

MA Educational Leadership in Practice

An interview with...

Diana Wilson

Current Student



Diana Wilson is an experienced educator and a graduate of the first Middle East cohort of students on the part-time MA Educational Leadership in Practice programme – an experience that surpassed all her expectations.

"I selected The University of Manchester's MA Educational Leadership in Practice (MA ELiP) programme because of the strong platform it offered to listen and enjoy, experience and learn directly from the University faculty, anywhere in the world. "

"I have met very few leaders in my career with specific knowledge in leadership and so I was delighted to experience educators in positions of responsibility making teaching and learning a more positive experience, whilst creating better workplaces for the people involved in this profession". The MA in Educational Leadership in Practice provided specific knowledge, which according to Diana, leaders will find essential in making a positive change in education.

"Teachers certainly make good learners, she says. They are happy to work towards positive change. I have been in the field of education for nearly two decades now. I started my career quite early and have continued to work without any gaps or breaks. This programme of study with The University of Manchester was also one that I self-funded."

The broad scope of the course allowed her to learn about things outside of her sphere, opening her eyes to wider issues and motivating her to find fresh approaches to pursue. Now, she has broadened her horizons and can influence her organisation's decisions by creating impactful change.

Diana's professional experience includes roles in teaching and leadership in the UAE. In Dubai in 2020, she decided to take her professional development to the next level and towards leadership in education.

"I was familiar with some of Dr. Alexander Gardner Mc-Taggart's research on international schools, as at that time I was reading his work for my final project at another university in Dubai. The invitation to attend the ELiP information session caught my eye. I attended the session and was immensely impressed by the people and reputation of the University and the MA ELiP course that was due to start in September 2020 with its first cohort in Dubai."

Diana admits that for her personally, the biggest questions she had about school leadership and leadership in general were answered during the programme. The course has provided her with a more reflective and thorough outlook in understanding the factors impeding progress and how to deal with issues that may have remained unresolved and ignored.

The Manchester part-time MA ELiP is certainly not an academic programme that you follow in isolation. "During my studies, I had the opportunity to meet my fellow students and the faculty from Manchester during live lectures and webinars, and face-to-face conferences in Dubai, which made my learning experience splendid."

"These meetings were engaging and generated discussions around common concerns, including global issues that affect education and how we as educators can affect the planet and its future citizens. Each semester's course conference spanned a range of topics that had a connection with the wider course content."

Diana adds that "together as a cohort, we learned from each other's experiences and contributed to making the best of our professional and personal knowledge. Everything about the programme was well-organised and the team from the university was always available to respond to any queries, academic or non-academic.

With this international higher qualification, I am going to face the world wherever I am destined to lead, open-mindedly, with upright moral values of equity, and levying a viewpoint that privileges social justice."



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Email: studyonline@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/elip

The University of Manchester

Oxford Road

Manchester

M13 9PL

UK

Tel: +44(0)7825 274 113

