



Dear Applicant,

My name is Dr George Leckie and I am writing to you as the current Pathway coordinator for the MSc Education ('No Specialism' pathway). I am pleased to have offered you a place on the MSc Education programme for the coming academic year and want to take this opportunity to highlight the key features of the programme, as well as sharing insights into the experiences thus far for those who joined us in September.



I have been working School of Education at the University of Bristol for 10 years- leading the 'No Specialism' pathway since September 2017. I am a Reader in Social Statistics and Co-Director of the Centre for Multilevel Modelling (CMM) at the School. I also teach on the two optional M-level statistics units which we offer our students.

The programme you have chosen allows you to develop your own flexible programme based on your own areas of interest, rather than tying you in to a particular subject area. Academics with a wide range of interests offer course units in the school – from [leadership and policy](#), through [learning, technology and society](#) to [neuroscience](#) and educational [psychology](#).

All of our tutors are also active researchers and our teaching is always [research informed](#). To give you a flavour of this we encourage you to explore the ['staff' pages](#) for further information on the range of research we are involved with at SoE.

### **Key Features of the Programme**

As a student on the MSc Education you can expect to join a thriving educational research community where your interests and aspirations will be nurtured and developed by our team of tutors. You will become part of a diverse community studying alongside students from a wide range of international and UK contexts. We encourage you to find out as much as you can about other education cultures and contexts by working with your peers throughout your time of study.

Choosing to study for an MSc Education with us gives you choice and flexibility as you are able to choose your units from a wide range of different subject areas related to education. Students on the programme are able to choose from across the different specialisms and from our bank of optional units in order to follow a tailored programme of study. Units on offer include '[Education, Inequality and Social Justice](#)' in which you can learn about educational inequalities in the global era including those based on social class, ethnicity and gender; theoretical perspectives on the relationship between education, inequality and social justice; evidence for the role of education in reproducing and overcoming inequalities; and, practical strategies that can be used by policy makers, leaders and practitioners for overcoming inequalities. In the course unit '[Managing People in Education](#)' you can choose to explore the management and leadership practices crucial to the effective management of people in educational contexts. Meanwhile course units

such as [‘Addressing Controversial Issues in Education’](#) enable you to take a broader view of current issues in educational research and practice.

An exciting part of the MSc in Education is the dissertation where you carry out an independent piece of educational research and then write it up as an academic report. Informed by your learning on your chosen units, you decide on an exciting research topic. We then find a member of staff with similar research interests to supervise you. You then get the chance to apply the different research methods you have learnt to address your research questions. These methods might include conducting interviews or designing and carrying out questionnaires.

The profile of students undertaking this programme of study are typically very diverse and include recently trained teachers in the UK and from other countries interested in continuing to develop their practice, educators working in higher education keen to develop their understandings of educational policy and practice, educators looking to develop their understanding of educational leadership and management, or provision for students with special educational needs. Others want to use the Masters year to develop their skills as educational researchers in order to go on to study for a PhD with us or elsewhere.

Your decision to pursue the MSc Education at Bristol is a great choice, and we are confident that you will not only enjoy the academic challenges but also the personal ones.

In order to support preparations for your arrival please bookmark our [‘New Student Webpages’](#). These webpages will contain information and reminders on pre-arrival tasks to support your academic study.

If you have any questions about the programme or would like any support in helping you prepare for your programme, please do contact us.

With best wishes

Dr George Leckie  
MSc Education (no specialism) Pathway Lead  
School of Education  
University of Bristol

If you are not already following us on [Twitter](#) we recommend you do so. This is a great way to start becoming part of the SoE community and we would love to hear from you on your reasons for applying, aspirations and preparations for arrival by using the [#MySOEBristol](#) and tagging us [@SoEBristol](#).