

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	PG Cert Career Coaching and Coaching Psychology (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	N/A
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Birkbeck Business School
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Part-time (1 year) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Career Development Institute
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TPCCCCPS_C
HECoS Code	101294
Start date of programme	Autumn 2020
Date of programme approval	Summer 2020
Date of last programme amendment approval	January 2024
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	17/01/2024

Admissions requirements

Our standard postgraduate entry requirement is a second-class honours degree (2:2 or above) from a UK university, or an equivalent international qualification.

Coaches and Career management development professionals, HR specialists or consultants without a second-class honours degree but with suitable professional qualifications and at least five years' significant work experience in a range of organisations may be considered.

Applications are reviewed on their individual merits and your professional qualifications and/or relevant work experience will be taken into consideration positively. We actively support and encourage applications from mature learners.

Course aims

The Postgraduate Certificate in Career Coaching and Coaching Psychology offers an introductory route onto our highly regarded Career Coaching and Coaching Psychology Masters programmes, with a combination of the in-depth academic study of coaching, career management and practical training in coaching skills.

The course aims to equip coaches, consultants and HR professionals with an introduction to the skills and knowledge needed to work in organisations and in private practice in the role of career coach or coach.

The Postgraduate Certificate provides students with knowledge on the most salient topics in coaching in today's changing world of work. Students will learn about evidence-based psychological theories which underpin coaching.

Combining academic study with practice development, the Postgraduate Certificate in Career Coaching and Coaching Psychology is the starting place for experienced managers and coaches who wish to understand the role of professional helping relationships at work from an academic perspective.

The Certificate is designed as a progression route onto our MSc in Career Coaching and Coaching Psychology and is aimed at professionals moving into career coaching or coaching. The Certificate also offers a well regarded academic base for experienced coaches or managers building an evidenced based career coaching practice. Experienced coaches have the option of developing their coaching portfolio in lieu of the core skills module.

This is one of the few courses in the UK to focus on adult career management and coaching. It attracts individuals working in a wide range of settings and organisational contexts, and provides excellent opportunities for peer learning and networking.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Our Postgraduate Certificate in Career Coaching and Coaching Psychology is aligned with the [Career Development Institute National Occupational Standards](#). People who hold the Postgraduate Certificate in Career Coaching meet the qualification requirements for entry to the [UK Register of Career Development Professionals](#). Being on the Register proves to employers and clients that you hold a qualification in career development at QCF Level 6/SCQF level 11 or above, abide by the CDI Code of Ethics and undertake and record a minimum of 25 hours' CPD per year. Increasingly employers are asking that employees are on the Register.
- The [Birkbeck Business School](#) is renowned for its quality teaching and expertise in the delivery of part-time coaching courses.
- We offer specialist career coaching skills practical training days.
- We will provide you with access to an extensive range of electronic resources, including specially prepared texts for each module and use of the online learning environment, with a high level of staff support.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Part-time – 1 year					
7	MOOP007H7	Life Career Development	15	Compulsory	T1
7	MOOP001H7	Applied Coaching Theory	15	Compulsory	T3
7 7	BUOB098S7 BUOB062S7	Core Coaching Skills OR Advanced Coaching Portfolio * * Module selection is with the approval of the Programme Director	30 30	Compulsory Compulsory	T1-3 T1-3

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Methods of teaching:

Theoretical components are taught mainly via evening sessions, supported through online materials and by attendance at evening classes, some of which are online and some are in person. The coaching skills are taught mainly through in person Saturday workshops, supported by small group teaching and with feedback on skills development from experienced tutors.

Access to small number of suitable clients is required for this work. External independent supervision is also required to support professional practice.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be by termly essays, reports, case studies, reflective assignments or proposals.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

By the end of the course, students will have:

- Developed and practiced core coaching skills to work at depth with clients.
- An In-depth theoretical knowledge of coaching approaches, career and career coaching theories
- Developed an evidence based approach to working with clients
- The skills to support individuals to identify and explore their career and coaching development needs and aspirations
- The capacity to build and maintain client centred relationships
- The skills of reflective practice to develop an ethical approach to working with clients
- The ability to monitor and evaluate their coaching practice.
- The ability to respond appropriately to clients
- An understanding of the dynamics present in coaching relationships
- An understanding of organizational, social and cultural contexts which impact on the coaching relationship and on careers
- An ability for critical self-reflection on the ways in which the coach impacts on the coaching process.
- A knowledge of the research evidence on process and outcomes of psychological theories which underpin coaching
- An understanding through personal development work of their own career development
- Critical Thinking Skills.
- Established a professional network

Careers and further study

Coaching Psychology and Career coaching are expanding professions, given the changing world of work. Graduates from our programmes pursue career paths in:

- private practice
- human resources
- consultancy
- talent management
- career management and outplacement agencies
- university careers advisory services
- social agencies

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Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website.](#)

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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