



## Frequently asked questions about the PGCert/ MSc in Professional and Higher Education

### Is this programme for me?

This dynamic, interactive and highly work-related programme has been designed to meet the needs of educators in the work place and higher education. Our students include: nurses and midwives; allied health professionals; doctors; social workers, lecturers in higher, further and community education; librarians and police trainers. You will have the opportunity to work and study with a range of professionals to explore experiences of learning, teaching and assessment in the context of your work.

Students describe their experiences of the programme at:

<http://www.qmu.ac.uk/cap/LandTMScProfEdComments.htm>

### Who teaches on the programme?

The course is collaborative and involves specialist lecturers from across the subject areas within the University, with the main contributors being the Centre for Academic Practice and the School of Health Sciences (Nursing). All teaching staff have Fellowship of Higher Education Academy and/or Postgraduate educational qualifications as well as a record of publications within their field of research.

### How much does it cost to matriculate for the PGCert/ MSc in Professional and Higher Education?

Fees in 2009 - 2010 were:

£375 per 15 credit module (Home / EU student)

£1000 per 15 credit module (International student)

Exemptions include:

QMU staff with learning and teaching responsibilities (part or full-time)	QMU staff with learning and teaching responsibilities are exempt from paying fees for the programme.
PhD student	As a QMU PhD student, you do not pay for the tuition fees for the Short Course in Facilitating Learning and Teaching but you must register for Education in Action 1. Before starting the Programme, you should discuss this with your supervisor. You must pay for all other modules in the MSc Programme except Education in Action 1.
Tutor at collaborative partner	Please email CAP for information – <a href="mailto:capadmin@qmu.ac.uk">capadmin@qmu.ac.uk</a>

Up to date information on fees are available at: <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/registry/feespg.htm>

### What are the core modules?

- For the PGCert, the core modules are:
- Education in Action 1 (15 credits)
- Education in Action 2 (15 credits)
- Curriculum Development (15 credits)

For the MSc, the core modules are:

- Education in action 1 (15 credits)
- Education in action 2 (15 credits)
- Curriculum development (15 credits)
- Applied education research 1 (15 credits)
- Applied education research 2 (15 credits)
- Current issues in higher education (15 credits)
- Introduction to technology enhanced learning (15 credit)
- Dissertation/Project (60 credits)

Further details available at: <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/cap/LandTMScProfEdProgInfo.htm>

### Do I have to take the modules in any order?

It is advisable that you take Education in Action 1 and 2 at the start of your programme of studies. Attendance at Education in Action 1 will be waived if you have attended the Short Course Facilitating Learning and Teaching; you then only need to complete the assessment for Education in Action 1 to obtain credit. You must ensure you formally register on the MSc to qualify for credit.

For the MSc you must have completed all the modules before starting the dissertation.

### Do I have to buy a lot of text books for each of the modules?

Each module will provide you with a reading list. Most of the core texts will be available through the Library. You will also be required to read articles which are available electronically, and websites. However, you may find from time to time that there is a key text that you have found particularly useful and would like to have a personal copy. It is worthwhile checking with the module co-ordinator before purchasing any text books.

### What's the difference between the PGCert and the MSc?

The PGCert attracts a broad spectrum of adult educators who are interested in developing skills of facilitation and teaching. The MSc allows participants to specialise in an area of interest and further develop their knowledge and skills of educational research and enquiry

### How long do I have to complete the programme?

Programme	Mode of attendance	Maximum period for completion	Minimum period for completion
Masters	FT	4 calendar years	1 calendar year
	NFT	7 calendar years	2½ calendar years
PGDip	FT	3 calendar years	1 calendar year
	NFT	5 calendar years	2 calendar years
PGCert	FT	2 calendar years	1 semester
	NFT	4 calendar years	1 calendar year

FT=Full Time

NFT=Not Full time

**What support do I have?**

Every student is assigned a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) who is a member of the teaching team for the MSc in Professional and Higher Education. The PAT offers learners support and academic advice on module choices, academic work and other support services. Students are encouraged to meet with their PAT once a semester and an agreed record is maintained of all meetings.

**How much time do I have to attend at Queen Margaret University?**

Each module will have slightly different contact hours. Modules require between 1 and 5 days of attendance at the University. Currently one module is delivered fully online, requiring no physical attendance at the University.

**How do I learn through this programme?** You will learn through group discussion, teaching practice, challenge and debate, collaborative case analysis and independent study. Emphasis is placed on building on your own personal experience. Assessment includes personal critiques, portfolios and seminar presentations.

**How will completing the programme help with my career?** The programme will make a significant contribution to your mastery of educational situations in your own work environment. The PGCert, which is accredited by the Higher Education Academy and the NMC, will enable you to teach in higher education. Accreditation by other professional bodies may allow you to record a teaching qualification with your profession.

**Can I claim accreditation from the Higher Education Academy?**

Once you have successfully completed Education in Action 1, you could apply to the Higher Education Academy for Associate Fellowship. Alternatively if you complete Education in Action 2 as well, then you can apply for Fellowship to the Higher Education Academy. Full details about the Higher Education Academy are available at:

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/supportingindividuals/professionalrecognition>

**How does the programme articulate with the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework?**

By experiencing a variety of approaches to learning, teaching and assessment which you will then be able to deploy to promote people's health and well-being and prevent adverse affects, you will be meeting aspects of the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework.

**Where can I find further information about the MSc in Professional and Higher Education?**

Go to: <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/cap/LandTMScProfHEHome.htm>

**How do I matriculate?**

Once you have been offered a place on the programme and have accepted it, there are two separate processes that all students must go through before the start of each academic year. These are matriculation and enrolment:

- Matriculation is the process of formally (re)registering on the programme.
- Enrolment is the process of formally recording your module choice for each semester.
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These processes can usually be completed online. Go to webpage:

[http://www.qmu.ac.uk/courses/PGCourse.cfm?c\\_id=245](http://www.qmu.ac.uk/courses/PGCourse.cfm?c_id=245)

This provides further information about the PGCert/MSc and how to apply.

**How can I contact the programme leaders?**

Contact either of the programme leaders through email:

Dr Iddo Oberski – [ioberski@qmu.ac.uk](mailto:ioberski@qmu.ac.uk)

Dr Margaret Coulter – [mcoulter@qmu.ac.uk](mailto:mcoulter@qmu.ac.uk)