**Enhanced Professional Practice**

**PG Certificate/Diploma/MSc**

**Award Bearing Programme**

This programme is designed for early career teachers and aims to extend their professional knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes with a view to increasing effectiveness in classroom practice and the achievement and attainment of children and young people. It aims to enable early career teachers to continue to develop an open and questioning mindset through enhanced professional enquiry in a collaborative workplace practice-based context.

**Why Practitioner Enquiry?**

The most successful education systems ...invest in developing their teachers as reflective, accomplished and enquiring professionals who have the capacity to engage fully with the complexities of education and to be key actors in shaping and leading educational change. (Donaldson, 2011:4)

Education professionals are all expected to develop an enquiring disposition towards their professional practice and to work collaboratively. These expectations are embedded throughout the new GTCS Professional Standards and within the requirements for Professional Update. The courses within this Masters Programme are based on these principles too and provide opportunities for participants to further develop the knowledge, skills, dispositions and understanding required to become the kind of professionals who are able to question, challenge, understand and know deeply about teaching and learning and who are adaptive, open to change and engage critically with their context and practice.

**Specifically, the programme aims to support early career teachers in:**

- Being a reflective practitioner, capable of self evaluation which improves practice and outcomes for children and young people
- Discussing successes and challenges related to their job to assist both professional learning and personal growth via network learning groups and involvement in professional learning communities
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**Specifically, the programme aims to support early career teachers in (continued):**

- Effective implementation of a Curriculum for Excellence and associated policy initiatives
- Building skills in evidence based/evidence informed practice and small scale action research
- Collaboratively learning from and with others in and beyond the school
- Working with other professionals and other adults with a role to play in supporting children and young people
- Developing early leadership skills

**Programme design and structure**

The programme is structured around 6 key themes which provide opportunities for participants to develop and demonstrate:

- Enhanced skills in self evaluation and critical reflection within a framework of collaborative practice
- Continuing commitment to small scale classroom based research & evidence-based practice
- Enhanced curricular content and pedagogical knowledge, understanding and skills
- Enhanced cross curricular, interdisciplinary practice and inter/multi agency working practices
- Enhanced skills in creating an inclusive classroom
- Emerging leadership skills

**Courses**

**Stage 1 (30 Credits - 2 courses)**

- Enhanced Self Evaluation and Reflective Practice 15 Credits
- Extended Professional Experience through Evidence Based Practice (small scale classroom based action resource project) 15 Credits
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Courses (continued)

Stage 2 (120 Credits)
- Enhanced Evidence-based Cross-Curricular Practice (focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Well-Being) 30 Credits
- Enhanced Practice in Learning and Teaching (focus on enhanced pedagogical and curricular content knowledge, understanding and skills) 30 Credits
- Exploring Difference and Diversity 30 Credits
- One course from the following 2 options: Mentoring and Coaching OR Exploring Leadership 30 Credits

Stage 3 (30 Credits - 1 course)
- Professional Biography 30 Credits

Flexible Study, Progression and Exit Points

The programme has been designed with flexibility in mind. Courses are available in blended (ie combination of contact sessions, GLOW meets, MyAberdeen discussions etc) and full distance learning format to take account of variations in geographical remoteness from the University. Participants will be encouraged to work in network learning groups as collaboration and cooperation are underpinning principles of engagement. Courses have been designed to enable early career teachers with different types of teaching contract (including those on supply contracts) to engage with the programme.

It is anticipated that participants will undertake Stage 1 during their Induction Year or within the first 2 years of achieving the Standard for Full Registration (SFR). Thereafter, it is recommended that courses equivalent to 30 Credits are undertaken on an annual basis although taking 60 Credits per year is possible if participants feel that course demands can be managed alongside work demands. It is also possible to have a break in study. Participants who successfully complete the Stage 1 courses and any ONE Stage 2 course can exit with a PG Certificate (60 credits) and those who complete the Stage 1 courses and any THREE Stage 2 courses can exit with a PG Diploma (120 Credits). Those who complete 180 Credits will be awarded a Masters.
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UK/EU students

Applications for a September start are open to early career teachers who:

- Have successfully completed their ITE Programme and are due to enter the Teacher Induction Scheme (TIS) or undertake the Flexible Route (FR) to the SFR, and will be working in the Scottish school context.
- Have achieved the SFR and are in the first 1-4 years post registration.
- Have successfully completed their ITE Programme and have chosen to work in a teaching capacity overseas with immediate effect.

Tuition Fees (correct at time of publishing)

Course 1 (15 Credits) £250
Course 2 (15 Credits) £250
All other Courses £500 per 30 Credits

Fees are reviewed annually. Up-to-date fee information can be found at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/finance/fee-rates.php

Employers may be willing to fund or part-fund tuition fees. Applicants should discuss such opportunities directly with their employers.

For further details about this programme please contact:
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