Distance Learning Courses in
MA International Education

School of Education
University of Leicester
Credentials

- The University of Leicester is consistently ranked in the top 20 of UK national league tables.
- The University of Leicester is ranked in the top 1% of universities in the world*.
- Leicester research has impact. The University is ranked in the top 20 in the UK for research citations per academic.
- The University of Leicester is a major provider of distance learning programmes with over 25 years' experience of offering high quality courses.
- The School of Education at Leicester has an established reputation dating back to the 1940s. We are one of the largest in the UK.

*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014-15
Welcome to Leicester

We believe that our world changing research produces high-quality teaching – and that will inspire you inspire you to go further.

At Leicester we consider education and knowledge to be a power for good. We’re all about pushing the boundaries and discovering ways to improve and change the world for the better.

For example, the School of Education is a major partner in the EU funded “Fibonacci” project which is developing and disseminating innovative approaches to learning and teaching in science and mathematics. The outcomes of the project are being implemented in collaboration with 60 further and higher education institutions across Europe, with the participation of over 3,000 teachers and 45,000 students.

At Leicester you will be working with our leading academics who are at the cutting-edge of their discipline. By sharing their enthusiasm you will contribute to a stimulating and innovative learning environment, enabling you to realise your potential and take your career in education to the next level.

Welcome to the School of Education

The School of Education is one of the largest in the UK, internationally recognised for excellence in teaching, research and professional development.

We enjoy an enviable reputation at the forefront of educational research and professional education of teachers. In the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, 75% of the research undertaken by the University of Leicester was deemed to be of international significance. As a result, our students benefit from being taught by academics at the forefront of their disciplines and the exciting learning atmosphere this creates.

The School of Education at Leicester is dynamic, diverse and offers a stimulating study environment. We are committed to understanding and improving learning at every stage of life, from communities and families to schools, further and higher education institutions and public sector organisations. We have an excellent track record of developing successful local, national and international collaborations with practitioners, schools, policy-makers and academic colleagues.

The School provides programmes for all phases of education. Our courses attract national and international students resulting in a vibrant professional and cultural diversity that enhances the sense of academic community as well as the quality of learning and teaching.
As a learning technologist supporting and teaching workshops to academics from various international contexts, I chose to study the Masters in International Education course in order to deepen my understanding and practice of pedagogical issues and research methods, as well as to gain a better-evidenced global perspective. I could not have studied at all if the distance learning option were not available to me; I really appreciate the flexibility in the demands on my time, and I have found the online teaching to be very engaging and enjoyable.
Distance Learning at Leicester

What is distance learning?
Primarily delivered online, distance learning allows studying in your own time and space so that you can combine achieving a qualification with work or family commitments. Studying by distance learning has the benefit of allowing you to develop your career without having to leave employment. It also means that you can apply new knowledge and insights into your working life while you are still studying. Teaching for our distance learning courses is facilitated through our virtual learning environment Blackboard, which can be accessed online from anywhere in the world.

Why study via distance learning with the University of Leicester?
The University of Leicester has over 25 years’ experience of offering high quality distance learning courses. Over 25,000 students have graduated from our distance learning courses. As a major provider of distance learning courses, we can combine high quality teaching with a vast choice of subjects and consistent value for money. Our courses have been specifically designed to be studied at a distance, giving you the flexibility to study from any location within a structured and supportive framework.

The MA International Education
The MA International Education (MAIE) by distance learning is an exciting and innovative course. The MAIE is designed to meet the needs and interests of a wide spectrum of practitioners including teachers, school managers and educational professionals within both formal and informal education sectors. It will benefit you as an individual and enable you to contribute to the success of your organisation.

You will explore a wide range of contemporary educational issues and ideas within an international context, allowing you to build your knowledge and apply to it your practical experience. You will also develop the skills for conducting robust research and apply them to the study of a topic or issue within your own professional environment.

Our wide range of pathways provide you with the flexibility to tailor your study around your interests and the skills and knowledge to move into a variety of careers or into further postgraduate research. In addition to core modules on Contemporary Issues in Education and Educational Research Methods, you will be able to follow one of five specialist pathways – Pedagogy; Educational Innovation and Reform; Leadership, Culture and Learning; Inclusion and Special Educational Needs; or Learning Technology.

Our MAIE teaching team includes experts from a wide range of educational research and development backgrounds, while our administrative team will ensure that you receive all the support you need.

This distance learning course builds upon the highly successful campus-based MAIE, which has attracted students from all over the world to study with us at Leicester. The latest technology will be used to deliver the course, alongside more traditional methods. In order to facilitate this innovative learning model, you will be given to keep your own Apple iPad 2.

Benefits of Studying the MA International Education at Leicester
The MA International Education (MAIE) is a rigorous qualification which builds upon your professional knowledge and expertise. The programme has been developed with the professional in mind and offers you many opportunities for career enhancement. Its quality is assured by strict adherence to university quality procedures which are, themselves, tied to national monitoring processes.

The course provides you with several opportunities to undertake research into your particular area of interest. It will develop your knowledge and skills by applying your learning to real-life situations within your own professional setting. It is therefore a powerful vehicle for institutional improvement, as well as individual, personal and professional development.

The course is highly valued by employers in many sectors, particularly education. It will help you to hone your skills within your current role, or seek promotion to other roles.

The research talents within the School of Education are far-reaching and this research feeds directly into our teaching, allowing you to learn from those currently involved in cutting-edge research in your area of interest.

Our courses are built upon our experience and expertise in developing educational programmes both on campus and via distance learning. The School of Education attracts students and academics from all over the world, ensuring a truly global feel and allowing you to become part of an inclusive, diverse and professional international network.
Join the revolution…

Our MA International Education embraces the latest technologies and approaches. Our purposely designed virtual learning environment provides you with access to a variety of important learning tools: discussion forums which facilitate peer collaboration; worksheets designed by your tutor and specific textbook resources. If you are always on the go, this innovative approach allows you to access all your essential resources, wherever you may be – perfect for busy professionals.

Mobile Learning

You will receive an Apple iPad on joining the course to offer you a greater ability to work with mobile access on a range of materials. This will allow you to read, listen to and watch materials whenever and wherever you are. You will also be able to download module materials such as module guides, podcast scripts and handouts as well as electronically available journal articles. We are also creating an electronic, interactive version of all core materials which will be available as iBook downloads. The iPad offers annotation, note storage and search functions and a host of other application opportunities (for example Skype), many of which are free.

We have also designed interactive activities to allow you to engage with other students from all over the world. You will benefit from being able to discuss ideas and issues with peers from a wide range of backgrounds. This offers a rich resource which enables you to develop an understanding of educational systems other than your own. It also reduces the potential isolation of studying as a distance learning student.
Course Information

Aims and Objectives
The MA International Education offers teachers, school managers and educational professionals within both formal and informal education sectors a unique opportunity to reflect upon their own practice and to enhance their knowledge.

The general aims of the course are to:

- Enhance understanding of contemporary educational issues in primary, secondary and post-compulsory education in international contexts;
- Develop an ability to reflect critically on theory in the area of teaching and learning and use it as the basis for understanding and improving practice;
- Appreciate the relationship between theory and practice in teaching and learning;
- Investigate the influences of societal or national/regional/religious culture on teaching;
- Critically understand how educational policies are shaped and negotiated to inform practice in education;
- Develop an ability to undertake small-scale research through training in the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods;
- Acquire the research skills appropriate for transfer/access to advanced social research at doctoral level.

Duration and Start Dates
The duration of the programme is 25 months part-time, and commences in April and October each year.
Course Structure

The MAIE has four taught modules, worth 30 credits each and a dissertation, worth 60 credits. The first two modules are core modules – Contemporary Issues in International Education and Introduction to Educational Research Methods – which you will take in the first year of study. The remaining two taught modules form one of four elective Pathways.

These are Innovation and Reform; Pedagogy; Leadership, Culture and Learning; Inclusion and Special Educational Needs; and Learning Technology. You choose and begin your Pathway towards the end of the first year, and continue into the second year. In the remainder of the second year you will complete your dissertation, which will comprise an empirical study of an area of your choosing. The structure of the course can be seen below. Module details can be found on page 9.

**MA International Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>October Start Date</th>
<th>April Start Date*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Module 1</strong></td>
<td>October (4 months)</td>
<td>May (4 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Issues in International Education (30 credits)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Module 2</strong></td>
<td>March (4 months)</td>
<td>October (4 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Educational Research Methods (30 credits)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Pathway 1**
  - Leadership for Social Justice in Education
  - Lead Module (30 credits)
  - Specialist Study (30 credits)
  - Dissertation (60 credits)

- **Pathway 2**
  - Pedagogy
  - Lead Module (30 credits)
  - Specialist Study (30 credits)
  - Dissertation (60 credits)

- **Pathway 3**
  - Innovation and Reform
  - Lead Module (30 credits)
  - Specialist Study (30 credits)
  - Dissertation (60 credits)

- **Pathway 4**
  - Inclusion and Special Education Needs
  - Lead Module (30 credits)
  - Specialist Study (30 credits)
  - Dissertation (60 credits)

- **Pathway 5**
  - Learning Technology
  - Lead Module (30 credits)
  - Specialist Study (30 credits)
  - Dissertation (60 credits)
Course Modules

Core Modules

You will study the following two core modules:

**Contemporary Issues in International Education**

This module explores developments in educational policy and practice with references to several countries. It provides you with the opportunity to engage with research and evaluations of these developments. You will cover key national and international developments in current and emerging educational policy and practice, and examine and evaluate social scientific research evidence relevant to these developments. By the end of the module, you will be able to:

- Identify key national and international trends in current and developing educational policy and practice.
- Develop an analytical understanding of some of the major theoretical underpinnings of international trends in educational policy development and practice.
- Examine and evaluate social scientific research evidence relevant to these developments.

**Introduction to Educational Research Methods**

This module provides you with a critical introduction to some of the principal methods in educational research by identifying research issues relevant to your experiences, and considering appropriate methods of investigating them.

You will:

- Develop an understanding of what it means to ‘critically engage’ with research evidence and theory.
- Explore the basic principles and concepts of educational research.
- Construct research using a range of research approaches such as surveys, case studies, and action research.
- Study the practical development and use of tools and skills such as questionnaires, interviews etc.
- Develop skills in understanding and interpreting qualitative and quantitative research data.
Elective Pathways

You will choose one of the following pathways:

Leadership for Social Justice in Education Pathway

Drawing upon international research carried out by the tutors, this pathway considers how communities of enthusiastic and engaged learners are constructed and sustained and how such community members interact with one another in their contexts. The pathway will promote your knowledge and understanding of:

- People, power and culture in particular contexts to meet the learning needs of all their members
- Organisational cultures that engage or negate the development of learners and staff
- Thinking critically about learning/teaching and social interactions in particular institutional/community contexts
- Student voice and teacher/support-staff identity

Pedagogy Pathway

This pathway focuses on issues of pedagogy, and as such will be of benefit to those who are interested in deepening their understanding of the factors which influence the processes of learning and teaching. This pathway will include issues such as:

- The nature of learning
- The role of informal learning in education
- The role of curriculum in shaping pedagogy
- Contemporary advances in pedagogy, including the growing impact of ICT
- Approaches to researching pedagogy

Innovation and Reform Pathway

This pathway will provide you with the opportunity to critically and creatively engage in a range of current educational innovation and reform initiatives, in order to equip you as educators who lead education for the 21st century. It will give you a greater understanding of new pedagogical approaches, curriculum areas, learning space design and professional learning needs as well as familiarise you with effective processes for leading educational change. It will provide a focus on innovation and reform concerned with helping schools to play an active role in creating and maintaining more humane and sustainable futures. This pathway will actively engage you in aspects of educational development such as:

- Participatory pedagogical approaches
- Critical literacy
- Creativity
- Sustainable development and democratic citizenship
- Human Scale Education

Inclusion and Special Educational Needs Pathway

This pathway offers students the opportunity to explore the education of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusive Education (IE) in relation to national and international debates and priorities. This pathway will promote your knowledge and understanding of:

- IE and SEN in the context of international perspectives on human rights
- The educational challenges posed, in different national settings, by particular SEN, policies for IE and key interventions / preventive practices for both IE and SEN
- Key contemporary national and international debates and theories in IE and SEN

Learning Technology Pathway

Learning Technology is a vibrant and maturing field of learning innovation and anyone with a stake in education should develop an awareness and understanding of these new technologies. They can provide innovative approaches that enhance learner experience, and benefit teachers and institutions. The pathway on Learning Technology offers a state-of-the-art survey of the field, providing you with both theoretical underpinnings and practical hands-on experience of the technologies in different learning contexts. The course focuses on topical aspects of e-learning such as:

- New approaches to learning design
- Technology-enhanced learning spaces
- The use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and application for Open Learning
- The implications of social and participatory media for learning, teaching and research
Your Learning Experience

You will benefit from the expertise and scholarship of the academic staff here and the active and progressive research environment that characterises the School of Education.

All modules have been developed by the MAIE academic team, which incorporates a broad range of expertise in international education.

How you will learn

Our supported distance learning course is built around specially created materials and the use of leading edge academic books and articles. The core materials, including handbooks, module guides and core readings will be available electronically via your iPad. To increase your engagement with tasks, we have designed further online support through the University’s virtual learning environment, Blackboard. Blackboard offers supplementary course materials and is used for learning activities and uploading assessments. Most importantly, it also provides opportunities for peer engagement and student support.

You will have a personal tutor to guide you through the course and the dialogue you have with them, whether via email, phone or Skype, will prove a very powerful learning tool. Our academic and administrative teams take the delivery of distance learning very seriously and will make every effort to ensure your experience is enjoyable and rewarding.

Facilities

As well as the core materials provided, you will also have full access to the University’s extensive facilities, including our award-winning David Wilson Library. We invest over £6m a year in library resources. The Library’s comprehensive online catalogue comprises thousands of electronic journals and 350,000 books. This includes the Leicester Research Archive, a digital collection of research papers and theses from members of the University. As a Leicester student, you will be able to access the online catalogue and download these resources free of charge – wherever you are in the world. Our Library receives official UK government publications and it is a European Documentation Centre. You are, of course, welcome to come onto campus and use our Library facilities at any time.

You will also have access to the Leicester Digital Library’s comprehensive online catalogue: tens of thousands of journals, e-books and the Leicester Research Archive of research papers and theses from members of the University. You can use the Digital Library from anywhere you have an Internet connection. We can also arrange postal loans for books as well as photocopies of book chapters and journal articles, and when you need more detailed help you can arrange a Skype call with one of our librarians.

Support

To make distance learning work for you, you will need to develop or refine your skills in time management and self-motivation. However you will be supported by a dedicated team of tutors and support staff available through Blackboard and email.

Your studies will be supported by a personal tutor who oversees your development and progress from the commencement of your first module right through to submission of your dissertation and completion of the course.

Assessment

Each of the four 30 credit modules is assessed through a combination of a 4,000-5,000 word written assignment together with a range of other assessment media designed to enhance and widen the assessment regime.

There are no exams.

Each of the four modules should take around 225 hours of study, and the dissertation should take around 450 hours.

You can expect to work around 14 hours per week. There is scope in the programme to block some of this workload into school holidays, reducing the demands during term time.

Flexible Study

Our distance learning course can be studied flexibly, meaning that you don’t have to take a career break to get ahead. It also means that you can apply new knowledge and insights to your work in education while you are still studying. If your circumstances change, you can take a break for up to 12 months, as long as you complete your studies within a maximum of 4 years.
Beyond Leicester

As a graduate of the University of Leicester School of Education you belong to a distinguished network of alumni which grows each year. Upon graduation you are automatically entered into the School's Alumni Association, an international professional community.

Membership of the Alumni Association provides you with information on the School's research activities and programmes of study, resources and services to assist you with your continuing professional development.

Many of our alumni stay involved with the School’s activity as mentors, tutors, contributors to modules and advisers to prospective students. Others offer work experience, internships and management projects at their companies or organisations.

Fees

See our website for current course fees – www.le.ac.uk/education-pg-dl

Your fees cover:

- Study support and materials to help you gain a career changing qualification
- Series of online lectures and seminars to enhance your learning experience
- Access to the University’s award winning library with thousands of e-journals and e-books
- Access to our Virtual Learning Environment, Blackboard
- Guidance and support from the University’s Career Development Service

For the latest fees and instalment options please visit www.le.ac.uk/education-pg-dl or maiedl@le.ac.uk
Entry Requirements

Entry Requirements are:

- A second class honours degree, or its equivalent from a non-UK university, or GPA 3 (US equivalent) or above
- Plus applicants will need to demonstrate a minimum of two years’ experience in a professional role (paid or unpaid) as an educator.

Applications are welcome from those involved in education at primary, secondary or tertiary level, as well as those working within other organisations, for example government, NGOs, museums and galleries.

English Language

If your first language is not English you will need to satisfy the University’s English language requirement. For example:

- IELTS 6.5

More information about meeting the University’s English requirements can be found at www.le.ac.uk/englishskills

How to Apply

Please complete our online application form. This can be done by going to www.le.ac.uk/pgapplyonline and finding the course.

We recommend that you submit your application at least four weeks before the programme is due to start, and preferably earlier. There are two intakes per year, October and February.

For example, to start the course in October, please aim to submit your application by the end of August.

Please submit the following:

- Your completed application form
- Contact details for two referees
- Copies of your degree/qualification certificates
- Copies of your transcripts of your modules and marks
- Proof of English Language competence if applicable

If you have any questions, please contact our University Distance Learning Adviser, who will advise you on the application procedure. Either telephone +44 (0) 116 252 5780 or alternatively email maiedl@le.ac.uk

What happens when we receive your application?

Once we receive your application and all supporting documents we aim to make a decision about your application within three weeks.

If your application is successful, confirmation will be sent to you by email with details of the next steps. If your application is unsuccessful we will notify you by email.

The teachers and other professionals involved were always eager to help and capable of sharing their knowledge. I have enjoyed every minute of this learning opportunity which has actually increased my interest for education.
Frequently Asked Questions

Will I need access to the Internet?
Yes. You will need regular access to the internet in order to access electronic journal articles, to contact your tutor, to submit work and to engage with the full range of learning activities available on Blackboard. Engaging with the discussion boards, either within modules or more generally about your experience of the course, will be a good way to make connections with other students around the world and staff based here in Leicester. To make full use of our online facilities, you may prefer to have a broadband connection.

Are there additional costs, such as buying additional learning materials?
As a student studying by distance learning, you will be provided with a full set of course materials, and will not be required to purchase any additional books or resources. The Library holds over 300,000 e-books and has a dedicated distance learning service that can, on request, send up to 25 books by post. You will be encouraged to use and explore these resources.

Can credits gained elsewhere count towards the programme?
Requests for exemptions on the basis of prior learning (completed within the last 5 years only) may be made for a maximum of two modules (60 credits). Exemptions are considered on a case by case basis at the time of application.

As a distance learning student, will I be expected to visit the campus?
You will not be required to visit the campus during the course. However, you are still a University of Leicester student and we hope that you will consider yourself as such. You will be issued with a University library/ID card and we encourage you to visit the University and make use of its facilities at any time. You may like to plan to come here on graduation to celebrate your success and meet peers and some of the University staff.

What methods of funding might be available to me?
Many employers, both in the UK and overseas, contribute to the cost of fees because they realise the enormous benefits of the course to the institution. Other options include Professional Career and Development Loans (UK students only), Commonwealth scholarships (overseas students) and the British Council can advise on funding.
We also offer instalment plans to help you spread the cost and guarantee that if you complete on time, your fees will not increase from one year to the next.

If I have more questions, who should I ask?
If you have questions about studying with us, please contact the Distance Learning Advisers by telephoning +44 (0) 116 252 5780 or emailing maiedl@le.ac.uk
You can also view our webpages for further information:
www.le.ac.uk/education
Transform your career with a distance learning qualification

The School of Education recognises that career development is a major factor in the decision to embark on a distance learning course.

There is no doubt that studying for a distance learning qualification can help your career prospects – you will gain the deeper knowledge and high-end skills that will set you apart. Studying with us gives a clear signal to employers.

Studying with us gives a clear signal to employers; it demonstrates that you have the spark, ambition and commitment to take your career to the next level. Your employer will also benefit directly from your newly acquired understanding and capabilities. The University Career Development Service offers a wide range of support services and online resources designed to help you get ahead in your chosen career.

Gain experience with the Leicester Award

In a competitive jobs market, having that little bit extra can make all the difference. At Leicester you can build on your talents and add to your CV with a number of employability programmes and awards offered by the Career Development Service including the online version of our Leicester Award. The Online Networking and Employability experience allows you to develop your personal brand and explore the potential of social media in improving your career prospects. The course is run online and training and activities can be completed at your own pace and at a time to suit you.

Get ready for a career change or promotion

If you are looking for a change of direction in your working life, the Career Development Service offers a wide selection of one-to-one careers consultations, workshops and webinars covering interview and assessment centre skills, psychometric testing, CVs, covering letters and application forms. Through the Career Development Service events you can also meet a range of employers and find out directly the careers paths that are open to you.

Business and Enterprise Coaching and Support

The Career Development Service offer one-to-one business coaching sessions providing guidance, feedback and support covering everything from generating a business plan to getting your idea off the ground. Sessions can be held over the telephone or via Skype.

Returning to studying?

If you are returning to education, we know getting to grips with styles of learning can be a challenge. However, it is important if you are going to get the most out of your degree. The Career Development Service’s Learning and Development team provides you with services and resources to help you extend and develop your academic skills through online tools and individually tailored advice.

Support after graduation

Did you know you can still use our careers services even after you graduate? You can continue to gain access to events, support appointments and search job vacancies.