

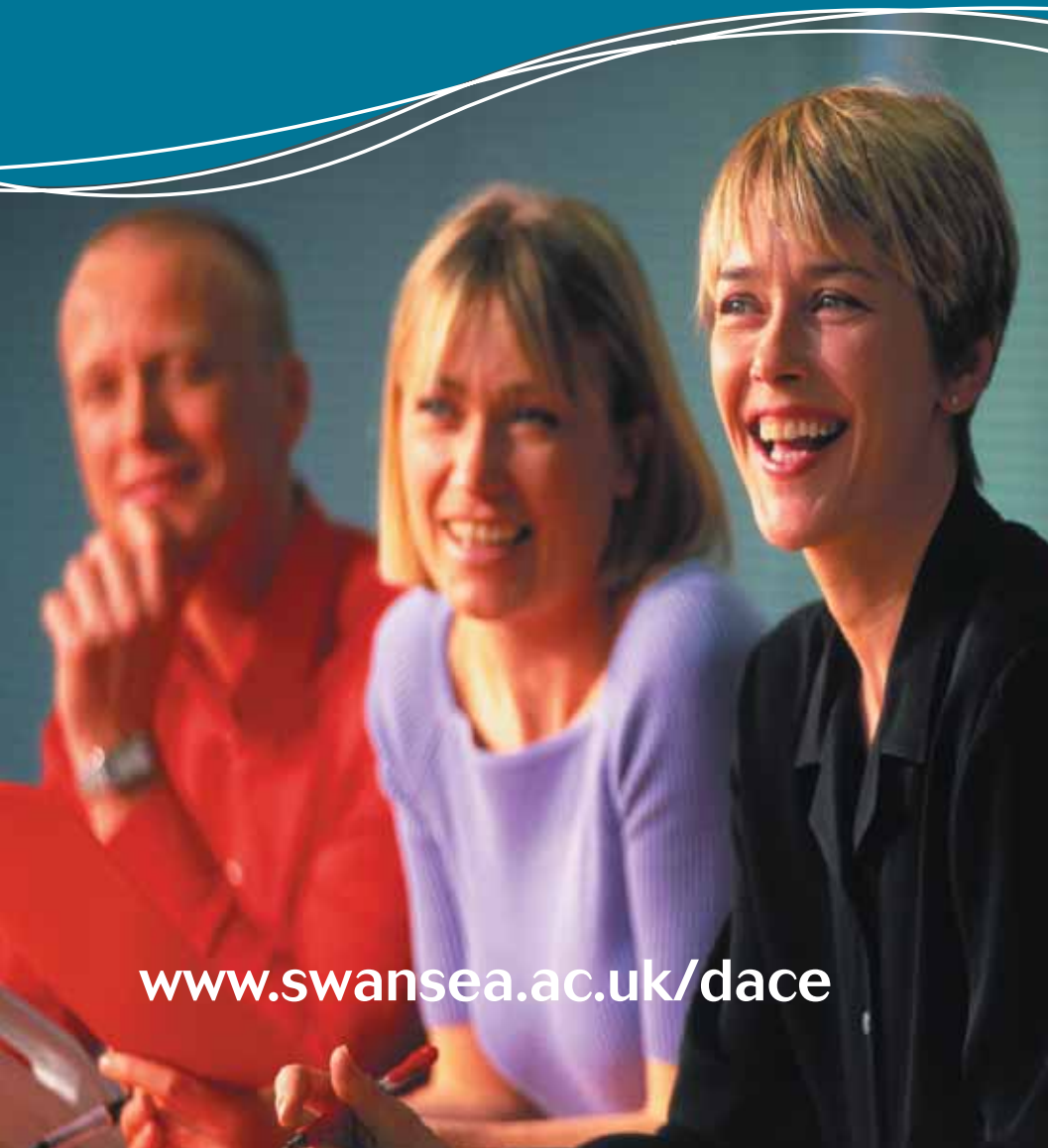
Swansea University

Department of Adult Continuing Education

MA in Lifelong Learning

A part-time postgraduate course

October 2007 entry



www.swansea.ac.uk/dace

Welcome to the MA in Lifelong Learning Programme

- Are you involved in supporting, developing and providing lifelong learning and training?
- Are you interested in adult continuing education and lifelong learning, their history and present policy contexts?
- Are you interested in your own development as a lifelong learner?

Then the MA in Lifelong Learning will be of interest to you.

The MA in Lifelong Learning is a part-time evening programme run by the Department of Adult Continuing Education (DACE) at Swansea University. DACE is a firm advocate of lifelong learning and offers a wide range of part-time courses. The Department is committed to bringing learning to the community, making higher education more accessible at a wide range of venues in South West Wales and the valleys. The Department is, thus, an advocate as well as a provider of lifelong learning in the Swansea area.

The Department is involved in a number of research projects. This wealth of experience in teaching and research in the field of Lifelong Learning will ensure a highly rewarding and interesting study experience for MA in Lifelong Learning students.

The programme will be of interest to those who are interested in extending their knowledge of Lifelong Learning for professional or private development. It will allow students the opportunity to widen their knowledge and understanding of current issues in the field and it offers opportunities for critical debate and reflection on the theory and practice of Lifelong Learning.

The course is aimed at mid-career education professionals who support, improve or manage adult learning in the workplace, the community, colleges and universities, and training organisations. It is designed to meet the needs of those employed as:

- Teachers, lecturers, staff developers or learning support staff;
- Trainers, designers or managers of training;
- Careers advisers.

This three-year part-time course is taught in the evening and is particularly suited to those wishing to study alongside other commitments.

Dr Alyce von Rothkirch, MA in Lifelong Learning Coordinator

The programme consists of two parts:

Part 1, the taught element, normally lasts two years and is made up of six modules.

Part 2, the research element, normally lasts one year and consists of the dissertation module.

Academic year 2007/08

Provisional timetable and list of modules

In the first year, you are expected to take two compulsory and one optional module. Please be aware that this timetable might change at short notice.

Semester 1 (October – December 2007):

Tuesday (5-7pm): DAFM02 – Introduction to Lifelong Learning (compulsory)

Semester 2 (January – March 2008):

Tuesday (5-7pm): DAFM07 – Adult Education and Society (optional)

Tuesday (7-9pm): DAFM03 – Theories and Practice of Lifelong Learning (compulsory)

Wednesday (7-9pm): DAFM10 – Advice and Guidance in Lifelong Learning (optional)

DAFM02 Introduction to Lifelong Learning (compulsory)

This module will introduce key ideas in the history of adult education from the 19th century to the present. It will show how competing ideas of adult education have often co-existed. The shift to notions of 'lifelong learning' will be explored, along with the contemporary policy process in Wales and the UK. The module will also be an introduction to study and research skills.

DAFM03 Theory and Practice of Lifelong Learning

(compulsory)

This module will explore key theories and perspectives of learning. It will analyse contrasting views of mind and knowledge in a lifelong learning context. Topics will include: true 'knowledge' vs. 'practice', perspectives on learning: learning from experience, the social aspects of learning, the 'situatedness' of learning, pedagogy in lifelong learning.

DAFM07 Adult Education and Society (optional)

This module will explore approaches to the sociology and social context of participation in adult education. Topics covered will include: sociological approaches to education, social class and the education experience, participation in Higher Education, social justice and equal opportunities in education.

DAFM10 Advice and Guidance in Lifelong Learning

(optional)

This module will explore aspects of theory and practice in advice and guidance. Topics covered will include: theories of adult guidance and their relation to professional practice, issues of marginalisation and exclusion, critical analysis of educational vs. careers/vocational guidance, issues of diversity within client groups, and networking in guidance.

Academic year 2008/09

Provisional timetable and list of modules

In the second year, you are expected to take one compulsory module and two optional modules. Please be aware that this timetable might change at short notice.

Semester 1 (October – December 2008):

Tuesday (7-9pm): DAFM09 – Information and Communication Technology and Society (optional)

Wednesday (7-9pm): DAFM05 – Lifelong Learning, Curriculum and Assessment (optional)

Semester 2 (January – March 2009):

Tuesday (5-7pm): DAFM04 – Researching Lifelong Learning (compulsory)

Tuesday (7-9pm): DAFM08 – Learning Organisations, Vocational Education and Training (optional)

Wednesday (7-9pm): DAFM06 – International Perspectives on Lifelong Learning (optional)

DAFM04 Researching Lifelong Learning (compulsory)

This module will explore approaches and methods used for researching lifelong learning and will provide guidance for the dissertation.

Topics covered will include: philosophical underpinnings of research approaches, framing your research question, qualitative and quantitative approaches to research, statistical methods (SPSS), ethical issues.

DAFM05 Lifelong Learning, Curriculum and Assessment (optional)

This module will explore aspects of curriculum development. It will place the developments in the context of learning theories and show how contrasting views of teaching, learning and assessment influence lifelong learning practice.

DAFM09 Information and Communication Technology and Society (optional)

This module analyses the impact of ICT on society. It identifies the various media and technology currently available and examines their relative strengths and weaknesses in organisations, education, community and at home.

DAFM06 International Perspectives on Lifelong Learning (optional)

This module will explore international and global issues in adult education and lifelong learning. Policy contexts are explored in Europe and globally. Topics covered will include: lifelong learning in a global world, the nature of global changes and how governments and NGO's respond to them, and learning for global citizenship.

DAFM08 Learning Organisations, Vocational Education and Training (optional)

This module will explore aspects of vocational education and training in a social, political and economic context. It will analyse concepts such as a human capital/social capital, learning networks, the learning society, learning organisations, informal learning practices and relate them to vocational education and training.

Academic year 2009/10

DAFM11 Dissertation (compulsory)

The aim of the dissertation is to provide the opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding in the fields of adult education and lifelong learning, using critical analysis and research skills, to the study of particular issues and questions of interest to the student. Students will work together with a supervisor who will guide them in this independent piece of research. Normally, the dissertation consists of a study of ca. 20,000 words, which can be fieldwork or library-based work.



Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching methods will combine independent learning with classroom or online activities. Teaching will encourage reflection, collaboration and discussion. Teaching methods include lectures, classroom discussions and online collaboration and communication using the Blackboard virtual learning environment to which all students have access. There will be individual supervision during Part 2 (the dissertation).

Use of Technology

A Blackboard virtual learning environment website is available for the programme, through which students can communicate with their tutors and other students, and access course information and links to online learning and library resources. The virtual learning environment will also be used occasionally as a teaching tool. DACE also has an online support facility, through which students can communicate with study skills tutors, and students will be able to find information about the University Library Service and Careers Service.

Career Opportunities

This course will significantly enhance students' subject knowledge and research skills, as well as provide an excellent environment for students to think strategically about their current work within the lifelong learning sector. It is envisaged that completion of the MA will result in enhanced promotion prospects for course graduates.

"This course has been extremely beneficial as it has helped me to re-evaluate my working practices and has offered me the opportunity to carry out research assignments which are directly relevant to my work. I think people working in a range of education roles would find this course valuable – I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it".

Current student and Project Development Officer, JULIA HALL

Support for Study and Research Skills

The MA is aimed at people with a variety of educational backgrounds. Therefore, study and research skills are incorporated into all modules. The module 'Researching Lifelong Learning' will offer special guidance and support for the Dissertation.

What qualifications are needed?

Each application for the MA in Lifelong Learning will be considered on its own merit. Normally entry requirements are

1. A degree or its equivalent from an approved institution; or
2. A minimum of two years of experience in a relevant responsible position, e.g. in the area of adult education, community education, careers service or lifelong learning.

All applicants will be interviewed and applicants without a degree may be asked to submit a written piece of work in support of their application. This is to assess the individual's capacity to engage in academic work at postgraduate level.

Credit Transfer

Students who have successfully completed a postgraduate Certificate or Diploma may be eligible for credit exemption on some modules. Credit exemption is generally only given for whole 20-credit modules and for studies completed in the last five years. Please note that the application for credit exemption have to be made before 20 July. Students will have to supply relevant academic transcripts when they apply for credit exemption. Please contact DACE for further details.

How and when to apply?

Candidates can request an application pack or apply online via our website www.swansea.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply. The closing date for applications is 20th July 2007, although an early application is recommended, especially for those who would like to be considered for a bursary. All applicants will be invited for an informal interview which are held from June to September.

Course fees

Fees for the 2007/08 session are £1080 for UK/EU students. Fees can be paid in instalments.

What help is available?

We are able to offer a limited number of bursaries worth £1500 towards tuition fees only. Please contact DACE for further information. You can also find further information here: www.swansea.ac.uk/scholarships/

The deadline for applications for bursary applications is 20 July 2007.

Students can also apply for a grant from the University's Hardship Fund. For further information contact:

The Student Financial Aid Office
Academic Registry
Singleton Abbey
University of Wales Swansea
Singleton Park SA2 8PP

Telephone: 01792 295826 / 01792 513398
Email: sfao@swansea.ac.uk

Support for students with disabilities

DACE is committed to providing learning opportunities for all, and every effort is made to make our courses enjoyable and accessible. In order to plan any necessary support effectively, we ask that students with disabilities or special needs contact us at the earliest opportunity.

The University has a well-established Disability Office that is happy to work with DACE and students. More information is available about the services of the Disability Office in the University Disability Statement.

For further information contact:

Disability Office
Telephone: 01792 513000
Textphone: 01792 513100
Fax: 01792 3200
Email: disability@swansea.ac.uk
Web: www.swansea.ac.uk/disability

Library and Information Service

The Library and Information Service is responsible for all branches of the University's Library and for IT services provided to students. It provides over 800,000 books, journals, newspapers and other printed materials as well as videos and DVDs. There are 450 PCs for student use in the Library and Information Centre, including a dedicated postgraduate study area with 40 PCs. Students can access thousands of electronic journal articles, online databases and a wide range of web-resources.

A number of services have been designed to make studying easier for part-time students: transferring books between libraries for collection, providing a photo-copying service (subject to copyright laws), posting books, book renewals by phone or online, and answering queries by phone or online.

The South Wales Miners Library

The Miners' Library (based at Hendrefoelan Student Village) is the Adult Education Library and is focused on the needs of part-time mature students. It strives to provide a friendly and flexible library service in a relaxed atmosphere. The Miners' Library holds books, journals and audio-visual materials on a wide range of subjects.



Further information

For further information on the MA in Lifelong Learning Programme contact:

Dr Alyce von Rothkirch, MA Coordinator

Telephone: 01792 295497

Email: A.V.von.Rothkirch@swansea.ac.uk

MA Secretary

Telephone: 01792 513139

Email: MALlenquiries@Swansea.ac.uk

Website: www.swansea.ac.uk/dace

For a Welsh version of this brochure contact the MA secretary.

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Swansea University is the public name of the University of Wales Swansea, a constituent institution of the University of Wales.