



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

# MASTER OF ARTS IN ADULT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

# MASTER OF ARTS IN ADULT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**The Master of Arts Degree in Adult Learning and Development is intended to give training, education and human resource practitioners the opportunity to:**

- Extend and deepen their knowledge and understanding of theories underlying adult learning, training, education and development.
- Apply critical analysis and problem solving skills in the development of new knowledge and practice to the field of adult learning and development.
- Contribute to the debate on the role of lifelong learning in the context of international experience, government priorities and in the framework of personal and professional development.
- Respond to management and leadership demands to effectively implement a learning environment strategy that considers relevant and up-to-date developments in an ever-evolving environment.
- Engage with the online learning environment by exploring the pedagogy and practice of developing, managing and monitoring online learning to become effective elearning professionals.

## ASSESSMENT

Participants are assessed through written assignments, group projects, online discussions and learning journal reflections.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Academic:** Candidates must have achieved a minimum of a 2.2 honours degree in the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Training and Education or its equivalent.
- 2. Technological:** Candidates must have computer proficiency and access to the internet.
- 3. Experiential:** Candidates are expected to have a minimum of three years' experience in training and education or other relevant experience.

Candidates for entry may be required to attend for interview prior to being offered a place on the programme. The number of places will be restricted.

## PROGRAMME FACTS

**ECTS:** 90 | **NFQ Level:** 9

**Duration:** 2 years, part-time

**Mode of study:** Blended Learning

**Fees: EU:** Year 1 - €4,200  
Year 2 - €3,700

**NON EU:** Year 1 - €4,700  
Year 2 - €4,200

**Start date:** September

## DELIVERY

---

This MA in Adult Learning and Development is delivered over two academic years. The programme is a blended learning programme with materials and tutorials delivered through the NUI Galway Blackboard learning management system. Attendance at some workshops and tutorials forms an integral part of the programme.

## AWARDS AND CREDITS

---

The Master of Arts in Adult Learning and Development attracts 90 ECTS and is awarded at Level 9 of the National Framework of Qualification (NFQ). Participants have an exit option on successful completion of 60 ECTS. In such cases participants will be awarded a Post-graduate Diploma in Adult Learning and Development (Level 9 NFQ).

## PROGRAMME MODULES

---

### YEAR 1

#### **Human Resource Development and Training for Work (Credits: 5 ECTS)**

Human Resources Development and Training for Work explores human potential in the context of job settings and the scope for diversity in human potential development in the working environment.

#### **The Psychology of Adult Learning and Development (Credits: 10 ECTS)**

The Psychology of Adult Learning and Development introduces learners to the key psychological perspectives of learning to provide a coherent theoretical foundation for understanding the adult learning process.

#### **Adult Learning Theories and Concepts (Credits: 5 ECTS)**

Adult Learning Theories and Concepts examines individual differences in learning, transformational and experiential learning and learning styles and preferences. It provides learners with the knowledge and skills to recognise how learning differences can be facilitated in the learning environment.

#### **Teaching and Learning Online (Credits: 5 ECTS)**

Teaching and Learning Online focuses on the fundamental models and concepts of online learning, on the range of related literacies that trainers need to develop and on the pedagogical approaches needed for successful online learning.

#### **Lifelong Learning: Concepts, Context and Issues (Credits: 10 ECTS)**

Lifelong Learning explores lifelong learning within the structure of European education and within new themes of learning with particular emphasis on social and community change. It examines the challenges to Irish education in a globalised environment and within a lifelong learning agenda that seeks to expand the possibilities offered by education and learning.

#### **Social Science Research (Credits: 10 ECTS)**

Social Science Research explores the principles and skills relating to planning and designing research, developing a literature review and preparing survey strategies. It examines in detail qualitative and quantitative methods of research based on philosophical assumptions and applied to different research questions.

### YEAR 2

#### **Learning and the Individual (Credits: 5 ECTS)**

Learning and the Individual explores how psychological aspects of learning are put into practice through the ideas of self-regulation, transfer of learning and constructivist psychological methods.

#### **Management and Leadership in Training and Education – Elective (Credits: 10 ECTS)**

Management and Leadership in Training and Education explores key concepts of management and leadership to provide a foundation for implementing strategic objectives in training and educational contexts. Management and leadership competencies, innovation management, programme management and leadership perspectives are studied to underpin development of a successful learning environment.



### Online Learning Design – Elective (Credits: 10 ECTS)

Online Learning Design focuses on pedagogical concepts and instructional design models that are fundamental to designing and developing an online learning environment. It examines pedagogical, technical and practical issues that affect the development of effective online learning environments and the issues relating to managing and monitoring online learning activities, assessment and evaluation.

### Dissertation (Credits: 30 ECTS)

Participants completing the MA in Adult Learning and Development must complete a research based dissertation. The research dissertation must be submitted at the end of the second year of the programme.

\*NOTE: Modules are subject to change. Modules of equivalent status will be offered when changes are made.

In the second year of the programme you have the opportunity to specialise by selecting one of two elective modules:

- 1. Elective Module 1:** Management and Leadership in Training and Education allows you to develop your management and leadership competence. You will gain skills that you can put into practice to effectively lead and manage a range of activities and initiatives across different educational and training contexts.
- 2. Elective Module 2:** Online Learning Design allows you to develop your competence in designing, developing and managing online learning activities. You will develop your understanding of teaching and learning online and about creating engaging online environments. The practical skills acquired will develop your ability to manage, monitor and evaluate pivotal aspects of online learning.

### PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND CAREER RELEVANCE

The field of training, education and learning is rapidly changing with increased demands for effective management of learning environments and an increased focus on online and elearning. Professional effectiveness in the field demands a knowledge, skills and competence base that is underscored by an understanding of learning processes, their practical implications and considerations and a skill-set capable of responding to complex demands.

The MA in Adult Learning and Development provides the opportunity to study a range of concepts and ideas that will enhance your professional competence base. You will learn about the adult learning process, about motivation, about transfer of learning and about using experiential learning

to enhance understanding. You will learn about people development in the workplace, about lifelong learning and about how educational and training technology is changing the learning environment. You will learn practical skills and develop professional competence that will help you respond to the implications of a rapidly evolving field. Enhancing your personal and professional skills will allow you to create positive and effective learning environments.

The professional relevance of the MA in Adult Learning and Development extends to many educational, training and human resource development contexts. Previous participants in the programme include:

- Vocational trainers, tutors and instructors
- Educational practitioners in the Further Education sector
- Educational consultants
- Human resource specialists
- Industry and organisational trainers
- Those practising or planning a career as education practitioners in the educational, industrial, commercial, voluntary and community sectors.



#### HOW CAN I APPLY?

Apply online at: [www.nuigalway.ie/apply](http://www.nuigalway.ie/apply)



#### WHO CAN I CONTACT?

**Name:** Tara Prendeville

**Phone:** +353 (0)91 494061/494055

**Email:** [tara.prendeville@nuigalway.ie](mailto:tara.prendeville@nuigalway.ie)



[www.nuigalway.ie/adultlearning](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adultlearning)