Masters degree in Education

Distance learning degree qualification
Qualification details

This taught masters degree course is a flexible modular qualification with a rich diversity of modules enabling you to choose those most appropriate to your own context and interests.

The modules support your professional development through investigation of currently significant issues in the context of your own experience and appropriate literature.

For this professional qualification you will need some experience of working with learners, either in teaching, the education advisory service, educational administration or an allied field – this may include informal learning settings. You will join a learning community of over 2500 students from varying educational contexts worldwide.

Career relevance and employability

Across the globe there is an increasing demand for creative, innovative education professionals who have highly developed skills and a deep understanding of learning; in many countries a masters degree is becoming essential for career advancement in teaching and related careers. This qualification offers teachers and other education professionals working with learners of all ages the opportunity to develop professionally and academically. It is suitable for graduates working in formal education settings (nurseries, schools, colleges and universities), those supporting non-formal learning as well as education leaders and policy makers.

Modules

For this 180-credit masters degree you require:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate compulsory module</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Educational enquiry (E891)</td>
<td>60</td>
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And 120 credits from the following optional modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate optional modules</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary issues in science learning (SEH806)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing professional development in practice (U810)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical issues in equity, diversity and educational practice (EB805)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum, learning and society: investigating practice (EB846)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulties in literacy development (EB801)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education for development (ET821)</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational leadership: context, strategy and collaboration (EB856)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investigating language in action (EB54)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language, literacy and learning in the contemporary world (EB852)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading professional practice in education (EB855)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice-based research in academic technology (HB09)</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflecting on professional learning in education (EE880)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Researching mathematics learning (ME825)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding children’s development and learning (ED841)</td>
<td>60</td>
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Credit for previous study elsewhere

If you have already completed some successful study at postgraduate level at another institution you may be able to transfer credit for this study and count it towards this Open University qualification. If you wish to apply to transfer credit you must do so as soon as possible as it may affect your choice of OU modules. If you are awarded credit for study completed elsewhere, you may find that you need to study fewer OU modules to complete your qualification with us.

For more information and to register go to www.openuniversity.edu, or call +44 845 241 6555
Modules

For a full list of modules available, please refer to our website, www.openuniversity.edu.

Assessment key
EMTA = End-of-module assessment
iCMA = Interactive computer marked assessment
TMA = Tutor-marked assignment

Educational enquiry (E991)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 4 TMAs, 1 EMA

This course focuses on educational enquiry, exploring the roles it can play for professional practice and policymaking. You'll examine the nature of educational research, and some of the practical strategies and skills involved in both qualitative and quantitative approaches. There will be an opportunity to explore aspects of data processing and analysis. You'll also consider ethical issues, and investigate what's involved in reading and assessing research reports and reviewing research literatures.

Contemporary issues in science learning (SEH906)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 3 TMAs, 1 EMA

This masters-level course examines different aspects of science learning in a range of formal educational settings, from the early years right through to tertiary level. You'll examine how the development of science education reflects current theories of learning, and consider – among other issues – the purposes of teaching and learning science at all levels of education; and how context influences learning. You'll investigate how science education research is carried out, and look at resources used to support science learners – particularly information and communications technology (ICT).

Continuing professional development in practice (UB10)

Credits: 30 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 2 TMAs, 1 EMA

This six-month course is aimed at people with a professional qualification (degree or professional equivalent) and who have undertaken at least 150 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) over the last three to four years. This may be courses from the OU or other providers or ‘non-course’ CPD completed for their organisation or professional bodies. Through two assignments and an end-of-module assessment you will audit and evaluate the CPD activity and the impact that it has had on your work. You will identify and progress appropriate development opportunities and the future direction of your learning through continuing professional development and evaluate ways in which you can share your learning in your organisation.

Critical issues in equity, diversity and educational practice (EB05)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 4 TMAs, 1 EMA

EB05 explores theories, policy developments and practices relating to equity, diversity and inclusion. It is relevant for practitioners working with learners of all ages in a range of settings and situations. The course supports the development of a critical understanding of the factors contributing to social and educational exclusion. It explores the development of approaches and pedagogies for inclusive learning environments, which take account of diversity.

Curriculum, learning and society: investigating practice (EB46)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 5 TMAs, 1 EMA

EB46 supports a wide range of professionals, including teachers, working in informal and formal learning environments including educational institutions and workplace settings, to evaluate and develop their practice to support learning. It introduces some of the major issues dominating the areas of learning and its assessment in educational research. In the course, curriculum includes the knowledge base of what is learned or demonstrated in particular activities, subjects or professions. Through your study you will develop a theoretical framework that relates views of learning, knowledge and pedagogy, which can be applied to analyse and evaluate your own and others’ practice.

Difficulties in literacy development (EB01)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 4 TMAs, 1 EMA

This course will serve teachers and other professionals in mainstream and special schools, colleges and other educational settings. It aims to raise the standard of all students’ literacy levels and increase awareness of the barriers to learning some students face. You’ll explore and reflect on appropriate curriculum responses to the needs of children, and wider issues relevant to adults who experience difficulty in literacy development.

Education for development (ETB21)

Credits: 30 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 3 TMAs, 1 EMA

What role can education play in international development? Education is a key focus of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals; in addition to the specific education targets, education is crucial to achieving other goals. This online course explores the relationship between education and development, and helps you analyse and act on education practices and processes in developing and transition countries. The study materials centre around case files focused on different topic areas including teachers, use of new technologies and gender equality in education, in educational settings (both formal and non-formal) at local, national and international level across the globe.

Educational leadership: context, strategy and collaboration (EB56)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 3 TMAs, 1 EMA

This course explores the external facing aspects of professional practice of leadership and management in education, specifically the curriculum and the learner’s role, leadership of internal-facing change and leading professional development. EB56 takes an experiential, learning and reflective practitioner approach and helps you to examine current issues and concerns in your own practice settings and to be involved in peer collaborative learning. The course uses a blend of learning methods, including an online study guide, a module reader of selected chapters by major authors in the field, and a DVD with UK and international case examples of leadership practice.

Investigating language in action (EB54)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 4 TMAs, 1 EMA

This online masters-level course in applied linguistics is about how language works in theory and in the real-world, using examples from the English language. Whether you are interested in language education, the social sciences or arts, the course enables you to pursue your own particular interests and expertise through the end-of-module small-scale research project. You will develop your skills in analysing how English is used from a range of different perspectives – functional, critical and ethnographic. You will become familiar with online forums which are an integral part of the course, providing opportunities to share ideas with colleagues and your tutor.

Practice-based research in educational technology (H809)

Credits: 30 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 3 TMAs, 1 EMA

Technology is dramatically changing educational research processes, at a time of high demand for ‘evidence-based’ policy and practice. This course will help you to find, interpret and evaluate research in technology-rich environments. You will engage in the critical study of original empirical research to learn about cutting edge methods of data collection and analysis. Philosophical assumptions underlying educational enquiry are examined; and associated ethical and political concerns are explored in detail. There is an opportunity to apply what’s been learned using a topic of your choice, by critically evaluating current research or by developing a research proposal.
Reflecting on professional learning in education (EE880)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 1 EMA

If you have already completed the Open University’s Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (C71), this course will enable you to further your professional development and gain our Postgraduate Certificate in Education (C85). You will reflect on your experience and learning from your Professional Graduate Certificate in Education studies and complete an extended, analytical piece of writing that relates your theoretical understanding to your thought processes and practice as a teacher.

Researching mathematics learning (ME825)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 3 TMAs, 1 EMA

This course is designed for the professional development of anyone working with learners of mathematics – whether as a teacher, classroom assistant, lecturer, adviser or parent. You’ll develop ways of exploring mathematics teaching and learning; interpret current thinking on the subject; and investigate aspects of the social and political context. You will consider tasks to generate pupils’ activity and explore the impact of different tasks on learners. You’ll also reflect and work on your own mathematics, develop your mathematical autobiography and explore further the readings and ideas that influence you most.

Understanding children’s development and learning (ED841)

Credits: 60 at Postgraduate
Assessment: 5 TMAs, 1 EMA

ED841 is for people working with children and young people and looks at children’s development and learning in cultural, educational and social contexts. It explains how theoretical and methodological frameworks contribute to understanding developmental change and how psychological research can inform educational and clinical practice. You will learn about how children actively contribute and shape their own development through meaningful interaction with others and how the study of atypical development and individual difference contributes to theory and practice. You will also carry out a small-scale, observational study and will design an extended research proposal relevant to your own professional interests.

FAQs

Can I study in any country?
This course is approved for study in most countries. Please use the Course Finder menu at www.openuniversity.edu to see if it is available in your country.

Is an OU qualification recognised in my country?
An OU degree is equal in academic standard to a degree from any other British university. The University is subject to the same quality assurance procedures, through the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), as all other British universities, and uses external assessors and examiners to ensure comparability of standard and level in its courses.

A leaflet is available on how you can apply for formal recognition in your country. To download the leaflet, please go to www.openuniversity.edu/brochures/recognition.pdf.

What tutor support will I receive?
The OU excels in its unrivalled support for students. You’ll have email and online support from a tutor and you will be able to discuss your study in online tutor group discussions, using our customised learning environment. Our community websites Platform and OpenLearn offer a different perspective on your subject, and a huge range of OU resources on YouTube and iTunes U can expand your understanding. In addition, you can tap into a range of enthusiastic and welcoming OU social network groups on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Are there any entry requirements?
To gain entry to our postgraduate programmes you’ll normally need an undergraduate degree or equivalent. However, your previous work experience and study, or qualifications from other higher-education institutions, may all count towards programme entry.
You will need some experience of working with learners, either in teaching, the education advisory service, educational administration or an allied field – this may include informal learning settings.

As part of the registration process you will be asked to confirm your proficiency in English. (If you are unsure, you can take a short online test, please see our website for more information.)

Can I count previous study towards an OU qualification?
Any higher-education level studies you’ve successfully completed elsewhere may count towards your OU degree or other qualification. We enable you to do this by awarding you a certain amount of ‘transferred credit’. By transferring credit gained from previous study, you can reduce the amount you need from OU study to achieve your qualification. For more information please go to www.openuniversity.edu.

How long does it take?
Our qualifications are designed to be flexible. So if you want to vary the amount of time you spend studying, you can. The table below is a guide on the time required, but call us today to discuss how you can vary the study intensity and therefore the time taken to complete your course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate qualifications</th>
<th>Credits required</th>
<th>Time required to complete 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters degree</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3-4 years part-time study</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 For illustrative purposes only – in most cases you can vary the number of credits taken per year and therefore the time taken to complete the course.
How much will it cost?
You pay for your postgraduate studies module by module, rather than for an entire programme up front. Therefore, the total cost of a qualification will vary according to which modules you choose and how long you take to complete your degree.

The EU fee for this qualification in 2012/13 is between:

£5,315 - £8,305

Please note: prices are approximate and subject to change. Please check our website or call us for latest details.

For information please go to www.openuniversity.edu and view the details on the Courses pages.

When can I start?
This course starts in October each year.

Can I meet and network with other students?
Definitely – when you start with the OU you automatically become a member of the Open University Student Association (OUSA). OUSA also runs a popular student forum site. For more information, go to www.ousa.org.uk.

Once you have gained your qualification, you can join the OU Alumni Association, our vibrant and active alumni community with 280,000 members worldwide. You will enjoy many membership benefits, including regular newsletters, good networking opportunities and access to the alumni website.

How is my privacy protected?
We record your personal information when you contact us and use this to manage registration, study, examination and other services. When you register, we’ll tell you more about how we process and use your personal information.

When should I apply?
Apply as early as you can – particularly if you wish to claim for credit for previous study. Registration open dates are shown in the Courses section on each qualification page at www.openuniversity.edu.

What do I need to do next?

It takes just 2 simple steps.
Begin the process to secure your place. Here’s how easy it is.

1. Register now
Go to www.openuniversity.edu, select the Courses section and the degree you require. You will then be asked to select your first module to register. Alternatively call us on +44 845 241 6555.

Don’t worry, you don’t need to pay anything at this stage. As soon as you have registered you’ll get an email confirmation which contains your login details.

2. Choose your first module, make payment to enrol
Before you start studying you will need to choose and register on your first modules and arrange payment; instructions for this will be emailed to you. Once complete you will officially be an Open University student – welcome!
All details shown in this leaflet are correct as at February 2013, but are subject to change.
Please call +44845 241 6555 for the latest details.