

MA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

POSTGRADUATE

Centre for Teacher Education

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



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Every year, we work in partnership with schools across England and abroad to train hundreds of primary and secondary teachers who go on to teach children and young people in schools both in our local communities and around the world. Our commitment does not stop when our trainees qualify; our MA Professional Education is just one of the ways that we continue to support the development of outstanding teaching and leadership in schools.

WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE MA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION?

The MA Professional Education offers the opportunity to research a chosen area of practice, supported by expert supervisors from the Centre for Teacher Education.

FROM A SCHOOL'S PERSPECTIVE

Investing in your teachers as researchers will help your school lead the way with innovative, research-based practice.

- ▶ Empower your staff to choose a research focus that both stimulates them and benefits the school community.
- ▶ Support staff who have the drive, knowledge and experience to take their research forward.
- ▶ Work with us to turn your experienced teachers' work-based learning into University credits that count towards the full Masters award through our Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education (see page 6).
- ▶ Benefit from the expert academic support, teaching and research experience available at the Centre for Teacher Education to equip your staff to become leaders of impactful, sustainable and ethical research in your school.

Which staff would benefit from MA study?

Through our various pathways, our MA can be tailored to a range of individuals' experiences and interests as well as educational contexts, strategic and school improvement priorities.

Early-career teachers and leaders:

Training to teach is an intense experience that leaves little time for deep study or reflection. Research suggests that new teachers become disillusioned through feeling a lack of control over the direction of their practice. Our MA can support developing teachers by empowering and equipping them to take the time and space to reflect on the challenges of the classroom.

Experienced teachers and leaders:

An experienced teacher's knowledge and expertise is hard-earned and should therefore be built upon. The MA Professional Education has been designed to provide a flexible route adapted to experience. This inclusive pathway can align with a variety of experience and teacher CPD, from national professional development (eg. NPOs) to more localised training.

MA COURSE STRUCTURE

Designed to give the two things that teachers need most: flexibility and consistency.

The first half of the academic credit that we recognise towards our Masters in Professional Education upon enrolment will either be drawn from a recent UK PGCE* with teaching practice or from our Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education (see overleaf). All Masters pathways then share the same 'taught' MA course structure, although this is tailored towards your research interests and objectives.

COURSE DURATION

- ▶ MA Professional Education - 20 months

COURSE START DATE

- ▶ January 2021

CORE MODULES

- ▶ Research in Professional Practice @ 20 credits
- ▶ Ethics Portfolio @ 10 credits
- ▶ Dissertation @ 60 Credits

*PGCE awarded within 5 years of the course start date.

The step-by-step module process takes teachers through designing a research study and then applying for ethical approval and conducting the study over an appropriate time-period. The final assessment is a dissertation which communicates the findings of the substantial research project in an appropriate academic form; preparing teachers to share the research more widely with other practitioner researchers, colleagues and the wider profession.

HOW IS THE COURSE DELIVERED?

Most teachers prefer some face-to-face contact, but not everyone is able to attend every session. Our blended approach of combining face-to-face and online teaching allows for the flexibility teachers need whilst working, supporting them to study from anywhere within the UK, or internationally, thanks to our high-quality online materials and tutorials delivered remotely. Course timelines, assignment deadlines and teaching sessions are released one academic year in advance to enable teachers to plan their time effectively. Teaching occurs at weekends so as not to impact school commitments (although appropriate flexible working may be offered by some employers).



"I want to become a key name in educational research, especially in teacher wellbeing. I hope to change and influence key policies on teacher retention and wellbeing."

The first research module of my MA, shaped my interest in teacher wellbeing. The initial study focused on factors contributing to teacher burnout and the stories and experiences I heard were a key motivator for me to continue research in this area. Teaching is a very stressful and difficult profession and the teachers I had throughout my MA were very strong and inspiring, they are the drivers to my passion."



Tayeba | Education Supply Teacher
PGCE Alumna, Graduated 2016
MA Alumna, Graduated 2020

THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

COURSE DURATION

- ▶ Two modules across 5 months (though some may choose to take longer and complete modules consecutively).

What is the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education?

- ▶ A supportive pathway for eligible, experienced teachers to have their work-based learning assessed against the necessary learning outcomes for academic credit awarded as a Postgraduate Certificate or used towards our Masters qualification.
- ▶ A time-efficient and economical alternative to full or part-time study for the first half of the programme, whilst refreshing and updating candidates' academic skills in preparation for progressing to the final 2 year MA course.

What does the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education involve?

- ▶ Core modules
 - Strategic Research @ 30 credits
 - Effective Leadership and Mentoring @ 30 credits
- ▶ Each module consists of a portfolio and an accompanying academic statement.

What support and access does the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education provide?

- ▶ An experienced mentor supporting the completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education portfolio.

- ▶ Access to the resources of the University of Warwick library including thousands of journals and online publications, including those from the British Educational Research Association, the British Educational Leadership Management and Administration Society and their international equivalents.
- ▶ Access to the Moodle Virtual Learning Platform and Postgraduate Certificate RPL handbook.
- ▶ An Advanced Academic Skills workshop to help facilitate the completion of the required academic statements.

What is involved in the academic statement?

- ▶ The format of an academic statement is tailored to the experience of the student in discussion with the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education mentor. If recent (unaccredited) professional development has included writing at length, then the quality of these will be assessed, and a short reflective piece may be all that is required. The academic statement may involve one or more of the following:
 - ▶ An annotated bibliography of a selection of recent journal articles.
 - ▶ A critical comparison of two texts that are relevant to the professional context.
 - ▶ A critical review of a longer educational text.
 - ▶ A rationale for why the academic texts have been chosen and how they relate to professional experience.
 - ▶ A reflective account of how prior professional learning relates to the teacher's reading.

Example of experienced teachers' research interests...

Andy, a senior teacher in a large secondary academy school, with a responsibility for pastoral care responds to long term issues with poor attitudes towards his school amongst students, parents and the local community. His Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education portfolios include work from his NPQ CPD and his work with the annual questionnaire for parents that consistently shows that parents think the school has a problem with bullying. His Dissertation study explores the question, Can schools beat bullying? What does it take to believe we are a safe and happy school?



INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS CONSIDERING THE MA

We understand that teachers and school leaders are busy, and that impactful study and research takes time.

Our course is designed to provide you with the skills and space needed to complete meaningful research; giving the freedom to conduct a dissertation (research study) that tracks a whole academic year and is not just squeezed into one term.

Choosing to complete the MA Professional Education at the University of Warwick can provide a new professional insight, reinvigorate practice, introduce change, lead to further job opportunities and increase confidence in approaches to school leadership or classroom teaching. Unlike many CPD opportunities offered to teachers, it can be entirely led by the individual, designed around their interests and aspirations for themselves, their school and their students.

- ▶ **Two Induction Days** focussing on the Research in Professional Practice; covering research design, aims, and identifying and assessing relevant research and literature in a chosen field.
- ▶ **Online Tutorials**, spread throughout the duration of the course with a University of Warwick research supervisor who has expertise and interest in a relevant field.
- ▶ **Four Saturday Teaching Days** over the duration to develop research expertise and hear from teachers who are already researching effectively in their school contexts.
- ▶ **Ongoing Support & Advice** Detailed research proposals and constructive feedback about the chosen research design. A rigorous ethics process giving teachers the confidence that the research undertaken in the school adheres to the highest ethical principles. Advice and support regarding dissemination of research through teacher networks, conferences and academic networks.
- ▶ **Continued access to resources** such as the University of Warwick library on campus and online, including support for academic research and writing, as well as a high quality virtual learning platform full of carefully selected resources tailored to school-based research.



INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL LEADERS WANTING TO SUPPORT THEIR TEACHERS

Teachers learn on the job like apprentices and will have had the opportunity to connect to wider contexts as part of professional networks, through training opportunities and in pursuit of professional qualifications.

Few teachers however, are granted the time to study and design a unique piece of professional research that develops them in their specific role, whilst giving the benefit of the knowledge gained to their work community and wider profession. Such study can happen at any stage in a career and marks a teacher out as someone committed to their craft.

How does the school benefit?

What is studied and investigated is decided by the individual teacher, but the stipulation is that it must benefit the professional community of which they are a part. Investing time and/or money in your teacher as an employee allows you to be part of the conversation about what will most benefit your school.

Our assessment process rewards sustained, innovative and deep investigation and requires those submitting dissertations to adhere to the highest standards of research, ethics, and academic writing. The University of Warwick quality assurance process means that you can be confident about the standard of our provision. An MA Professional Education from The University of Warwick is something in which you and your staff can take pride.

There are many ways you can help your staff access the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education Pathway and complete impactful MA research.

You might choose one or two from the ideas listed below:

- ▶ Pay all or some of the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education pathway stage fee and/or all or some of the MA stage fee.
- ▶ Offer a reduced timetable for the duration of the course.
- ▶ Arrange for PPA time to fall in one block to utilise extra time to study.
- ▶ Exempt teachers from attendance at specific teacher training days.
- ▶ Offer a block of study leave in the summer term.
- ▶ Pay travel expenses to taught sessions if appropriate.
- ▶ Give your staff time at management meetings, governor meetings and staff meetings to share their research ideas both during and after the research is completed.
- ▶ Support staff in disseminating their completed research amongst your partner schools, MAT, through publication, or through attending a conference to share what your school has learnt as a result of their research.



HOW TO APPLY

We offer two different routes to enrolling on to the MA Professional Education.

ROUTE 1

If you have graduated from a UK PGCE within the last five years, you can take the 20-month route of this course.

Entry Requirements

You must hold a UK PGCE and also a UK Bachelors degree with Honours at 2:2 or above, or equivalent level.

Your spoken and written English must be of an adequate standard for postgraduate study. If English is not your first language, you will need a minimum score of seven under the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Please see their website for details.

ROUTE 2

If you graduated over five years ago, or have alternative qualifications but considerable experience teaching or leading in an educational setting, you should first apply for our Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education (Find out more information on page 6).

Entry Requirements

You must hold a UK Bachelors degree with Honours at 2:2 or above, or equivalent level.

Your spoken and written English must be of an adequate standard for postgraduate study. If English is not your first language, you will need a minimum score of seven under the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Please see their website for details.



If you require further information to email ma.cte@warwick.ac.uk

To express an interest and for further details of how and when to apply visit www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/cte/professionaldevelopment/maprofed/apply-now

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Disclaimer: This course information was accurate at the time of publication (June 2020). Our course, module content and schedule is continually reviewed and updated to reflect the latest research expertise at Warwick, so it is therefore very important that you check the relevant course website for the latest information before you apply and when you accept an offer. For more information and how to apply, please visit www.warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate