

1. Programme Title(s):

Action Research PG Certificate

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Part-time

b) Type of study

Distance learning route

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is one year;

The maximum period of registration is two years.

5. Typical entry requirements:

First degree (usually 1st, 2:1 or 2:2).

Students must be native speakers of English, or have English Language qualifications to Level 6.5 IELTS (with a minimum of 6 on any of the four skills), or equivalent.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

To be considered, prior learning must have been achieved within the last five years. Students will be able to transfer in 30 credits if they have successfully completed either of the University of Leicester's standalone 30 credit Action Research modules.

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to enable students to demonstrate that they can:

- (1) critique and evaluate the basic principles of educational research.
- (2) explain the characteristics, affordances and limitations of action research as a research methodology.
- (3) evaluate how an action research approach can be applied to professional challenges in a work based context
- (4) apply the principles of an action research approach to the development of a work-based action research project.
- (5) construct and evaluate an action research intervention in a work based setting.
- (6) evaluate and critique the affordances and limitations of an action research intervention

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

Where appropriate, course options will take account of the National Curriculum for the country and age group of children or young people with whom students are working.

QAA Masters Degree Characteristics

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/MastersDegreeCharacteristics.pdf>

University of Leicester Learning and Teaching Strategy

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach>

University of Leicester Examining Code of Practice

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/codes/documents/examining-code.pdf/view>

University of Leicester Code of Practice on Distance Learning

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/codes/documents/distancelearning.pdf/view>

Guidelines on the University's personal tutor system

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/documents/personal-tutor-system.pdf>

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Knowledge		
Enhanced knowledge of aspects of subject knowledge and subject pedagogy through the use of action research media	Seminars, tutorials, independent study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Concepts		
Enhanced knowledge of theoretical frameworks relevant to the understanding of action research	Seminars, tutorials, independent study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Techniques		
Mastery of educational research methods	Seminars, tutorials, independent study, small-scale study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Critical analysis		
Ability to apply understanding of theoretical frameworks and research methodology with independence and rigour	Seminars, tutorials, independent study, small-scale study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Presentation		
Mastery of presentation methods appropriate to a variety of audiences within the field of education	Seminars, tutorials, independent study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Appraisal of evidence		
Ability to analyse and assess educational policy and reform, and findings from research and inspection	Seminars, tutorials, independent study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Research skills		
Ability to locate, organise and marshal evidence, report on findings analyse complex ideas and construct critical arguments	Seminars relating specifically to research methods, tutorials, independent study, supervision of small-scale study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Communication skills		
Ability to deliver oral presentations appropriate to the audience, respond to questioning and write clearly and cogently	Seminars, tutorials, poster and oral presentations	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Data presentation		
Ability to present research findings clearly and effectively, using appropriate IT resources	Seminars relating specifically to research methods, tutorials, independent study.	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Information technology		
Ability to evaluate a range of IT applications and to use IT effectively	Seminars relating to action research and to other research methods, independent study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Problem solving		
Ability to identify main features of a problem, examine alternative solutions, and plan and carry out suitable actions.	Seminars, tutorials, independent study, small-scale study	Oral presentation; poster presentation, workplace learning portfolio & commentary; research study report
Working relationships		
Ability to contribute to and comment on ideas in seminar groups	Seminar activities	Contributions to seminars
Managing learning		
Identifying a significant and realistic focus for assignments in a professional context	Supervision of small-scale study	Tutorial support
Career management		
Identifying the benefits of Level 7 study to match career development needs.	Tutorial support; supervision of small-scale study	Tutorial discussion

10. Special features:

All modules will involve activities that are based on aspects of the student's professional context.

11. Indications of programme quality:

The programme will have an external examiner with relevant expertise to cover the content of both modules, who will report annually on the quality of the programme.

12. Scheme of Assessment

This programme follows the regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

13. Progression points

Upon completion of the PG Certificate, the student could use the 60 credits as APL to join the Masters in Education: Teaching or Learning (MAE:LT) or another School of Education M level programme.

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

The regulations that apply to the “criteria for and classification of awards” are regulation 6.32-6.41 in the following link - <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/documents/senatereg6-pgt.pdf>.

6.33 applies to PG certificates.

The number of credits of taught modules that a student shall be entitled to re-sit or re-submit is half of the credit value of the taught component of the programme, up to a maximum value of 60 credits. For the PG Certificate that would mean that a student can only resubmit one module (30 credits). If a student was therefore to fail both modules then they would not be eligible for any award.

15. Additional information [e.g. timetable for admissions]

Admissions will normally be in line with the academic year, with an October start date

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Curriculum:

Candidates will undertake 2 taught modules

Module	title
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The following modules are offered for 2014-15 for 30 credits each, taken as Part One then Part Two to gain 60 credits in total:

ED7138 Action Research 1

ED7139 Action Research 2

Assessment:

Assessment for the taught modules is through coursework, employing a variety of tasks including essays, and oral/poster presentations.

Qualifications awarded:

Candidates, who satisfactorily complete the assessments for each of the taught modules will exit with 60 credits, and will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate. This qualification can be used as the equivalent to the campus based MAE: LT module and therefore APL used for progression onto the second year of the MAE: LT course if the student wishes.

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>

JACs codes applicable to programme: X100; X200; X300