

MA Professional Practice

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	School of Education
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	MA Professional Practice PgCert Professional Practice
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PgCert Professional Practice PgDip Professional Practice
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	1 year full-time (max 3 years) 2 years part-time (max 5 years)
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Blended delivery
Regulatory Scheme [1]	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	N/A
Route code (SITS)	PRPRMA PRPRPGCERT (PgCert)
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Masters Characteristics Statement (2020)
Date of most recent approval	August 2018
Date specification last updated	January 2021

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

Programme Overview

The PgCert and MA in Professional Practice is designed for busy professionals who wish to develop their practice in a way that suits their working circumstances. It is aimed at those new to the profession as well as those who are experienced in their field. Participants can choose from a variety of modules which enable them to recognise and defend good professional practice and to become competent in analysing, evaluating and restructuring their practice through engagement with evidence-based practice and research.

Programme Aims

1. To advance personal and professional understanding through engagement in a series of modules applicable to professional and education related circumstances
2. To provide qualified professionals and teachers with opportunities to engage in professional development activity that is accredited academically and recognised internationally
3. To enable participants to plan and conduct an in-depth study of a topic which has professional relevance for them and contributes to their growth as a professional both within and beyond educational contexts
4. To have the opportunity to apply the perspectives and paradigms from a range of other award pathways to their understanding of their own professional practice
5. To facilitate students' critical thinking and analysis of their practice in a contemporary context
6. To act as preparation for doctoral study

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

You will demonstrate:

- A1 A critical awareness of professional understanding within the student's field of practice, and the capacity to identify its significance and relevance in educational settings within national and global contexts
- A2 Critical reflection and evaluation of your own practice and that of others, as well as the ability to provide an evidence base in support of claims made for evolving competencies
- A3 An in-depth understanding of current issues and developments informed by scholarship and research
- A4 Knowledge and understanding of theoretical underpinnings associated with education as presented in published research and policy literature

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

You will demonstrate:

- B1 The ability to articulate a clearly structured and cohesive original argument.
- B2 The ability to design and manage a research project which is ethically compliant and academically rigorous and professionally relevant
- B3 Synthesis of ideas and information in an innovative format and apply them to new cases or research questions
- B4 Development of personal effectiveness, self-awareness and self-management.

C Skills for Life and Work

On achieving Level 7 you will be able to:

- C1 Work Independently - Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in a professional context.
- C2 Work with Others - Plan for and actively engage in inclusive collaboration with others to tackle and solve complex problems and develop original insights.
- C3 Communicate with Impact - Communicate complex ideas clearly, effectively and impactfully with specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- C4 Demonstrate Digital Fluency - Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically to enhance creativity and communication in a professional context.

Intermediate awards

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A4, B1, B4, C1, C4

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A4, B1, B4, C1, C3, C4

Programme Content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C (everyone on programme has to do it) Required = R (for a pathway within the programme)

Required* = R* (either EDU7101-30 or EDU7102-15 & EDU7103-15) Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme

Subject offered as single programme

MA Professional Practice				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	EDU7113-30	Independent Study	30	O	
7	EDU7114-60	Independent Study	60	O	
7	EDU7122-30	Work based Action Enquiry	30	O	
7	EDU7121-30	SEN and Inclusion: Autism Spectrum	30	O	
7	EDU7100-30	Education and Society	30	O	
7	EDU7101-30	Research Methods in Social Science	30	R*	
7	EDU7102-15	Research and the Professional Part 1	15	R*	
7	EDU7103-15	Research and the Professional Part 2	15	R*	
7	EDU7104-60	Dissertation	60	C	
7	EDU7109-30	Leadership and Practice	30	O	
7	EDU7129-30	Perspectives on Play and Creativity	30	O	
7	EDU7128-30	Contemporary Issues in Inclusive Education	30	O	

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

If you are currently employed as an educational professional, many of the learning tasks and assessments set during your award can be adapted to being undertaken within your professional context. There is no requirement for you to undertake work experience or placements during your studies. Whilst there are no specific work experience or placement opportunities incorporated into this course there will be opportunities to reflect on professional experience and to discuss real life situations within the seminars. It may be possible for informal visits to be arranged to visit schools and / or other educational settings.

Additional Costs Table

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost
N/A		

Graduate Attributes

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Confidently Self-Aware	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	<i>Continuous self-reflection during discussions in class, group work, reading tasks and course assessment</i>
Emotionally Attuned	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	<i>Both team working and independent skills through supervisory meetings and project planning and implementation including dealing with potential gatekeepers and participants in your professional field.</i>
Inclusive Collaborator	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	<i>Awareness of the importance of diversity in professional practice. The integration of discussions and tasks during and/or outside lectures to facilitate learning autonomy and collaboration.</i>
Adaptable Innovator	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	<i>Emphasis on creative thinking and adaptability in the context of education, dissertation projects that look to introduce innovative practices and/or adapt exiting methodologies to new applications.</i>
Critical Thinker	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	<i>Critical engagement with the literature, asking curious questions and reflection on professional practice</i>
Forward Thinker	Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	<i>Participating in classroom discussions, writing assignments focused on practice improvement, linking the assignments to professional practice and understanding their practical implications with elements of anticipation of future needs. The dissertation can also be designed to support their own personal/professional goals for practice improvement.</i>
Ethical Leader	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	<i>Explicit training on professional ethics and around research ethics specifically</i>
Responsible Self-Starter	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	<i>The dissertation and multiple assignments are designed to create direct links to professional practice with the emphasis on responsible professionalism</i>
Compassionately Resilient	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	<i>Discussions and coursework offer opportunities to reflect on practice and find solutions to setbacks utilising all available skills and resources</i>
Digitally Resourceful	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	<i>Modules require students to engage with technology to support their learning and assessment. They also have access to additional technological tools to support their research activities.</i>

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
EDU7127-30	Investigating and Developing Practice	New module	IFE Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, 14 June 2019	2019/20
TES7101-30	English as an Additional Language	Module deleted	IFE Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, 14 June 2019	2019/20
EDU7128-30	Contemporary Issues in Inclusive Education	New Module	IFE Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, 14 June 2019	2019/20
EDU7121-30	SEN and Inclusion - Autism Spectrum	New module	IFE Learning and Teaching Committee, 14 June 2019	2019/20
EDU7127-20	Investigating and Developing Practice	Change of semester	Approved by Chair's action on 2/12/2020	2021/22
EDU7113-20	Independent Study	Assessment change	Approved by Chair's action on 2/12/2020	2021/22
EDU7121-30	SEN and Inclusion - Autism Spectrum	Assessment change	Curriculum Committee 16 June 2021	2021/22
EDU7122-30	Work-based Action Enquiry	Assessment change	Curriculum Committee 16 June 2021	2021/22
EDU7127-30	Investigating and Developing Practice	Assessment change	Curriculum Committee 16 June 2021	2021/22
EDU7105-30	Education and Globalisation	Module deleted	Curriculum Committee 16 June 2021	2021/22
EDU7121-30	SEN and Inclusion - Autism Spectrum	Assessment change, removal of part time option	SQMC March 2024	2024/25
EDU7113-20	Independent Study Module	Change to contact and independent study hours	SQMC March 2024	2024/25
EDU7104-60	Dissertation	Assessment changes	SQMC March 2025	2025/26
EDU7122-30	Work based Action Enquiry	Updated Outline Syllabus, and assessment changes	SQMC March 2025	2025/26

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
EDU7127-30 Investigating and Developing Practice module deleted	Curriculum Approval Panel, December 2023	2024/25
EDU7112-30 Education Policy module deleted	Curriculum Approval Panel, December 2023	2024/25
TES7102-30 Theory and Practice of TESOL module removed	Curriculum Approval Panel, December 2023	2024/25

EDU7108-30 Perspectives of Outdoor Play removed and replaced with EDU7129-30 Perspectives on Play and Creativity	Curriculum Approval Panel, December 2023	2024/25
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Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram - MA Professional Practice

Full time study		
Level 7		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Core Modules		
N/A	N/A	EDU7104-60 Dissertation
Required* Modules		
EDU7102-15 Research and the Professional Part 1 EDU7103-15 Research and the Professional Part 2	EDU7101-30 Research Methods in Social Science EDU7102-15 Research and the Professional Part 1 EDU7103-15 Research and the Professional Part 2	N/A
Optional Modules		
EDU7114-60 Independent Study EDU700-30 Education and Society EDU7109-30 Leadership in Practice EDU7122-30 Work Based Action Enquiry EDU7113-30 Independent Study EDU7128-30 Contemporary Issues in Inclusive Education	EDU7113-30 Independent Study EDU7121-30 SEN and Inclusion: Autism Spectrum EDU7129-30 Perspectives on Play and Creativity EDU7122-30 Work Based Action Enquiry	N/A
Rule Notes: Students take 60 credits in trimester 1 and trimester 2. Students can choose either EDU7114-60 or EDU7113-30, but not both. Students must take either EDU7101-30 OR EDU7102-15 and EDU7103-15		

Part time study		
Level 7 - Year 1		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Core Modules		
N/A	N/A	N/A
Required* Modules		
N/A	EDU7102-15 Research and the Professional part 1 EDU7103-15 Research and the Professional part 2	EDU7101-30 Research Methods in Social Science EDU7102-15 Research and the Professional Part 1 EDU7103-15 Research and the Professional Part 2
Optional Modules		
EDU7100-30 Education and Society EDU7109-30 Leadership and Practice EDU7122-30 Work based action enquiry EDU7113-30 Independent Study EDU7128-30 Contemporary Issues in Inclusive Education EDU7114-60 Independent Study	EDU7129-30 Perspectives on Play and Creativity EDU7122-30 Work based action enquiry EDU7113-30 Independent Study EDU7121-30 SEN and Inclusion: Autism Spectrum EDU7101-30 Research Methods in Social Science EDU7114-60 Independent Study	EDU7113-30 Independent Study EDU7122-30 Work based action enquiry
Rule Notes: Students take 30 credits in each trimester. Students can choose either EDU7114-60 or EDU7113-30, but not both. Students must take either EDU7101-30 OR EDU7102-15 and EDU7103-15 in year 1 or year 2.		
Level 7 - Year 2		
Core Modules		
N/A	EDU7104-60 Dissertation	
Required* Modules		
EDU7102-15 Research and the Professional Part 1 EDU7103-15 Research and the Professional Part 2	N/A	N/A
Optional Modules		
EDU7122-30 Work based Action Enquiry EDU7100-30 Education and Society EDU7109-30 Leadership and Practice EDU7113-30 Independent Study EDU7128-30 Contemporary Issues in Inclusive Education	N/A	N/A

Part time study	
Rule Notes: Students take 30 credits in trimester 1. Students can choose either EDU7114-60 or EDU7113-30, but not both. Students must take either EDU7101-30 OR EDU7102-15 and EDU7103-15 in year 1 or year 2.	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O) ^[2]	Intended Learning Outcomes											
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge				Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	EDU7113-30	Independent Study (30 credits)	O	x			x	x			x	x			x
7	EDU7114-60	Independent Study (60 credits)	O	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	EDU7101-30	Research Methods in Social Science	R*	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	EDU7102-15	Research and the Professional Part 1	R*	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	EDU7103-15	Research and the Professional Part 2	R*	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	EDU7104-60	Dissertation	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	EDU7100-30	Education and Society	O	x			x	x			x	x			
7	EDU7109-30	Leadership in Practice	O	x			x	x			x	x			x
7	EDU7129-30	Perspectives on Play and Creativity	O	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	EDU7121-30	SEN and Inclusion: Autism Spectrum	O	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	EDU7122-30	Work Based Action Enquiry	O	x			x	x			x	x			x
7	EDU7128-30	Contemporary Issues in Inclusive Education	O	x			x	x			x	x			x

^[2] C = Core; R = Required O = Optional R* = Required (either EDU7101 or EDU7102 & EDU7103)

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, R*, O)	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Reflection	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
7	EDU7113-30	Independent Study (30 credits)	O			8,000 words											
7	EDU7114-60	Independent Study (60 credits)	O			15,000 words	or	15,000 words	or		15,000 word case study						
7	EDU7101-30	Research Methods in Social Science	R*			4000 words			4000 words								
7	EDU7102-15	Research and the Professional Part 1	R*			4,000 words Critical review											
7	EDU7103-15	Research and the Professional Part 2	R*					4,000 words									
7	EDU7104-60	Dissertation	C		16,000 words												
7	EDU7100-30	Education and Society	O		6,000 words							Group presentation (1,500 words equivalent)					
7	EDU7109-30	Leadership in Practice	O			7,500 words											
7	EDU7129-30	Perspectives on Play and Creativity	O			5,000 words					3,000 word equivalent						
7	EDU7121-30	SEN and Inclusion: Autism Spectrum	O	2,400 words		5,600 words											
7	EDU7122-30	Work-based Action Enquiry	O					8,000 words									

7	EDU7128-30	Contemporary Issues in Inclusive Education	O		8000 words												
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[3] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required* either EDU7101-30 or EDU7102-15 & EDU7103-15; O = Optional