

Programme Specification

MA in Education (full-time)

PFTZEDUCGNHM

MA in Education (part-time)

PPTZEDUCGNFM

For students entering in 2027/28

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MA in Education (full-time) - 12 months MA in Education (part-time) - 63 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The MA Education offers educationalists an opportunity to deepen their understanding of policy, research, teaching and learning in all educational settings. The programme is designed to help participants reflect on and improve existing educational practices at a personal level, and in the context of their professional practice and the educational contexts in which they operate. This aim is achieved by exploring a range of theoretical perspectives and by subjecting them to critical scrutiny through critical thinking and research training, drawing where appropriate on the practical knowledge of participants.

Throughout the programme, students are challenged to make informed decisions about their own opinions about education. They undertake critical analysis in academic study, research and reflection on practice to appraise how their life experience has influenced their attitudes and values about education. They explore the origins and implications of historical and current debates in education, focusing on:

- The interaction of educational research, policy and practice
- Social justice and inclusive practice in education
- Creativity in Education
- Theories of learning and development in children, young people and adults
- Education for Social Sustainability
- Schooling and teaching in local and international contexts
- Excellence in teaching, mentoring and leadership in Education
- Education and teaching relating to specific curriculum areas and age phases.

The MA Education gives students the opportunity to undertake sustained investigation of topics of interest in education. Students may follow the generic programme or choose to specialise in the pathways Early Years, Creativity in Education, Inclusive Education, Leadership and Management in Education, by module choice.

The programme is ideal for the early and mid- career educationalist who wishes to consolidate their knowledge of Education as an academic discipline and as a practice and to develop their career as a leader in education in any area of specialism. Graduates may combine study alongside working in education in schools, youth work in any age phase and educational work in government, arts and charitable organisations. Graduates of the programme will offer their institutions a greatly developed range of insights and skills. They will be more effective practitioners as teachers, mentors, coaches and leaders able to assist colleagues in improving their practice and raising standards of teaching and learning.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MA in Education (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Challenge students to engage critically with educational theory, research, policy and practice through academic study, personal research and reflection on their own professional practice.
2	Foster an awareness of diversity, education for social justice and the social and cultural consequences of climate change in education across the lifespan in different settings to facilitate students' development of an informed view about Education, exploring the conflicts, issues and challenges that exist in both local and global contexts.
3	Support students in developing an independent viewpoint that can be substantiated through critical and analytical thinking in relation to Education scholarship and research.
4	Facilitate students to develop robust academic literacies at Masters level so they may become confident and resilient education researchers, using critical and analytical thinking to synthesise complex arguments in academic work.
5	Challenge students to develop their academic literacies throughout the programme by critical reflection on their own learning and by working together to build their knowledge and experience through socially constructed learning in a community of practice.
6	Provide an enriched learning experience across the programme to support the students' personal and academic development in the study of Education as an academic discipline and a practice in tutor directed study, independent research and scholarship, self-study and volunteering activities at the University and in partnership organisations, including Reading Partnership Schools.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EDM007	Investigating Education	20	M
EDM133	MA Education dissertation	60	M
EDM201	Analysing Research Data in Education	20	M

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the Institute of Education or from an approved list of modules from across the University, with the approval of the programme director.

PATHWAYS

To be eligible for a pathway, in addition to the compulsory modules above, students complete 80/180 credits in modules relating to the chosen pathway topic, comprising a 20 credit module and the 60 credit dissertation (EDM133) as follows:

To qualify for MA in Education (Creativity in Education)

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 20 credits from the list of modules related to Creativity in Education, as specified by the Institute of Education, and a dissertation topic in a field related to Creativity in Education.

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the Institute of Education or from an approved list of modules from across the University, with the approval of the programme director.

To qualify for MA in Education (Inclusive Education)

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 20 credits from the list of modules related to Inclusive Education, as specified by the Institute of Education, and a dissertation topic in a field related to Inclusive Education.

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the Institute of Education or from an approved list of modules from across the University, with the approval of the programme director.

To qualify for MA in Education (Leadership and Management)

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 20 credits from the list of modules related to Leadership and Management, as specified by the Institute of Education, and a dissertation topic in a field related to Leadership and Management. Students are able to apply for Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Accreditation (for an additional fee which the Institute of Education will clarify at the start of the academic year) if they select this pathway.

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the Institute of Education or from an approved list of modules from across the University, with the approval of the programme director.

To qualify for MA in Education (Early Years) In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 20 credits from the list of modules related to Early Years, as specified by the Institute of Education, and a dissertation topic in a field related to Early Years.

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the Institute of Education or from an approved list of modules from across the University, with the approval of the programme director.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The modular system allows a full-time and part-time route. Modules must be assessed in the year they are studied.

Full-time students complete the programme in 12 months.

For part-time students the taught modules (totalling 120 credits) must be completed within 36 months and the EDM133 dissertation must be submitted no later than 27 months from completion of the taught modules. Students on the part time programme must complete 120 credits in modules before submission of the dissertation. The dissertation registration period is 12 months. Part-time students may take a maximum of one 20 credit module at the same time as the dissertation, with the permission of the programme director. Students are advised to consult with their Academic Tutor to determine their programme of study.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching is by a variety of methods, including lectures, seminars, workshops, individual feedback on written work and individual supervisions.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

The MA Education programme provides opportunities for a high proportion of work and institutionally based research and students are encouraged to review how they will take advantage of these opportunities over the course of the programme. Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 1600 hours for guided independent study and 200 hours taught time. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a range of written coursework, including in class tests and oral coursework including presentations. There are no written examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

Part time students must complete 120 credits in modules before final submission of EDM133 Dissertation.

Classification

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

For Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits; and

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

All study material including books, articles and other required reading is available in the University Library in hard copies and online resources.

Students should bring a lap top or similar device to use in taught sessions, and to access online teaching and learning resources. Please refer to the University Digital Technology Service Student guide <https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Study/IT> for advice on a suitable computer specification.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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4 August 2026

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