

PGCert Academic Practice (part-time)
For students entering in 2017/8

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Programme length:	55 months
Date of specification:	15/Aug/2017
Programme Director:	Ms Clare McCullagh
Programme Advisor:	Miss Deb Heighes
Board of Studies:	Institute of Education
Accreditation:	By the Higher Education Academy (HEA) against the UK Professional Standards Framework (UK PSF)

Summary of programme aims

This programme aims to support the initial and continuing professional development of staff engaged in teaching and supporting learning in the University. It enables students to provide evidence of achievement at Descriptor 2 of the UK Professional Standards Framework (UK PSF) through demonstrating a broad understanding of effective approaches to teaching and learning support and providing evidence of: engagement in appropriate areas of activity; possession of core knowledge; and commitment to shared professional values.

Transferable skills

The programme provides the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills associated with working in the UK Higher Education context. These include the ability to:

- communicate effectively orally;
- write for different audiences;
- reflect upon and evaluate practice;
- use appropriate learning technologies to support teaching and learning; and,
- design, carry out and report a research project

The programme aims to begin the process of academic career planning and enables students to begin to compile a portfolio of professional development activity.

Programme content

The programme consists of three compulsory modules totalling 60 credits at Level 7.

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
EDMAP 1	Introduction to Academic Practice	10	7
EDMAP2	Developing Academic Practice	30	7
EDMAP3	Academic Research and Practice	20	7

The successful attainment of all 60 Level 7 credits will lead to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice.

Part-time or modular arrangements

The programme is only available on a part-time basis, with content being delivered during intensive blocks.

Progression requirements

In order to progress to EDMAP3 students must have a pass in EDMAP1 and EDMAP2 (40 Level 7 credits).

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

The programme is taught through interactive workshops including: group work, sharing practice, problem solving and case studies.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit
50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)
Failing categories
40 - 49% Work below threshold standard
0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

Further information on the classification conventions, including borderline criteria, are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/exams/PGclassification-post-2008.pdf>.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate, students must pass (with a mark of at least 50%) all modules.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to hold an academic/academic-related post in higher education.

Admissions Tutor: Jackie Ward

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support teams and IT Services. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Support Centres. If a student has a general enquiry and is unsure where to seek help, they should visit their Support Centre. There are five Support Centres across the University, including one based at the London Road Campus. The Support Centre will be able to advise on matters such as extenuating circumstances, module selection, suspensions, withdrawals, timetable queries and transferring programme. The Support Centre will also be able to signpost students to Carrington building where other University services related to disability, financial support, counselling and wellbeing, accommodation and careers can be found. More information on what student services are available can be found here: <http://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials>.

Student guidance and welfare support is provided by the Programme Director, Module Convenors, tutors and Discipline-specific Mentors.

Career prospects

Those not holding a permanent post in higher education and who aspire to do so, are advised that completion of a programme of study that qualifies them for FHEA status (encompassing EDMAP1 and EDMAP2) is now expected at the majority of UK universities.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

N/A

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. National policies and strategies relating to HE
2. University quality assurance and student support procedures and policies
3. The theories behind, and complexities of, student learning.
4. Conceptual frameworks of pedagogic practice
5. Good practice in teaching and supporting learning
6. Resources to support and enhance academic practice

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Interactive workshops including discussions, group work, sharing good practice, problem solving and case studies (EDMAP1 and 2)
- Work in departments/schools with mentors and other colleagues on discipline-specific issues (EDMAP1, 2 and 3)
- Individually tailored tutorials with mentor/supervisor and module convenors (EDMAP1, 2 and 3)
- Individual reading.

7. The dimensions of the UK Professional Standards Framework, their relevance to the programme and to professional development.

Assessment

- Planning and evaluating a learning activity (EDMAP1)
- Group research and presentation task (EDMAP2)
- Case studies (EDMAP2)
- Portfolio of evidence of engagement with UK PSF (EDMAP2)
- Research-based project (EDMAP3).

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Justify the decisions relating to design, assessment and teaching and learning methods from a pedagogical standpoint with reference to the literature
2. Evaluate good practice and make decisions on its relevance and application to discipline specific situations
3. Analyse factors contributing to successful or problematic learning situations
4. Identify opportunities for innovation where appropriate.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Interactive workshops including discussions, group work, sharing good practice, problem solving and case studies (EDMAP1 and 2)
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- Individually tailored tutorials with mentor/supervisor and module convenors (EDMAP1, 2 and 3)
- Individual reading.

Assessment

- Planning and evaluating a learning activity (EDMAP1)
- Group research and presentation task (EDMAP2)
- Case studies (EDMAP2)
- Portfolio of evidence of engagement with UK PSF (EDMAP2)
- Research-based project (EDMAP3).

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Translate theories of teaching and learning into practice
2. Provide an effective learning environment for undergraduate and postgraduate students
3. Reflect on own practice
4. Disseminate good practice to colleagues
5. Plan continuing professional development
6. Establish a research profile
7. Work to University expectations, guidelines and policies.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Interactive workshops including discussions, group work, sharing good practice, problem solving and case studies (EDMAP1 and 2)
- Work in departments/schools with mentors and other colleagues on discipline-specific issues (EDMAP1, 2 and 3)
- Peer reviews of teaching (EDMAP2)
- Individually tailored tutorials with mentor/supervisor and module convenors (EDMAP1, 2 and 3)
- Individual reading.

Assessment

- Planning and evaluating a learning activity (EDMAP1)
- Group research and presentation task (EDMAP2)
- Case studies (EDMAP2)
- Portfolio of evidence of engagement with UK PSF (EDMAP2)
- Research-based project (EDMAP3).

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. Communicate effectively orally
2. Write for different audiences
3. Reflect upon and evaluate practice
4. Use appropriate learning technologies to support teaching and learning
5. Design, carry out and report a research project.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- Interactive workshops including discussions, group work, sharing good practice, problem solving and case studies (EDMAP1 and 2)
- Work in departments/schools with mentors and other colleagues on discipline specific issues (EDMAP1, 2 and 3)
- Peer reviews of teaching (EDMAP1 and 2)
- Individually tailored tutorials with mentor/supervisor and module convenors (EDMAP1, 2 and 3)
- Individual reading.

Assessment

- Planning and evaluating a learning activity (EDMAP1)
- Group research and presentation task (EDMAP2)
- Case studies (EDMAP2)
- Portfolio of evidence of engagement with UK PSF (EDMAP2)
- Research-based project (EDMAP3).

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.