

Masters in the Neuroscience of Leadership

Overview, Structure & Schedule

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Program Overview

The Masters is a two to three year program comprised of two phases:

- **Phase I:** 12 months of the Post Graduate Certificate course work
- **Phase II:** Additional 20-24 months to complete the Masters

PGCNL (Phase I) - coursework focuses on the topics of Decision Making & Problem Solving, Emotional Regulation, Collaborating with Others, and Facilitating Change. Students are assessed on their individual level research, how well they know the neuroscience and how they are applying it to leadership or change.

Masters (Phase II) - At the successful completion of the PGCNL (Phase I) students submit a formal thesis proposal for their Masters project. This is agreed to and approved by the committee. There is an increase focus on self-directed learning and research. It involves 1:1 instruction from the lead professor, instructor-led group training on research methodology and design, and journal club sessions on topics of interest based on the assigned student readings. Students are assessed on their organizational level research as they explore the organizational implications of their chosen project.

Audience

The program is delivered virtually and is designed for change agents, learning professionals, educators and academicians who want to understand the latest science of the brain and how it can improve human and organizational performance.

Selection Criteria

The same application form and support documents submitted for the PGCNL are used for the Masters Program. Candidates accepted into the Post Graduate Certificate program, who successfully complete Phase I (PGCNL), automatically qualify for enrollment in the Masters Program. Students interested in continuing on to Phase II of the program must notify the NeuroLeadership Institute by the beginning of Module 4 of the PGCNL.

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Length of Program

- **PGCNL (Phase I):** 12 months of the Post Graduate Certificate course work
- **Masters (Phase II):** The Masters (Phase II) takes up to approximately 20 months to submission of the final assessment. The assessment and awarding of the Masters degree takes an additional 2.5 months.

Enrollment Options for the Masters (Phase II)

Transitioning from PGCNL

If a student nominates to commence Phase II of the Masters immediately following the completion of Phase I (PGCNL) they must indicate this at the beginning of Module 4 of the Masters program. These students will not officially 'graduate' as a Post Graduate Student or receive the Post Graduate Certificate. The student will be registered as a 'Masters' student with the university and will obtain the 60 credits awarded for the successful completion of Phase I toward their Masters.

Graduating from PGCNL and re-enrolling in Masters later

Students are able to graduate as a Post Graduate finalist and be awarded their PGCNL and then enroll to do Phase II (Masters) at a later stage. PGCNL finalists will end their enrollment with Middlesex. If these students choose to enroll for the Masters at a later stage there will be an additional re-enrolment fee (see fees below). As the credits awarded for the Post Graduate Certificate remain valid for five years students must enroll in the Masters within this time to have the credits applied.

Students are able to nominate to be registered as a Masters student and then change their mind if they decide they don't want to continue on to Phase II. They will then request to be a PGCNL finalist and be awarded their Post Graduate Certificate. The student will be subject to the re-enrollment fees to rejoin the masters.

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Program Fees

Transitioning from PGCNL

Students who continue on with the Masters immediately upon completion of the Post Graduate Certificate have 2 payment options:

- US\$12,000 if paid in full before commencing the program
- US\$13,000 if paid in 2 installments over 6 months
 - 1st installment = US\$8000 (due prior to program commencement)
 - 2nd installment = US\$5000 (due prior to the 1st formative assessment 6 months into the program)

Re-enrolling in Masters Later

Students who graduate from the PGCNL (ie they are awarded the PGCNL Certificate) and choose to rejoin the Masters at a later stage will be subject to re-enrollment fees of US\$2000 with Middlesex University. Payment options for students re-enrolling are:

- US\$14,000 if paid in full before commencing the program
- US\$15,000 if paid in 2 installments over 6 months
 - 1st installment = US\$10000 (due prior to program commencement)
 - 2nd installment = US\$5000 (due prior to the 1st formative assessment 6 months into the program)

Masters (Phase II) Structure

The Masters (Phase II) is conducted over 18 months with the following components:

- 6 months of training in research design & methodology consisting of:
 - 8 x 1hr professor led class telecalls over 4 months (approximately 2 per month)
 - 8 x 30min Journal Club telecalls over 4 months
 - 12 x 30min 1:1 telecalls with lead professor over 6 months
 - Preparation and submission of PDF4016 Learning Journey Portfolio & PDF4825 Research Proposal
- 12 months to conduct the research project and to prepare & submit the PDF4860 Research Project & oral defense.

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Assessment Deliverables

Students are required to submit the following assessments, upon successful completion students will be awarded 180 academic credits for the Masters Degree, this includes 60 credits obtained from the PGCNL:

PDF4016 Learning Journey Portfolio (40 credits)

PDF4016 is a reflection of 5,000-8,000 words on the student's learning journey in the neuroleadership area. This includes course telecalls, journal club sessions, and practical experience from their respective professional careers. The PDF4016 is submitted with the PDF4825 approximately 6 months after the commencement of the masters. This reflection does not include the students research project.

PDF4825 Research Proposal (20 credits)

This module focuses on project planning, design and the identification and use of an appropriate research approach and specific research techniques suitable for your proposed project. The major outcome of the module will be that you have assembled your own Research Portfolio. This will equip you in a very practical way to carry out the project component of your program and help you become more effective at work through the development of research related skills and as the result of being aware of practical research and development issues.

Drawing upon their research portfolio students will produce:

- a research proposal (approximately 2000-2500 words) and appendices (see below)
- overall reflection the students learning about the research from the module (approximately 2000 words, excluding appendices)
- The formal assessment should therefore be 4000-4500 words (excluding appendices).

PDF4860 Research Project (60 credits)

There are three outputs from Module 4860

- A Project Research Report (12,000 words) – written submission
- A Reflective Essay on the overall learning throughout the entire journey of the program (2,000 words) – written submission
- A Research Presentation – oral presentation/defense

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Assessment Deliverables *(continued)*

Overview

- PDF4016 & PDF4825 are prepared and submitted together 6 months into the program.
- Once approved the student moves into the research phase of the Masters program where they conduct their research and prepare their thesis (PDF4860) over approximately 12 months.
- The PDF4860 is submitted for formative and then summative assessment.
- The oral defense is conducted during the summative assessment period.
- Successful candidates receive their Masters degree within approximately 2 years from the commencement of Masters Phase II.

Research Design & Methodology Training & Support

Professor Lead Telecalls

Students will attend 8 class telecalls over 4 months with the lead professor.

Topics include:

- Project design and methodology
- Experimental methods in human research
- Ethics of human research
- Statistical analysis in social science
- Stress, brain and behavior
- Latest research in the field of neuroleadership and its implications
- Questionnaire Design & Survey Methodology
- Student journey as a scientist practitioner (neuroscience of leadership) – reflections on the science and its application to their practice.

These telecalls are focused on the “how to” of research as opposed to introducing new neuroscience learnings. The PGCNL forms the foundation of the neuroscience and the vast majority of additional learning will be undertaken by the student independently in their field of interest via their research proposal work.

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Research Design & Methodology Training & Support *(continued)*

Journal Club

Journal club sessions are structured into the first 4 months of the program and are conducted on the weeks where there is no telecall. The purpose of these 30 minute calls is to get the students familiar with dissecting a research project in terms of strengths and weaknesses. The aim is for students to become skilled at critiquing peer-reviewed, published studies. Students will choose a paper relevant to their area of research to present to the class and will summarize the methods and results, while offering conclusions and critiques. This is then discussed/debated by the other students. The lead professor will be present to monitor the level of engagement and assess the conclusions.

Journal Club will be scheduled in the same way as pod calls on the PGCNL. The journal club process, is an integral part of the program and a critical process for students just starting out in the grad research area, as it develops a number of important skills necessary in a masters level program, ie:

- proficiency with a deep understanding of scientific literature
- establishing a critical scientific mindset
- learning the skill of debating scientific data with their peers.

1:1 Lead Professor Support

Students will have access to 1:1 support from the Lead Professor throughout the program to assist with the design and plan for assignments and project. Students will have access to a total of 12 hours 1:1 support over 18 months made up of:

- 2 x 30minute telecalls per month for the first 6 months of the program.
- 1 x 30 minute telecall per month for 12 months

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Program Schedule

Activity	February Intake	July Intake
Research Design & Methodology Training	March to June	July to October
Preparation of 4016 & 4825	July to September	November to January
Submit 4016 & 4825 Formative Assessment	1 October	1 February
4016 & 4825 Formative Feedback	Mid October	Mid February
Prepare 4016 & 4825 Summative Assessment	Mid October – End November	Mid February – End March
Submit 4016 & 4825 Summative Assessment	1 December	1 April
4016 & 4825 Summative Result /Approval	Mid February	Mid June
Conduct Research Project & Prepare PDF4860 Monthly 1:1 with Lead Professor	Mid February – End September	Mid June – End January
Submit PDF4860 Formative Assessment	1 October	1 February
Receive Formative Feedback	Mid October	Mid February
Prepare PDF4860 for Summative Assessment & incorporate feedback	Mid October – End November	Mid February – End March
Submit PDF4860 Summative Feedback	1 December	1 April
Conduct Oral Defense	December - February	April - June
Awarded Masters	Mid Feb	Mid June