

Derby MA Education

Benefits

This programme offers the following benefits to students:

- The course is designed to be studied online, hence students have the flexibility to study as and when they want; be it at home, at work, on vacation or during overseas travelling. They take control over their studies and when they want to submit their assignments.
- The University of Derby has a growing reputation for innovative e-learning developments. Over the last decade, the university has earned considerable progress and is now considered to be in the forefront for using online and e-learning technologies in its teaching methods. The university has one of the most extensive offerings of off-campus e-learning programmes of any UK university.

Course Description

The University of Derby MA Education is aimed at those involved in all education sectors. It offers an opportunity for you to develop your personal professional expertise through a combination of academic study and research undertaken in your own professional setting. This programme is designed to meet your professional needs and at the same time develop your confidence and skills to adopt the role of critical reflective practitioner throughout your subsequent career.

Qualification / Awarding Body

On successful completion of this programme, you will be awarded an MA Education

Awarding Body: University of Derby

Mode

Online distance learning

Course Content (modules)

The programme is organised into 3 stages, comprising a compulsory online induction and six modules, including a dissertation.

1. Induction (compulsory)
You are required to undertake a compulsory induction online prior to studying the academic modules.
2. Stage 1: Two compulsory modules
 - Evidence Based Practice
This module will enable you to discern the type of evidence appropriate to a given area by enabling you to ascertain aspects of practice deserving further attention and to scrutinise the literature relevant to those aspects. You will build on the evidential foundation established via the preparation of an outline research proposal which will consider methods of data collection that reflect the structure, and concerns of the phenomenon of interest. You will consider ways in which a synthesis of evidence-based practice and action research can enable professional practice to be evaluated collaboratively with the participants in your educational setting.
 - Principles of Management
This module will provide you with an overview of the principles and processes of management within education settings. It encourages a strategic approach to issues of management and links that to practice at different and appropriate levels. It aims to address the challenge of improving management practice in order to better meet the requirements for organisations and individuals with new and fast changing situations. It particularly aims at the improvement of that practice through critical reflection and action planning.
3. Stage 2: One compulsory module and One negotiated module
 - Advanced Professional Practice
This module will enable you to demonstrate that you can locate your work role within a wider professional practice and contextualise your understandings through analysis of

current professional literature in your selected field. Additionally, the module will provide opportunities for you to show you can adopt an enquiry based approach with the aim of increasing your awareness of development possibilities within your own practice situation and that you can produce a report of your findings for dissemination to a wider audience.

- Negotiated Studies
The negotiated modules exist to provide you with the opportunity to study topics not included elsewhere within the MA Education programme but which may be of particular relevance to you and your job role. You will study a topic of your own choice via negotiation with the course leader.
4. Stage 3: Two independent studies modules
- Independent Studies: Pilot
The module has two main components – the proposal for the dissertation and the pilot study itself. Both have been designed to ensure that the dissertation you choose to complete in the second part of stage 3 is academically sound and you cannot progress onto the dissertation until you have successfully completed this pilot. The proposal is not assessed but is required to ensure the research you are considering is valid, ethical and within the scope of an MA Education. The purpose of the pilot module is to test the methodology and research tools of the proposed dissertation. The three are all integral to each other.
 - Independent Studies: Dissertation
The dissertation enables you to deepen your knowledge and understanding, through researching an aspect of professional practice in which you have a strong and committed interest, adopting a methodology which has been successfully piloted in the previous module.

Assessment

Each module has its own assignment tasks with an overall word length of 5,000 words or equivalent per module. There is no examination for this programme.

Stage 3 is assessed through the 2,500-word pilot assignment and the 12,500-15,000 word dissertation assignment.

Duration of Programme

The MA Education is normally studied over a 24-month period, but this may be extended to suit your individual needs for up to a maximum of five years.

What's included

All online study materials and student handbooks are supplied. You will be allocated a tutor for academic support by RDI on request, whom you can contact by telephone and email. You will also complete an online induction and have access to an online Virtual Campus administered by RDI.

In Mauritius, you will have access to a programme coordinator at PTC for administrative support and an expert resource person for advice at specific set times.

Entry Requirements

- First degree from an approved university equivalent to UK second class honours, or an acceptable professional degree equivalent qualification, together with a qualification in an education related profession
- English ability equivalent to an IELTS score of 5.5, where the medium of undergraduate study was not English
- Candidates without a first degree will be eligible for entry if they can demonstrate that their professional qualifications plus experience are equivalent to honours degree.

Enrolment Dates

Four intakes in a year – January, April, July and October.