



Middlesex University
Dubai

MA EDUCATION: LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CHANGE

This course offers you the opportunity to undertake a part time academic programme, whilst engaging in a project designed to achieve change in an educational field of your choosing. The course covers a wide range of educational theory and practice, and introduces you to the methods and purposes of the Action Research paradigm.

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

Entry Requirements

We welcome applications from graduates with a good degree, and experience in teaching or other educational professions. For students starting in January 2010 the duration of the programme is 18 months.

Course Overview

This MA course is designed to address the needs of those teachers, subject leaders, or educational administrators who are looking for a higher qualification that is both academic and practical, and of benefit to their community and their own careers. It is particularly appropriate for those motivated to bring about change while continuing to work in their professional environment. The focus is on theory as a means to develop individual research projects in your own particular educational field.

Why choose this MA?

The methodology we use to bring about change is Action Research, which has both action outcomes and research outcomes. It is flexible and responsive to local situations. You can do your project in a situation familiar to yourself. You can choose to focus your research on an issue

with wide appeal, and work with workplace colleagues who share your aims and can help you to achieve your goals. This favours qualitative methods and encourages risk-taking as a pathway to innovation.

In the MA classroom, you will find that doing projects through Action Research can create a collegial atmosphere and facilitate collaborative learning. The research strategy follows a natural progression from problem, through research, implementation and evaluation to solution. The research process is accompanied by taught modules, whose educational theory and models of learning can be drawn on to add an academic legitimacy to a practical outcome, which counts as a feasible solution to the original problem. However, as one of our graduates commented "success in an Action Research project is not measured by what worked but by what was learned that could be applied in the field".



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The Rewards of Doing Action Research

- Placing practice at the centre of research.
- Applying theoretical knowledge for solving workplace problems.
- Making reflection a constant companion in everyday problem solving.
- Facilitating collaborative activities to assist deep learning.
- Creating confidence through success in graded challenges.
- Embracing multiple roles (researcher, designer, teacher, manager, leader) in complex action for change.
- Developing the analytical and strategic skills of action research.

Programme Content

Module 1: Pedagogy and critical issues in education

- Pedagogical theories with particular emphasis on the constructivist approach to learning.
- Applying pedagogical theories in practice in learning organisations.
- An exploration of current issues in education and pan-global concerns and initiatives for the improvement of education.

Module 2: Policy leadership and management in education

- Managing individual and organisational change in educational settings.
- Leadership and management in education theories and models.
- Comparative analysis of different countries' approaches to education policy.
- Influences on policy of world organisations and business ideologies.

Module 3: Dissertation (Action Research project)

- Action Research: its priorities, processes and outcomes.
- Developing your research problem and project.
- Data collection: purposes and options. The uses of hypothesis.
- Integrating the literature with practice in a dissertation that is academic and innovative.

Programme Structure

	Start	Finish
Module 1	24th January 2010	8th July 2010
Module 2	September 2010	April 2011
Module 3 Dissertation	24th January 2010	April 2011

Modules 1 and 2 are taught modules which run over 2 terms each (24 weeks). Module 3 is the dissertation module which runs the whole length of the programme (48 weeks). This has a taught element for the first 2 terms (24 weeks) and a supervisory element for the remainder of the programme, in which you will be working individually on your project. This

means that for the first 2 terms of the programme classes will on 2 evenings a week, and for the second part of the programme there will be one class a week with additional tutorials with your supervisor.

Term Teaching Timetable

Term Dates	Modules	Class timings
TERM 1 Jan – Apr 2010	Module 1	Sunday 6.30 – 9.30pm
	Module 3	Tuesday 6.30 – 9.30pm
TERM 2 Apr- Jul 2010	Module 1	Sunday 6.30 – 9.30pm
	Module 3	Tuesday 6.30 – 9.30pm
TERM 3 Sept – Dec 2010	Module 2	Sunday 6.30 – 9.30pm
	Module 3	Individual Consultation
TERM 4 Jan – Apr 2011	Module 2	Sunday 6.30 – 9.30pm
	Module 3	Individual Consultation

Assessment

Formative assessment applies throughout the taught programme. It is varied and designed to contribute to the knowledge and skills needed for the dissertation (of up to 20,000 words). The course ends with a viva.

Careers

Whatever your current professional role, as teacher, manager or administrator, your career profile will be actively enhanced by the action/design research project chosen for your dissertation. Your MA will have increased both your professional knowledge and developed a 'can do' attitude towards challenges within your field of interest.

What our Students Say

This research project also serves as a model for teachers to become practitioner/researchers.

One teacher expressed her excitement, saying, "I had never realised this dimension of being a practitioner. After participating in this project, I have begun looking at things from a problem/solution perspective, rather than just feeling stressed!"

Another said, "Being a practitioner means 'doing' or 'making' something that will affect everyone who gets involved. The process develops out of a necessity to solve a one-off problem, and ends as an orientation towards action rather than frustration!"

Cost: The full course costs AED40,000.
Flexible installment plan available.