

MA Education Wittenborg

The 'personal statement' (What we are looking for)

1. We want to be sure that the applicant has a **clear rationale** for choosing to begin the MA Education at this time – explain 'why now'.
2. We want to be sure that the applicant understands the importance of a **professional context** necessary for the MA Education. You should have experience of an educational context and / or be **employed / have access to such a context** as the MA programme is about 'researching your own practice'. This is a programme for students who want to further explore and deepen their understanding of their practice through enquiry and research.
3. Applicants usually have some idea of areas of **educational interest** relative to their 'field'. Use the letter to tell us a bit about potential areas of study or ideas for research. Fundamental to the programme is an opportunity to undertake systematic and critical reflection, debate, and work-based enquiry in the light of current and emerging policy contexts
4. We want to be sure that the applicant has a clear rationale for choosing **this particular MA** so referring to this programme and how it links to your aspirations for further study is very important. An overview of the five modules is attached.
5. We want to be sure that the applicant has a clear rationale for choosing the MA Education at **this institution** explain 'why here'.
6. We want to be sure that the applicant understand **the demands** that this level of study may make on them and hear about the ways they imagine these will be managed. These may be practical, emotional and intellectual demands. Managing part-time study whilst working brings its own challenges so tell us about how you envisage managing these.
7. We want to be sure that applicants understand the **kind of study** this programme will entail. For example, students will be asked to read and write and think critically, to work collaboratively with each other, to engage with tasks independently and to adhere to deadlines.
8. Final checklist: Have you told us about..... your motivation to do **this MA**?.....how it will support your professional and personal aspirations?.....how it links with an area of professional interest?

Good Luck!

University of Brighton
Admissions Guidance

MA Education Modules

- I. The first module prepares students for learning at postgraduate level, building on and extending previous experiences. The module aims to enable students to develop a critical understanding of the role of education research in informing and enhancing practice.
- II. The second module deepens understanding of a relevant professional context in relation to current policy and research. Students will develop their understanding of professionally significant issues through the critique of literature (policy, theory and research) relevant to their context. Students will critically examine the interplay between key concepts, beliefs and practice and the implications of these for their own and others' professional decisions.
- III. The third module entails an enquiry to support practitioners' consideration of an issue of professional relevance and the focus of their current professional learning and development. Practitioners will demonstrate critical thinking about teaching and learning and identify the professional implications arising from their enquiry.
- IV. The fourth module supports students in preparing for their forthcoming Masters dissertation. The module introduces research methodologies and methods in the context of preparing for Masters level practitioner research.
- V. The final module enables a thorough understanding of the process and principles of research in relation to the student's professional context. It centres on an extended and rigorous small-scale study (dissertation) relevant to the student's professional situation and to their field of learning. The impact of the research process and the outcomes are expected to be considered in terms of professional and personal impact.