

Youth Work and Ministry Programme

Awards in this programme:

- Certificate of Higher Education in: **Supporting Children, Young People and Families (Level 1)**
- Foundation Degree in: **Youth Work and Ministry (Level 2)**
- B.A. (Hons.)* in: **Youth Work and Ministry (Level 3)**
*with JNC recognition and professional endorsement by the National Youth Agency

Mode of study

Blended learning through full time study for up to three years (or part time up to six years). The programme combines practice-based experience through your location in a main fieldwork placement and lectures from the Oasis Centre in central London on two days each week. The flexible nature of the programme means you can exit at the end of each level with a recognised qualification..

Programme introduction

The awards in Youth Work and Ministry prepare you for a professional career in work with young people. It offers a learning experience that combines the theory and practice of youth work with Christian ministry, equipping you to work with increasing effectiveness alongside local churches and the wider community.

The combination of guided learning and practical experience means that you 'learn by doing' with Oasis College. The progressive structure of the programme also means that you build your understanding year-on-year as you reflect on theory and practice. The programme starts with an integrated first level programme (Cert.H.E.) that provides a breadth of experience across work with children, young people and families. At level two (FdA) you will develop your professional grounding of work with young people and at level 3 (BA(Hons)) you will be given a choice of modules in addition to undertaking independent research in to an area of professional interest. This means you can make your final award particularly relevant to your area of work, ministry or career objectives.

Who is this programme for?

The Youth Work and Ministry awards are designed for people who wish to pursue a vocation in work with young people alongside Christian ministry. The programme caters for students progressing from 'A' levels or equivalent and are at the beginning of their careers; but it also welcomes mature applicants seeking a career change or with existing youth work experience and seeking professional qualification within the sector.

What experience do I need?

The only fixed requirement is that students must be aged 18 or over at the beginning of the undergraduate programme. Each student is assessed on their own merit and we take in to consideration a number of factors:

- Relevant practical experience of work with young people
- References from voluntary agencies or employers
- Recent studies and qualifications. Students need to demonstrate they can work at Higher Education level. We prefer students to have gained five good passes at GCSE and two good 'A' level passes or the equivalent to 120 UCAS tariff points – however, mature students (over 21 years old) may be accepted with comparable experience.
- Applicants must also demonstrate they are 'safe to practice' and meet Independent Safeguarding Authority standards.

What will I be doing?

The courses will stretch you to develop a higher level of knowledge and understanding of practice and ministry. You will be guided through an academic learning programme that engages with the psychological, sociological and theological frameworks used to inform our view of young people, youth work and ministry. Weekly taught modules will address subjects such as:

- Youth work and professional practice
- Christian mission and ministry
- Young people and popular culture
- The Bible in Christian ministry
- Managing quality youth work
- New expressions of Church
- Young people and risky behaviour

The teaching programme is complimented by a 12-16 hours of practice experience each week. Most of this time will be in your main fieldwork placement, a local church or Christian agency, which usually contributes to your accommodation and living expenses while on placement. Fieldwork experience will also be supplemented by observational placements at level 1 and a community placement at levels 2 and 3.

How will I be assessed?

Each taught module is assessed by a word-processed assignment or a combination of a word-processed assignment and a class presentation. Assignments will vary in style and length according to the subject and may include formal essays, reports, journals and portfolios. The word count for assignments increase with each level of study, beginning at 2000 words at level 1 and increasing year-on-year up to a maximum of 8000 words for a level 3 dissertation. In addition, your field work is assessed through tutor visits and the compilation of an on-line portfolio.

What support will I get?

Oasis College offers a supportive learning environment with a high staff-student ratio. You will be allocated a personal tutor, provided support through e-mail and web based resources and a placement supervisor. In addition you will be appointed an independent 'professional mentor' who offers one-to-one support in developing your field work practice. Furthermore there are your fellow students and, because Oasis College is a small community, you will be able to draw on their support throughout your studies.

What can I do with this qualification?

The Youth Work and Ministry awards offer you an opportunity to develop your role as a 'senior practitioner' (at levels 1 and 2) and as a 'professionally qualified worker' (at level 3). Senior practitioners go on to jobs as youth support workers, supervisors and church workers; while gaining the professional qualification will open doors to a career within statutory youth services, voluntary sector agencies and schools in addition to the increasing number of churches seeking professionally qualified youth workers and ministers.

Achieving a B.A. (Hons.) is also a foundation for future post graduate studies in a variety of specialist fields, including teaching, social work, and counselling. A first degree is also the first step towards continued academic study at Masters and Doctorate level.

When can I start?

Undergraduate awards commence in September each year. We accept applications throughout the year until available course spaces are filled. We encourage early application as courses are usually filled by the June preceding a September start. If you are applying after this date then we suggest you call us first.

How do I apply?

If you already hold the relevant entry qualifications or are a mature student you can apply direct to the College. Applications are accepted via the e-form available from our website.

Applications are also accepted via the on-line UCAS system by:

- Visiting: **www.ucas.com**
- To choose this course use:
 - Centre Code: **S72**
 - Course Code: **LV56**

How much does it cost?

The student tuition fee for full-time study on the undergraduate programme starting in September 2011 is £2000.00.

The College is able to offer this low tuition fee because our costs are subsidised through a bursary paid to the College by a student's main fieldwork placement. Therefore, all offers of a place on the programme are subject to securing sponsorship through a main fieldwork placement for which we provide a matching service.

Most students will qualify for a student loan and/or a grant to cover the tuition fee. You should also qualify for a maintenance loan and/or grant. For more information on finances visit: www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance



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Undergraduate programmes are validated by our academic partner Staffordshire University