

The University of Birmingham has been offering the 'Teachers of Children with Hearing Impairment' programme since 1989 and it has one of the largest cohorts in the UK.

The course is delivered using a blended learning approach:

- distance-based approaches (students can study from any part of England/UK)
- online interactive materials (including self-directed flexible learning)
- synchronous and asynchronous group activities/tutorials
- activities based upon application to and reflection upon work-based practice
- face-to-face elements (ie study days)
- direct assessment of work-based practice.

The last two years of the pandemic had an enormous effect on our teaching and learning practice. Our study week in January 2022 was a hybrid event and was a huge success according to students' and speakers' experiences. The technology at the University of Birmingham enabled students who were unable to join us in person due to illness, to join our workshops virtually in a way that felt like being in the room! The face-to-face interaction, and especially the face-to-face workshops involving 'hands-on' activities with equipment, cannot be fully replicated online. Therefore, what we have learnt in the last two years is that we should fully utilise our face-to-face time to concentrate on these hands-on, practical skills. For instance, during our study week we deliver hands-on

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