



MA in Educational Assessment at Swansea Metropolitan University
Projected for JANUARY 2011 start
(subject to validation)

Swansea School of Education at Swansea Metropolitan University has taken a close interest in the creation of the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors (CIEA) and played an active role in its development.

Three decades ago teaching became an all graduate profession. Looking ahead, we predict that the profession is moving towards Masters level qualifications as the basic minimum.

While British children suffer the consequences of being the most heavily assessed pupils in Europe, the science, art or craft of assessment has been an aspect of the teacher's work which has been given insufficient attention in terms of staff training and development. Now, we can see the education system here in Wales moving away from externally imposed tests and putting more trust in the assessment skills of teachers, with the English system following this lead.

The CIEA is to be applauded in raising the profile of assessment as a professional activity, and SMU is pleased to be one of the CIEA's higher education partners working towards providing a Master's level qualification in Educational Assessment.

At SMU a steering group has been set up drawing on expertise across three Schools and two Faculties of the university, together with colleagues working in the fields of assessment and technology enhanced learning both across the university and externally.

The University of Wales certification assures world-wide academic standing, and the use of the latest distance learning techniques and educational technology will offer an interesting and relevant student experience of the highest quality.

We hope to have the degree ready for its first intake in January 2011, but we are not rushing the development process. There are so many

innovatory features that it is important to do it right, rather than do it quickly.

Our first target group will be the membership of the CIEA, who will follow a 'fast track' to the Masters qualification by making use of a systematic process for APEL (accreditation of prior experience and learning). We are calling this the 'internal' route'. After pilot intakes, the external route will be opened, giving access to the degree to the wider educational community.

Summary of Main Features of the MA Ed Asmnt at SMU (subject to validation)

1. To be validated as a fully on-line degree
2. Available to students living anywhere
3. Modules taught through structured distance e-learning packages
4. Students experiencing an on-line learning community
5. Face to face meetings will be made available, but not a requirement of the programme
6. Initial market: targeted at the CIEA membership (the 'internal' route)
7. It will use APEL (accreditation of prior experience and learning) to 'top up' CIEA qualifications and provide a fast-track for CIEA members and assessors to Masters level. A systematic and robust APEL process will use tasks to match different grades of CIEA membership and levels of assessment experience
8. The eventual market will be global ('internal' and 'external' routes). Successful 'external' students will qualify for admission to the various grades of CIEA membership
9. A variety of entry and exit points
10. Very close links to CIEA; modules finely tuned to the CIEA professional framework

For further information or to register an interest contact Dr. Charles Smith, FCIEA.

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**SWANSEA METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
PROPOSED SCHEME FOR
MA in EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT
(University of Wales)
subject to validation**

The “Internal Route” is shown here. This involves APEL for CIEA accredited entrants
“External Route”: non-CIEA members will follow all modules through structured distance e-learning
All modules are at LEVEL 7 (Masters) except where indicated (university regulations allow for 30 credits at Level 6)

Entry points	Modules based on the CIEA Professional Framework (The CIEA’s 5 purposes, 21 functions and 3 roles consolidated into 6 modules.)			Research based modules	Credits, exit points
PART ONE					
Each Part One module will have 2 or 3 Learning Outcomes					
Associate members and members enter here. They achieve EA 1-3 through APEL and EA 4 through structured distance e-learning	EA 1 (Level 6) Planning and designing assessments 1	EA 2 (Level 6) Implementing assessments and feeding back 1	EA 3 Leadership and management in the assessment community 1	EA 4 Thinking and writing critically at Level 7 Module assessed through a 3000 word assignment (or equivalent)	4 modules x 15 credits = 60 credits (exit point = 60 credits = Pg Cert Ed Asmnt)
Fellows and CEAs enter here. They achieve EA 1-3 and 5-7 through APEL and EA 4 and 8 through structured distance e-learning	EA 5 Planning and designing assessments 2	EA 6 Implementing assessments and feeding back 2	EA 7 Leadership and management in the assessment community 2	EA 8 Research methods and sources Module assessed through a 3000 word assignment (or equivalent)	4 modules x 15 credits = 60 credits (exit point = 120 credits = Pg Dip Ed Asmnt)
PART TWO					
	EA 9 DISSERTATION (20,000 words)				60 credits (exit point = 180 credits = MA Ed Asmnt)