

ADVERT

Specialist Study Skills Practitioner (Fixed Term Contract Until July 2024)

Ref: ME2223061

Hours: 37 hours per week. You will be required to be at work for a total of 1480 hours per year. This will usually be completed over a period of 40 weeks based around student term times. Holiday, including entitlement to Bank Holidays and Closure Days, will be taken outside this working time, unless by prior arrangement with your line manager

Salary: £23,708 per annum pro-rata, actual salary £21,003 per annum

Reporting to: Assistant Principal, School of Academic & Vocational Support

Primary Location: Northampton, Booth Lane Campus/Lower Mounts

Closing Date: Wednesday 21st June 2023

Interview Date: Monday 10th July 2023

About Northampton College

Northampton College is proud to be the leading provider of further education in the South East Midlands region. As a College, who have been rated by Ofsted as 'good' with outstanding features, we are committed to developing the professional and technical skills of our students, who are the workforce and leaders of the future.

The Team

The School of Academic & Vocational Support, services all learning support across the college. The school contains many teams which comprise specialist teachers, practitioners, and support staff with diverse skills, that work with curriculum teams to support students in their learning. The roles within the school have a focus on supporting students with Special Educational Needs, and Disabilities, and helping support the learning and social development that students have missed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Support may be provided to students who have experienced previous challenges in accessing maths and/or English, or have medical, physical, sensory, life and social skills, emotional and/or mental health requirements, and the role has a focus on enabling students to learn independently.

The Role

The Specialist Study Skills practitioner will ensure that students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability are able to access college library facilities and develop their academic skills. The work delivered will be in response to referrals from across the college and informed by specialist assessment and the information within a student's Support Plan/Education Health and Care plan. The practitioner will work as part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide study skills development activities for students with Specific Learning Difficulties, mental health difficulties, physical and sensory needs, and those with Autistic Spectrum Condition. The practitioner will develop meaningful programmes of support through one to one and small group workshops to deliver support students from across the college. Initially the post will focus on supporting full-time 16-19 year old students on Level 2 and 3 Study Programmes, with this focus broadening in response to changes in business needs on a regular basis.

The Successful Candidate

The successful candidate's knowledge, skills, experience, abilities and qualities will include:

- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Awareness of Special educational needs and disabilities
- Strong communication skills
- Confidence in promoting independent learning
- Understanding of specific learning difficulties

Rewards and Benefits include

- 35 days pro rata annual leave, comprising 24 personal days, pro rata (1 September – 31 August), including 8 bank holidays and 3 closure days. The College reserves the right to designate up to 3 closure days per holiday year *****Holiday entitlement will be included in monthly pay to the value of 35 days per annum pro rata***
- Discounts through membership of the NUS, ranging from Student Prime (Amazon), to eating out, fashion, beauty, entertainment, technology and travel.
- Eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (a defined benefit scheme including an employer contribution rate of 25.20%)
- Right to request flexible working from start date
- Access to continued professional development
- Free car parking and electric car charging facilities
- Gym facilities
- 24 hours per day, 365 days per year Employee Support Helpline
- Enhanced maternity/shared parental and paternity schemes
- Paid Compassionate Leave - up to five working days paid absence (in a rolling twelve-month period) on compassionate grounds in the event of bereavement or serious illness of a close relative)

If you would like to be a part of our successful team please go to <https://www.northamptoncollege.ac.uk/working-for-us.html> for further details on how to apply.

This post will require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

Job Description & Person Specification

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Job share will be considered for this post

Northampton College

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The College has a culture of high expectations and high achievement, with 95% of students passing their qualifications and 94% progressing into employment or further study. The expertise, professionalism and commitment of all our staff is critical to the students' and College's success as we strive for excellence in everything we do and our ambition to be an outstanding College.

Values

- Strive to always be excellent
- Respect and support each other.
- Put students at the heart of our college.
- Ensure the wellbeing of staff and students, build resilience, and celebrate differences.
- Make sure employer needs are at the heart of our plans.
- Be a positive influence in our community.

Working as part of the team

The School of Academic & Vocational Support are very proud to support Northampton College's culture of high standards, an inclusive working and learning environment, and a professional committed workforce who are focused on supporting our students to achieve the best they possibly can.


The school services all learning support across the college. The team comprises specialist teachers, practitioners, and support staff, with diverse skills that work with curriculum teams to support students in their learning, inclusive of those with Special Educational Needs and Disability

Role Specification

- Assess students' special educational needs and produce a support plan based on this assessment, designed to develop independent study skills.
- Work with students individually and in small groups to identify learning needs and strengths, using these to develop the student(s) academic study skills through a meaningful programme of timetabled sessions.
- Record the work delivered on the relevant college systems to ensure evidence is available to support the relevant funding claim.
- Be familiar with the content of students' support plans, using this information to inform session content.
- Provide support to students in the use of college devices, systems, and software to help prepare the student for further/higher education and/or employment.
- Ensure that students can access college facilities and resources, collaborating with the relevant SEND specialist where required.
- Work with students to develop strategies to enable them to study independently within the classroom, and within the college library facilities, including supporting students with SEND to develop their digital skills.
- Contribute to, and lead where appropriate, the annual reviews of student Education Health & Care plans (EHCPs), and the review of high-needs students' support.
- Ensure that the college's Support Hubs are environments that enable learning and are respected by students.
- Provide advice and guidance to Learning Support Assistants to ensure they know how best to support students and extend study skills development in the classroom.
- Collaborate with the college's Library Plus service to share good practice and ensure a consistent approach to study skills across the college.

Generic Business Support

- To support and contribute to the friendly and supportive ethos of the Faculty/Department, particularly in communications with learners and staff
- To maintain the highest professional standards
- To participate on appraisal and staff development
- To treat colleagues with dignity and respect
- To demonstrate an understanding of the significance of equality of opportunity and diversity, and implement it in all aspects of your work
- To carry out any other duties as required by the organisation including supporting College Open Events and invigilating examinations

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- To ensure a healthy and safe working environment at all times, and take reasonable care for your own safety and that of other College users
 - To comply with all approved College policies and procedures
 - Ability to travel to other College sites as and when required.

The above list is not exhaustive. The responsibilities and duties may vary from time to time without changing the character of the post. You will be expected to adopt a flexible approach to ensure the efficient and effective running of departments.



Other Information

Dignity, Diversity and Inclusion

Northampton College is proud of its diverse cohort of students and is committed, morally and through statute, to the values of equality, diversity and inclusion.

To embed this throughout the College we encourage and welcome applications for job vacancies from people of all backgrounds. Our recruitment and selection processes incorporate anonymity of protected characteristics at both the shortlisting of applications stage and through selection process, wherever feasible.

This, along with other measures that promote full and fair consideration of all applications, along with the College's implicit ethos of inclusion, enables the College to promote equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination on the grounds of: sex; race; disability; age; sexual orientation; gender reassignment; religion or belief; marital status, or pregnancy and maternity.

All members of the College's staff community are required to adhere to and promote the College's values of respect for each other, dignity, diversity and equal opportunity, enabling the continual evolution of a culture of inclusion, where diversity and difference is embraced and open, positive discussion is genuinely valued.

As importantly, the College will not tolerate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation within the organisation.

Northampton College prides itself on being the College of the community and its role in enabling access to education and the provision of an inclusive learning environment, where respect and differentiation in learning is fundamental to our students' success.


Safeguarding

The College is committed to the safeguarding the welfare of its students, staff and visitors.

Safeguarding checks, for example obtaining employment references and the completion of Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks for all new/potential employees and regular visitors to the College, help ensure the safety of our College environment.

It is compulsory for all staff to complete safeguarding training both at the start of their employment and regularly throughout their employment to ensure they have the knowledge to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities in respect to keeping children safe in education. This includes being able to work with students to develop their understanding of the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

The College has policies and procedures in place to deal effectively with child protection and safeguarding issues, including those which align with the PREVENT counter-terrorism strategy.



Additionally, the College has robust Safeguarding recording and monitoring processes which correlate with current safeguarding legislation.

Professional Development and Performance and Appraisal Reviews

In addition to mandatory training in respect to Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding and Data Protection (and any other training that the College considers all members of the staff community to undertake), professional development opportunities are available to all members of staff to help them to reach their full potential within their role.

The ability of all members of our staff community to reflect on their performance and both areas of success/achievement and development is a fundamental aspect of the College's ability to continue to improve its quality and outcomes for students. In joining Northampton College, you will be expected, as a professional in your area of expertise, to continually seek ways to enhance your contribution to the organisation, with the Performance and Appraisal Review, with your line manager, being one element of this.

Health and Safety

Under the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974, in addition to the College's responsibility to the welfare of its staff community, it is the responsibility of individual staff to take care of their own health and safety at work and that of others who may be affected by their actions.

All members of the College community are required to comply with health and safety obligations, including the prompt reporting of any defects, risks or potential hazards.

Data Protection

The College's stakeholders should be confident that the College hold data in accordance with the Data Protection Principles of: Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency; Purpose Limitation; Data Minimisation; Accuracy; Storage Limitation; Integrity and Confidentiality (Security), and Accountability.

As such, there are internal policies and controls in place to ensure that data is not lost, accidentally destroyed, misused or disclosed and is not accessed except by those authorised to do so in the performance of their duties. It is paramount that all usage and retention of data complies with the Data Protection Act 2018, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and that, as an employee you adhere with all protocols in this regard.

Person Specification

The selection of candidates for short-listing will be based on this specification and candidates should bear this in mind when preparing their application and completing the application form.	Essential/ Desirable	Assessment Method
Qualifications		
• Degree	E	A
• Level 2 qualification in both mathematics & English	E	A
• Level 5 Specific Learning Difficulty (SPLD) qualification or willingness to work toward this qualification	D	A
Experience		
• Relevant and recent experience in supporting students with disabilities and/or special educational needs to develop their academic study skills	E	A/S
• Experience working with learning technologies	E	A/S
• Experience working in an educational environment	E	A/S
• Experience in facilitating student learning and research through an enabling approach.	E	A/S
• Experience in assessing student's academic support needs and creating support plans	D	A/S
Knowledge/Skills/Abilities		
• Ability to communicate clearly and concisely at all levels whilst understanding your customer's needs	E	A/S
• Ability to be self-motivated, to reflect on own performance within a role and to identify areas of learning/improvement	E	A/S
• Ability to multi task whilst having exceptional attention to detail	E	A/S
• Flexible approach to work and work area, working outside normal hours when reasonably required to do so	E	A/S

The selection of candidates for short-listing will be based on this specification and candidates should bear this in mind when preparing their application and completing the application form.	Essential/ Desirable	Assessment Method
• Understanding of safeguarding as it pertains to the Further Education Sector	E	A/S
• Understanding of the benefits of equality, diversity and inclusion within society	E	A/S
• Understanding of the principles of Data Protection	E	A/S
• Ability to travel effectively, for example to other College campuses (Daventry and Northampton)	E	A/S
• An understanding of promoting independent learning	E	A/S
• The ability to work in various areas of the college, with a wide variety of staff	E	A/S
• Understanding of safeguarding as it pertains to the Further Education Sector	E	A/S
• An awareness of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015	E	A/S
• A coaching/facilitation approach to supporting learning.	E	A/S
Qualities		
• Strong work ethic	E	A/S
• Collegiate	E	A/S
• Innovative	E	A/S
• Flexible	E	A/S
• Team, customer and organisation focussed	E	A/S
• Reliable	E	A/S
Level of Physical Ability and Activity		
• Occasional lifting may be required	E	A
• Need to move around site will be required	E	A

E = Essential **D** = Desirable **A** = Application Form **S** = Selection Process