MA Professional Practice in Higher Education

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	School of Education
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	School of Education
Name of award(s)	Professional Practice in Higher Education
Qualification (final award)	MA Professional Practice in Higher Education (MA PPHE)
Intermediate awards available	Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Higher Education Postgraduate Diploma Professional Practice in Higher Education
Routes available	Single

Duration of award	5 years part-time
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Campus based
Regulatory Scheme*	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	Advance HE (Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy available on completion of module HEP7001)
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	August 2023
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	August 2027
UCAS code	n/a
Route code (SITS)	PRPRMA
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Masters Characteristics Statement (2015)
Date of most recent approval	August 2018
Date specification last updated	January 2021

*This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

Programme Overview

The Professional Practice in Higher Education programme supports the professional development of staff involved in higher education, providing a structure for continued professional development as part of flexible master's level study in a range of potential areas of interest. Bath Spa University is committed to enhancing learning and teaching and provide its students with the highest quality learning experience. The Professional Practice in Higher Education programme supports the university strategy and commitments by providing structured and substantial development for staff at master's level, enhancing their professional practice and in turn enhancing the educational experience at the university.

Participants on the programme come from a wide range of job roles, including both academic and professional service roles, and consequently have a wide range of interests. The Professional Practice in Higher Education programme is thus designed primarily to be flexible, with a wide range of option modules covering different areas of education and higher education practice. Participants on the programme are all part-time students working in higher education environments, with the modular programme enabling them to study relevant topics over a number of years as suits their practice and interests at the time, with exit points at PGCert and PGDip level possible to cater for different levels of interest. Some modules are focussed on specific continued professional development for academic practice in both teaching and research and the programme provides study in these areas in more depth. The programme further enables those involve in teaching to additionally gain a nationally recognised accredited status with the Advance HE via the accreditation of part of the programme.

Programme Aims

1. To encourage and support the continued professional development of higher education staff
2. To develop critically reflective higher education professional practitioners
3. To embed an evidence based approach to professional practice in higher education
4. To develop research skills applied to and to inform participants' professional practices.
5. To enhance the quality of educational provision at the university
6. To provide development of staff practice aligned with institutional priorities, national frameworks, and masters level study

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

A1 A critical awareness of professional understanding within the field of professional practice in higher education, and the capacity to identify its significance and relevance in educational settings within national and global contexts

A2 Critical reflection and evaluation of your own practice and that of others as well as the ability to provide an evidence base in support of claims made for evolving competencies

A3 In-depth understanding of current issues and developments informed by scholarship and research, and ability to apply this to professional situations

A4 Knowledge and understanding of theoretical underpinnings associated with professional practice in higher education as presented in published research and policy literature.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

B1 The ability to articulate a clearly structured and cohesive original argument

B2 The ability to design and manage a research project which is ethically compliant, academically rigorous and professionally relevant

B3 Synthesis of ideas and information in an innovative format and apply them to new cases or research questions

B4 Development of personal effectiveness, self-awareness and self-management

C Skills for Life and Work

On achieving Level 7 you will be able to:

C1 Work Independently - Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in a professional context.

C2 Work with Others - Plan for and actively engage in inclusive collaboration with others to tackle and solve complex problems and develop original insights.

C3 Communicate with Impact - Communicate complex ideas clearly, effectively and impactfully with specialist and non-specialist audiences.

C4 Demonstrate Digital Fluency - Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically to enhance creativity and communication in a professional context.

Intermediate awards

PGCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A subset of the PGDip Outcomes below, the exact list of which will be dependent on the precise option choices made for 60 credits, but to include at a minimum:

A1, A4; B1, B4; C1, C4

PGDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A4; B1, B4; C1, C3, C4

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key: Core = C

Required = R Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single programme

Higher Education				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	HEP7001-30	Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education	30	O	
7	HEP7003-15	Technology and Innovation in Higher Education	15	O	
7	HEP7004-15	Researcher Development	15	O	
7	HEP7005-15	Supervising Research	15	O	
7	HEP7006-15	Mentoring and Coaching in Higher Education	15	O	
7	HEP7008-15	Digital Learning in Higher Education	15	O	

Higher Education				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	HEP7009-15	Independent Study	15	O	
7	EDU7100-30	Education and Society	30	O	
7	EDU7109-30	Leadership in Practice	30	O	
7	EDU7101-30	Research Methods in Social Science **	30	R*	
7	EDU7102-15	Research and the Professional part 1 **	15	R*	
7	EDU7103-15	Research and the Professional part 2 **	15	R*	
7	EDU7104-60	Dissertation	60	C	

Notes:

R* Either EDU 7101-30 or EDU7102-15 and EDU7103-15 required for the MA. These modules cannot be taken as part of the PGCert exit qualification. They are not required if exiting with a PGDip (i.e. the student can choose to take either the Research methods or a different 30 credits as their final 30 and exit instead of completing the full MA).

** - Research methods module(s) (R*) are required unless the student already holds a postgraduate degree that includes social science research methods (e.g. social science based PhD, MRes, MSci, MA, MEd).

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

There are no specific additional work experience or placement opportunities in the programme. However, all participants are professionals in a higher education context. Some modules are based around work-based learning and the purpose of the programme is for PPHE study to enhance professional practice. Participants are expected to reflect on and integrate their study within their work practice, and use this context as the basis for their options, learning activities, and assessment.

Additional Costs Table

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

Graduate Attributes

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Confidently Self-Aware	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	Supported gathering of feedback and evidence, with discussion to help identify strengths and areas for development. Through the development of an underlying foundation of theoretical and practical knowledge, rationales and approaches to different areas of professional practice will be developed and made explicit.

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Emotionally Attuned	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	Support for the development of inclusive practices and through the development of a community of supporting relationships to help with professional practice.
Inclusive Collaborator	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	Collaborative learning environments and activities throughout the programme.
Adaptable Innovator	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	Support to identify challenges and activities seeking to identify solutions and actions. Some modules options include innovation projects, and the research dissertation involves work to embrace new areas of learning and study.
Critical Thinker	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	Guided development to critical analyse and evaluate evidence. Support with activities to engage with the literature and scholarship in a critical fashion. All modules related study to one's own professional context and work challenges.
Forward Thinker	Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	Independent study options in some modules, and independent self-directed major research project(s).
Ethical Leader	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	Guidance and supervision on ethics matters in research and ethics approval processes.

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Responsible Self-Starter	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	Student-directed exploration and research study, with clear and direct practice based links.
Compassionately Resilient	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	Individual level support and supervision, along with peer learning groups and a wider supportive community of other professionals in HE.
Digitally Resourceful	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	Several modules have multimedia assessment options. There are options for higher level study in digital learning in HE and access to the community of professional development in these areas. Programmes integrate with university digital systems.

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
HEP7008-15	Digital Learning in Higher Education	New module	Approved by Chair's action on 2/12/2020	2021/22
HEP7009-15	Independent Study	New module	Approved by Chair's action on 2/12/2020	2021/22

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
EDU7106	International HE	Module removed	Curriculum Committee 16 June	2021/22
HEP7007	E-Learning Pedagogy & Application	Module removed	Curriculum Committee 16 June	2021/22
HEP7005-15	Supervising Research	Updates to description and aims, outline syllabus, ILOs and formative assessments	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
HEP7006-15	Mentoring and Coaching in Higher Education	Updates to outline syllabus, teaching and learning activities, ILOs and formative assessments	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme structure diagram

MA Professional Practice in HE		
Year 1 and 2		
Trimester 1	**Trimester 2**	**Trimester 3**
Core Modules		
EDU7104-60 Dissertation	EDU7104-60 Dissertation	EDU7104-60 Dissertation
Required Modules		
EDU7102-15 - Research and the Professional Part 1 EDU7103-15 - Research and the Professional Part 2	EDU7101-30 - Research Methods in Social Science EDU7102-15 - Research and the Professional Part 1 EDU7103-15 - Research and the Professional Part 2	EDU7102-15 - Research and the Professional Part 1 EDU7103-15 - Research and the Professional Part 2
Optional Modules		

MA Professional Practice in HE		
Year 1 and 2		
Trimester 1	**Trimester 2**	**Trimester 3**
HEP7001-30 - Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education HEP7003-15 - Technology and Innovation in Higher Education HEP7004-15 - Researcher Development HEP7009-15 Independent Study EDU7100-30 - Education and Society EDU7109-30 - Leadership in Practice	HEP7001-30 - Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education HEP7003-15 - Technology and Innovation in Higher Education HEP7006-15 - Mentoring and Coaching in Higher Education HEP7008-15 Digital Learning in Higher Education HEP7009-15 Independent Study	HEP7005-15 - Supervising Research HEP7009-15 Independent Study

Rule Notes:

You must pick 60 credits in each of trimester 1, 2 and 3.

Core Rule applicable to all three Trimesters: Students MUST pick EDU7104-60 in any of the three Trimesters. The Trimester you pick is the starting point of the module, and you will study the module for a full year.

Required* Rule applicable to all three Trimesters: Students must pick 30 credits of Required* modules made up of the following:

Students can take EITHER EDU7101-30 in Trimester 2, OR EDU7102-15 AND EDU7103-15 in either Trimester 1, 2 or 3. You can pick EDU7102-15 and EDU7103-15 across Trimesters, as long as they are in order i.e. EDU7102-30 before EDU7103-15.

Students with prior study on research methods in Social Sciences at Level 7 can apply to be exempt from the R* modules and take another 30 credits of optional modules.

You will complete the R* module within the Trimester you picked it.

For the Professional Practice in Higher Education programme, the Compulsory and Required* Modules are usually taken as the final 90 credits of the course.

Optional Rule applicable to all three Trimesters: The Trimester you pick the Optional Module in is the starting point of the module. The length of time you will study each module is listed below:

HEP7001-30 – Two Trimesters starting Trimester 1 or Full year Trimester 2

HEP7003-15 – Full Year starting Trimester 1 or Trimester 2

MA Professional Practice in HE		
Year 1 and 2		
Trimester 1	**Trimester 2**	**Trimester 3**
HEP7004-15 - Full Year starting Trimester 1		
HEP7005-15 - Full Year starting Trimester 3		
HEP7006-15 -Full Year starting Trimester 2		
HEP7008-15 -1 or 2 Trimesters in length, starting Trimester 2		
HEP7009-15 – 1 or 2 Trimesters in length, starting Trimester 1, 2 or 3		
EDU7100-30 - Within Trimester 1 only for sessions, submission after 1 or 2 Trimesters		
EDU7109-30 - Within Trimester 1 only for session, submission after 1 or 2 Trimesters		

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)2	Intended Learning Outcomes											
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge			Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	HEP7001-30	Teaching & Supporting Learning in Higher Education	O	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Status (C,R,O) 2 | Intended Learning Outcomes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge | | | | Cognitive and Intellectual Skills | | | | Skills for Life and Work | | | |
				A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	HEP7003-15	Technology and Innovation in Higher Education	O	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	HEP7004-15	Researcher Development	O	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x
7	HEP7005-15	Supervising Research	O	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	HEP7006-15	Mentoring and Coaching in HE	O	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x
7	HEP7008-15	Digital Learning in Higher Education	O	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
7	HEP7009-15	Independent Study	O	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	EDU7100-30	Education and Society	O	x			x	x			x	x			
7	EDU7109-30	Leadership in Practice	O	x			x	x			x	x			x
7	EDU7101-30	Research Methods in Social Science **	R*	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)[2]	Intended Learning Outcomes											
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge			Cognitive and Intellectual Skills					Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	EDU7102-15	Research and the Professional part 1	R*	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	EDU7103-15	Research and the Professional part 2	R*	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
7	EDU7104-60	Dissertation	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

[1] C=Core, R=Required, R*=Required*, O=Optional

 ** - *required unless student holds a postgraduate degree that includes social science research methods (e.g. social science based PhD, MRes, MSci, MA, MEd)*

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O)	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	HEP7001-30	Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education	O			1x 4500 words		1x 3500 words equiv.									
7	HEP7003-15	Technology and Innovation in Higher Education	O			1x 1800 words		1x 1200 words; 2 pages					1x Video 5mins; 1000 words equiv.				

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O) 3	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	HEP7004-15	Researcher Development	O			2800 word reflective account							Pres. (1200 word equiv.)				
7	HEP7005-15	Supervising Research	O			2500 word Critical Reflection		1250 word Reflective Portfolio									

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O) 3	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical				Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	HEP7006-15	Mentoring and Coaching in HE	O			3750 word reflective report											

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O)3	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	HEP7008-15	Digital Learning in Higher Education	O						Dissemination output of, or equiv. to, 4,000 words Multiple modes available				(Option for this mode for dissemination output)				

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O) 3	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical				Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	HEP7009-15	Independent Study	O						Dissemination output of, or equiv. to, 4,000 words Multiple modes available				(Option for this mode for dissemination output)				

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O)3	Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	EDU7100-30	Education and Society	O			6500 word essay							Group Pres. (1,500 word equiv.)				
7	EDU7109-60	Leadership in Practice	O						7,500 word report								

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)3	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	EDU7101-30	Research Methods in Social Science	R*			4000 word Critical Analysis

4000 word Research Proposal | | | | | | | | | | | |

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O)3	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	EDU7102-15	Research and the Professional part 1	R*			4000 words Critical Analysis											
7	EDU7103-15	Research and the Professional part 2	R*			4000 words Research Proposal											

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O) 3	Assessment method														
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination			
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Dissemination Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test
7	EDU7104-60	Dissertation	C		16000 word Diss. And Ethical Approval pass/fail												