

A Real Professional Development Opportunity

By Rod Bolitho, Academic Director, NILE



It is only the privileged few that can take a year out to study for a Master's degree. NILE's MA in Professional Development for Language Education (MAPDLE) in association with Leeds Metropolitan University offers busy professionals a chance to fit studies around a busy working life without any loss of income and at an affordable fee which can be staged over the period of study.

2009 has been a busy year for the MAPDLE programme. Over 20 teachers have studied on face-to-face modules in Norwich and there are as many again working on final dissertations. Interest in the programme is increasing now that Diploma-level qualifications (such as DELTA, DOTE and the Trinity College Diploma) have been recognised for credit purposes. In practical terms this means that Diploma holders are allowed to enter the programme with 60 credits (out of a total of 180) 'in the bag', leaving them with only two elective modules and the dissertation to complete.

The programme is staged to allow exit points at Certificate level (60 credits) and Diploma level (120 credits) for those who do not wish to progress all the way to Master's level. Assignments on the course are completed between modules with distance support from course tutors, and are designed to be workplace-related. Another plus is the tuition fee: currently a total of £4800, payable module by module, for the full MAPDLE programme, and just £3200 if an applicant comes in with 60 credits. Just compare this with the cost of a full-time MA programme at a UK University such as Warwick or Lancaster!

Many MAPDLE graduates have used the qualification as a stepping stone to promotion or to a new post, and others have made the transition from teaching to training thanks to the insights and opportunities for reflection offered by study at postgraduate level. Others simply see it as an opportunity to stand back from their practice and to find ways of becoming better at what they already do. Levels of satisfaction among students are consistently high. Here are some comments from 2009 course evaluations:

We have everything we need in this venue. Excellent!

Well-stocked library; easy access to computer lab.

It was just fantastic! I learned so much and it was great fun!

I appreciated all the efforts to tailor the course to individual needs.

Very professional, highly qualified teaching staff.

If you think MAPDLE might be for you and you'd like to know more, just click on the link:

<http://www.nile-elt.com/documents/MAPDLEdetailsdatesfeesfor2010.pdf>

NILE offers an extensive range of courses, so why not visit our website www.nile-elt.com to find out more?