Postgraduate programmes in

Applied Educational Leadership

2020

london.ac.uk/ael

Academic direction by

Institute of Education
Join the World Class

1 A mark of excellence
Gain a University of London degree, deepen your knowledge and develop your career in the field of education.

2 Quality of learning
The programmes in this leaflet are developed by academics at the UCL Institute of Education, recognised as the world’s leading university for Education in the 2019 QS World University Rankings.

3 Worldwide relevance
The programmes are designed to be of worldwide relevance. You will collaborate online and share professional expertise with other students from diverse cultures, education systems and international contexts.

4 Access a wealth of resources
Comprehensive study materials written by subject experts at the Institute, as well as access to online discussions and tutorials.

5 Flexible learning
You can study from anywhere in the world, at your own pace and around your commitments. Our flexible progression routes allow you to choose the type of qualification that fits your needs.
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## Key dates

- **Application deadline**: 20 July 2020 and 2 November 2020
- **Registration deadline**: 31 August 2020 and 14 December 2020
- **Programme starts**: September 2020 and January 2021
- **Online induction session**: September 2020 and January 2021
- **Exams take place**: May/June 2021
The world-renowned UCL Institute of Education

The UCL Institute of Education (IOE) is a world-leading school for education and social science. Founded in 1902, the Institute is a world-class centre of excellence for teacher training, higher degrees, research and consultancy in education and related areas of professional practice and the social sciences. The Institute hosts over 200 research and consultancy projects at any one time.

In the 2019 QS World University Rankings by Subject, the Institute was ranked as the world’s leading university for Education for the sixth year running. Professor Michael Arthur, President and Provost of UCL, said: ‘To be ranked number one in the world in your field for six years in a row is truly phenomenal. The UCL Institute of Education’s performance in the QS World University Rankings is something that we are extremely proud of, testament as it is to the esteem in which its research, teaching and wider contribution is held.’

International Baccalaureate

The Applied Educational Leadership (AEL) programme has gained recognition for the International Baccalaureate advanced certificate in leadership research. If you are an International Baccalaureate teacher, or interested in gaining this additional qualification, please visit: bit.ly/ib-certificates

Programmes available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Level offered</th>
<th>Study period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Educational Leadership (AEL)</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>3–5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma</td>
<td>2–5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate</td>
<td>1–5 years</td>
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‘I really enjoyed the feeling of belonging and being surrounded by like-minded peers. Being able to exchange stories and learning points with people of a similar background to mine gave me a real boost in terms of my own professional development and renewed my connection to my profession. In addition, my classmates came from varied backgrounds, which expanded my vista in terms of my perceptions of educational experiences and management.’

Wasim Younis
United States of America
london.ac.uk/ael
Flexible study

Studying at a distance allows you a high degree of flexibility. Generally, you can study whenever, wherever and however you choose.

- Fits your needs: you can study for either a full MA degree, a Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate, or choose to take an individual module for your continuing professional development.
- Fits your lifestyle: you can fit your studies around family and work commitments.
- Fits your finances: your overall costs are substantially lower than if you came to London to study full time.
- Fits with your location: you can study anywhere in the world and can choose where you are assessed.

Specially written materials

Our study materials are written specifically for the programme by subject experts at the IOE. These study materials are structured around key enquiry questions, which you analyse, explore and respond to through guided tasks and targeted readings. Study materials are provided online through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Key texts and journal articles can also be accessed in the Online Library.
An online community

Working from your own home and/or place of work, you will become part of a virtual learning community, studying collaboratively with your fellow students and an online tutor.

The VLE allows you to access learning materials, share documents and interact with colleagues and tutors. The online environment also links to other resources, such as the Online Library (which includes journals, databases and referencing tools) and informal discussion areas. Here you can share insights and support each other as you progress through the programme.

Study periods

You have one to five years to complete the Postgraduate Certificate, and two to five years to complete the Postgraduate Diploma. There is a minimum three-year study period for the MA in AEL. On average, we expect that you will need to study for 10–15 hours per week.

Assessment

Each module, except the dissertation, is assessed by one written examination of two hours and 15 minutes, as well as coursework.

Kym Prichard
Republic of Korea

‘The distance learning aspect of this programme was essential. It was the only way I could further my learning and knowledge of educational leadership whilst working. I thoroughly enjoyed the academic articles and readings for the modules. This was extremely helpful in enabling me to put educational practice, both current and theoretical, into a context which I could apply in the school where I work.’
An introduction from Rupert Higham, Programme Director

As Programme Director, I can assure you that you will be joining a community, not just a programme. Students on the AEL programme come from all over the world, from different countries, sectors of education and experience levels. What you all have in common is a desire to learn more about the ways in which your organisation can best serve the community within which it is situated.

Programme materials have been significantly revised this year to ensure they reflect cutting-edge research and the best online teaching practice. VLE activities are led by a knowledgeable, highly experienced and supportive tutor team. Following in the footsteps of hundreds of education leaders since 2003, I am sure you will find the programme enriching and stimulating.

World-class teaching

The London Centre for Leadership in Learning is part of the Department for Learning and Leadership at the UCL Institute of Education. It is an important professional development facility for everyone working with children, young people and adult learners. It also engages in research and consultancy worldwide. Every aspect of this programme has been designed by academics drawn from across the department, the Institute of Education as a whole and the wider educational community.

A course for people who are passionate about education

This interactive programme for professional educators is designed to be of international relevance. It is for:

- leaders and managers in schools and colleges
- educational consultants
- those who work for national or regional government in a planning, development or inspection role.

The AEL course is a personal development programme, leading directly to institutional improvement as you draw on your experiences, learn collectively and gain the confidence to put new ideas into practice.
Programme information

We allow you up to five years to complete your qualification. However, the usual route through the MA is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1: core modules</th>
<th>Structure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September start</td>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading and managing educational</td>
<td>Both core modules</td>
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<td>change and improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>January start</td>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership for the learning community</td>
<td>Both core modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2: optional modules</td>
<td>Two optional modules</td>
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<td>Choose two from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>September start</td>
<td>MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance and resource management or</td>
<td>Both core modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing personal leadership skills</td>
<td>Two optional modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>January start</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring educational policy or</td>
<td>A dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Values, vision and moral purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3: Dissertation</td>
<td>Students who hold the National Professional</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Qualification for Headship (NPQH), or a local</td>
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<td></td>
<td>alternative, may request accreditation of prior</td>
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<td></td>
<td>learning for one optional module.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You will be supported by your tutor</td>
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<td>to produce a dissertation of 15,000</td>
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<td>words.</td>
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Entrance requirements

To be eligible for the programme you will need:

• An undergraduate degree in any subject (e.g. bachelor) comparable to a UK Second Class honours degree from an institution acceptable to the University of London.

• At least two years' experience as a professional in an educational setting, including experience of leading other educators. This is commonly a school, university or childcare setting, but we accept applicants from a wide range of educational institutions. As this is an applied course linking theory to practice, we also expect that you will remain in a leadership position throughout your studies.

Please note: where an applicant does not have such qualifications, we invite them to set out in their personal statement why they are ready to engage with an academically rigorous programme.

If you have a qualification in an unrelated subject or an unconventional career path with diverse work experience, we will consider your application on its own merits.

English language requirement

An advanced level of ability to work in English is essential. You must have passed a test of proficiency in English within the previous three years at the minimum level specified. For further details, please visit: london.ac.uk/ael

IT requirement

You will need regular access to a computer with a reliable internet connection to use the University’s online resources and systems.
How to apply

You must apply online at: london.ac.uk/ael Please read the ‘Guidance Notes for Applications’ before you complete your application.

**Stage 1:** submit your online application.

**Stage 2:** submit your documentary evidence. This can be done online when submitting your application or at a later stage. Please see: bit.ly/supplying-evidence

**Stage 3:** we will notify you whether or not you have been accepted.

**Please note:** applications will only be considered when we have received all the necessary documentation, including the references, where applicable.

**Stage 4:** complete the online registration. We explain how to do this in the Offer Letter.

**Stage 5:** start your studies. You will be given access to the VLE and your study materials once you have registered.

**Please note:** due to the increased workload during our Registration period each year (from 1 September to 30 October), we may not be able to respond to your query. We request you contact us outside these dates. Please visit: sid.london.ac.uk

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Fees

The total fee payable to the University of London for 2020–2021 will be published on our website once confirmed. On average, fees incur a five per cent year-on-year increase. For the latest information on programme fees, please visit: london.ac.uk/fees

**Please note:** student fees shown on our website are net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local statutory rate, this will be added to the fees shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.