MSc in Business & Executive Coaching

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MSc BUSINESS & EXECUTIVE COACHING

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Led by Dr. Maeve Houlihan, the MSc in Business and Executive Coaching is designed for individuals who have successfully completed UCD’s Diploma in Business & Executive Coaching and Diploma in Advanced Business & Executive Coaching and are now seeking to deepen and extend their learning by working towards a Master qualification through original and independent research.

Building on the three pillars of business mindedness, psychological mindedness and coaching mindedness, the MSc focuses on the skills of research and analysis in domains relevant to executive coaching including contemporary working lives, management and organisational behaviour and the process of change. Participants will complete an independent research dissertation. Dissertation research involves primary research that builds on existing literatures, and aspires to make an original contribution or extension to academic knowledge in terms of theory, data or methodology within its domain.

WHO IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR?

- Practising business coaches, HR Directors, Line Managers and Retiring Executives who want to deepen and extend their learning by working towards a Master qualification through original and independent research

The decision as to whether the proposal is suitable for dissertation research will be made in collaboration with the negotiated supervisor and programme management team. Ultimately the dissertation process is designed to explore a research question of relevance to both the candidate and the field and offers the opportunity to develop the skills of rigour, judgement and methodological and subject expertise to an advanced level.

The research dissertation is a substantial undertaking and the resulting report must be of a quality and standard that reflects 30 ECTS (600 to 750 individual effort hours).

The MSc programme provides three major learning outcomes. Firstly, you will be supported to custom design your learning and develop a specialist area of expertise by identifying and developing a specific research question of personal concern. Secondly, you will deepen your conceptual awareness and critical thinking skills in the business and executive coaching area through a thorough survey of the literature. Thirdly, you will further develop and fine tune your process and professional skills by conducting original and independent research, involving the skills of designing, negotiating and gathering, analysing and communicating your findings. A key ingredient of the MSc is a shift from practitioner literatures to empirical and theory led literatures and critical engagement with the research paradigms and underpinning assumptions surrounding coaching knowledge.

While dissertation research is largely a self-managed process, you will benefit from support and dialogue with an academic supervisor, and fellow student researchers. This is achieved through a monthly reading group and participation in research training as appropriate.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The Research Dissertation is an opportunity to experience the complete academic cycle from identification of a research opportunity and defining research questions, literature review, research design, access negotiation, data collection, data analysis, and writing up. While the topic, focus and method will generally evolve through this process, prospective MSc candidates are tasked to identify a preliminary topic and research problem/question in the business and executive coaching realm, and propose a viable empirical methodology by which to investigate it.
**PROGRAMME DETAILS**

**Structure**
The MSc includes three group reading workshops followed by a writing period and individual consultation, continuing with monthly group supervision meetings. The total workload amounts to 750 effort hours culminating in a written dissertation (typical word range 25-30,000 words).

**Workshops**
Engagement with the peer group is a key part of the learning design and support structure for this programme. Phase one includes three group reading workshops followed by a writing period and individual consultation, continuing with monthly group supervision meetings. Further methods interventions will be arranged where required. Dates will be agreed with the group on commencement.

While physical attendance is preferred, participating by phone or Skype is possible where distance is an issue. Papers will be agreed and circulated to be read and prepared for discussion prior to each gathering.

**Fees**
The fee of €6,950 is a comprehensive cost that includes your tuition, all course-related materials, lunches and refreshments while on campus, library access etc. There are no additional overheads. Tax relief is available on fees. For details visit www.revenue.ie

**Entry Requirements**
Participants should have completed the UCD Diploma in Business & Executive Coaching and Diploma in Advanced Business & Executive Coaching programme and demonstrated strong writing ability as well as timely assignment submission as part of their progression.

Prospective applicants are invited to submit a preliminary 1-2 page research proposal to include:

- A brief biographical note including a summary of previous research training and research experience, where applicable
- Propose a possible/anticipated research project (what, why, how) and reflect on the gap or need this project would address
- Reflect preliminary reading in the area, appropriately referenced

The purpose of this proposal is to explore and demonstrate research orientation, methodological thinking and writing synthesis. Candidates are not bound to this proposal. It is normal that the final research plan evolves considerably during the course of a research programme.

Successful participants will be awarded an MSc Business & Executive Coaching.

**Application Procedure**
If you would like to apply for this programme, please contact a member of our team on +353 1 716 8889 or email exec.dev@ucd.ie

"My experience on the MSc in Business and Executive Coaching was interesting, challenging and rewarding. As this was my first time to complete a Masters programme, it was a journey into unknown territory, appropriate guidance was critical - my Supervisor patiently delivered this. Ultimately my reward was the successful completion of a year of learning and development. The MSc gave me an increased level of confidence around the subject that I may otherwise never have gained – I am now a professional Executive Coach."

Tom Armstrong; Principal at Tom Armstrong Executive Coaching