University Belfast Staff

Elda Nikolou-Walker – **Senior Teaching Fellow**

Joe Allen – **Teaching Fellow**

Course Materials:

- Handbooks for each module
- PowerPoint presentations
- Access to materials on QOL
- Discussion questions posted weekly on line
- Extensive reading lists
- Access to Mediation Northern Ireland's Resources (by arrangement)

The course will combine traditional lectures, seminars, small group and support from Mediation Northern Ireland's team. There will also be inputs from other leading mediators as available.

When is the full programme timetable available?

It will be available closer to the time of the programme ie., from about June onwards.

You can access it by contacting the Course Co-ordinator,

Elda Nikolou-Walker:

e.nikolou-walker@qub.ac.uk

or Joe Allen:

joe.allen@qub.ac.uk

How much does the course cost?

Please Note: Next years fees may change at an inflationary rate

- For EU based students:

The cost is based on the number of CATS points. Each CATS point costs £20 currently.

The Postgraduate Diploma at 120 CATS is £2400. (Last year's fee)

The Masters requires a further 60 CATS points so its total price is £3,600 (last year's fee)

- International (non EU) Students should refer to the link below:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/ProspectiveStudents/InternationalStudents/InternationalPostgraduate/FeesandLivingCosts/>

Bursaries

Mediation Northern Ireland may be able to provide students with information on sources of possible bursary support to assist with the costs of this course.

See also: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/ProspectiveStudents/PostgraduateStudents/MoneyMatters/FundingforPostgraduateStudy/>

Who should I contact if I have questions regarding this programme, including the registration process and fees?

Elda Nikolou-Walker
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Queen's University Belfast
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Northern Ireland
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E-Mail: e.nikolou-walker@qub.ac.uk

or Maire Patton
Mediation Northern Ireland
83 University Street
Belfast, BT7 1HP

Tel +44 (0)28 90 438614

master@mediationnorthernireland.org

Getting around

Airports

- There are two airports serving Belfast: **George Best Belfast City Airport** is three miles from the city centre, connected by [rail](#) (Sydenham - Great Victoria Street). A shuttle bus also connects with the city centre operated by [Ulsterbus](#)
- **Belfast International Airport** is nineteen miles from Belfast at Aldergrove. A

shuttle service connects with the city centre, operated by [Ulsterbus](#). **Note** - Taking a taxi directly from Belfast International Airport to the University is expensive - approximately £25.

Sea

A selection of routes and ferry operators are available. Belfast is most easily reached from the following ports:

- **Belfast Port** is located 1.5 km from the city centre and can be reached by bus, taxi or on foot.
- **Larne** lies 32 km east of Belfast, with bus and rail connections
- **Dublin** is over 160 km south of Belfast but well connected by rail and bus services

Coach

The following companies provide long-distance services to Belfast, including cross channel routes and Belfast-Dublin

- Ulsterbus (UK & Irish services)
- Bus Eireann (UK and Irish Services)
- National Express (UK & Irish services)

Note: A taxi fare from the bus station to Queen's Elms is about £3.00-£3.50

Bus

Local bus services within Belfast are provided by Metro. Long-distance services across Northern Ireland are run by Ulsterbus

Foot

A fifteen/twenty minute walk from the City Centre brings you to Queen's main campus

Accommodation

There are a range of Guest Houses and low budget Hotels in and around the Queens University Belfast area. Please see details below:-

Titanic Apartments 66 Lisburn Rd BT1 Rooms From: £34.50. Luxurious brand new luxury apartments just opened in the leafy Queens Quarter district of Belfast (home to the prestigious Queens College). Quiet and relaxing area, but still only 15/20 minute walk from city centre!

ALL SEASONS BELFAST 356 Lisburn Road Belfast BT9 6GJ

Rooms From: £22.50. All Seasons is a centrally located Guest House situated on the popular Lisburn Road. It is very centrally located and 15/20 minute walk from the city centre. WIFI connection in all rooms. E-mail: allseasons@fsmail.net

Marina Guest House 30 Eglantine Avenue, BT9 6DX Rooms From: **£45** This large detached villa is situated In the leafy suburbs of Belfast, with gardens to front is convenient to many restaurants and pubs on the Malone Road and Lisburn Road. E-mail: marine30@utvinternet.com

Tara Lodge, 36 Cromwell Road, Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7 1JW Rooms from £70 Located in the Queen's Quarter of South Belfast, a mere 15/20 minutes walk from Belfast City Hall in the city centre, is close to the university, the Ulster Museum and the Botanical Gardens. A few minutes' walk from many restaurants and bars to suit all tastes and budgets. E-mail: info@taralodge.com

IBIS Hotel, 75 University Street, Belfast. Rooms from £45 Modern 56 room Ibis hotel 3 star built in 2009. The hotel is located 1km from Belfast City Centre and Queens University Belfast. All rooms are ensuite and non smoking. Café and Bar in

the hotel. On street free parking is available. A few minutes walk to restaurants, bars and entertainment. A 15/20 minute walk takes you to the city centre. The hotel is close to Botanical Gardens and River Lagan. WIFI connection in all rooms. E-mail: **h7288@accor.com**