York Associates
Teacher Training

COURSE SUMMARY

This course is for all professionals who want to better understand the challenges of autism, Asperger Syndrome (AS) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) within the professional environment. You will learn about what ASD consists of, how it affects the teaching and learning environments, and why understanding ASD is so important. Those who will benefit include teachers, teaching assistants, school heads, counsellors, and teacher trainers. This course can also be combined with other SEN courses in consecutive weeks for form a two-week course. Participants need to be at a minimum B1 level of English.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course participants will:
- have an understanding of what autism, Asperger's syndrome, and ASD are
- have practical ideas on how to teach those on the spectrum, while not negatively affecting other students
- understand key challenges, including managing learning styles, minimising discriminatory behaviour, and creating an inclusive learning environment for all
- be able to understand the positive aspects of autism in order to create a positive learning space for all
- have enjoyed a positive environment in which to share best practices and exchange ideas with each other

METHODOLOGY

Sessions raise and deepen awareness of ASD. An interactive communicative approach is applied, which provides participants with their own experiential learning of the activities and methodologies. Input sessions are in the form of hands-on workshops and involve brainstorming, analysis, problem-solving, and role-play, both in pair work and group work. Participants are actively involved in the sessions to maximize their learning and to experience activities from their learners' point of view. Teachers are asked to reflect on the activities, inviting discussion with regard to their own knowledge and experience, teaching methods and contexts, and on adaptation of activities to their own teaching and learning situations. Participants are also introduced to key resources related to the further development of their teaching skills and personal professional development. Both theory and practice are explored, analyzed and discussed, further enabling the participants' use and development of their teaching and classroom management skills.

SAMPLE COURSE PROGRAMME

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Session One	Introduction to the course: objectives and methodology	Deepening our understanding of autism. Understanding our own aims and purposes	The scientific understanding of autism	Practical teaching and communication techniques for learners with autism	Predicting, managing, and preventing meltdowns
Session Two	Group work: Examining attitudes to autism. Autism and Asperger's compared	The cognitive understanding of autism	A pragmatic understanding of autism	Practical teaching and communication techniques for learners with autism	Including every aspect of the learning environment. How to predict, control, and ease transitions
Session Three	Output: Participants work on a presentation to deliver in their own educational context.	Output: Participants work on a presentation to deliver in their own educational context.	Output: Participants create a lesson plan & deliver a lesson for students with autism based on their learning	Output: Participants create a lesson plan & deliver a lesson for students with autism based on their learning up to now	Output: Participants create and deliver a guided presentation to the group on the key learning they have experienced professional development