Graduate Diploma in Professional Development in Education: Educational Assessment, Measurement and Statistics – Program of Study

The general benefits of the investment in the professional development of current staff and new graduates in educational assessment, measurement and statistics are articulated in Attachment 4. The present document describes the details of the course.

The course and qualification

The course of study involves four existing master’s level, semester-length units already in place as part of the Master of Education degree at The University of Western Australia (UWA). These are taught under the auspices of the Pearson Psychometric Laboratory. Although the content is now in place, there is flexibility for adaptation to specific needs. The content of the courses from the UWA handbook are summarised in Attachment 2.

The four units are equivalent to half of a Master of Education degree. Therefore to enrol, participants must be graduates with at least a recognised Bachelor’s degree. On successful completion of the four units, participants are awarded with a Graduate Diploma in Professional Education, an existing qualification. On meeting successful professional experience criteria, those with this Graduate Diploma can receive credit towards completing a Master of Education degree.

The participants and their relationship to an employing organisation

The focus of the professional development is for graduates from two kinds of backgrounds. First, for existing staff employed in educational authorities or related companies, which require expertise in educational measurement and statistics; second, for interns who are recent graduates with strong mathematical and statistical skills which may have graduated from a variety of different academic majors (e.g. mathematics, statistics, econometrics, biometrics, engineering, science).

Although the formal study is for the equivalent of 50% of an academic year full time (18 weeks), the program is for a full 52 weeks including four weeks of annual leave (effectively 48 weeks).

Existing employees: Existing employees are already on location in the organisation, and will effectively be part-time students in the course. The advantage for employing organisations of existing staff who would benefit from the proposed professional development is that their work in the organisation will be enhanced.

Interns: Interns will be located with a potential employing organisation. The internship work and the academic work will be integrated, but the internship period is effectively equivalent full time of 48 – 18 = 30 weeks. The advantage for employing organisations of investing in an intern is that during the equivalent full time 30-week period of work, the intern will be able to contribute to the ongoing work of the organisation and the organisation along with UWA will have the opportunity to mentor and develop the interns with a view to future employment. To attract excellent recent graduates with the required background, it is proposed they be paid a stipend of $29 000 (2015 figures) which is equivalent to a UWA postgraduate research student scholarship.

The academic program

The academic program will involve two components. One is an on-campus component of 4 weeks of intensive course-work at UWA which follows four weeks of induction with the employing authority. The 4 weeks of intensive course work will be in early August 2015. With four weeks and four units of course work, there is effectively one week’s study for each unit. Participants will meet for 4 hours per day for lectures and 4 hours per day for tutorials and workshop, making a total of 40 hours per unit.
Following the on-campus component the participants will locate at their participating organisation. All course materials will be placed on-line for further reference, and there will be a dedicated website set up, which all participants can access, to ask questions, make suggestions and for regular discussion. In addition to the participants interacting with each other and asking questions that might arise in part from the course and in part from their work in the organisation, the staff from UWA will monitor the site and answer questions. Where useful, skype sessions with staff will be organised.

**Staff**

David Andrich PhD (Chapple Professor of Education), Stephen Humphry PhD (Senior Lecturer), Ida Marais PhD (Senior Research Fellow), Irene Styles PhD (Adjunct Associate Professor).

**Summary of program**

Total program 12 Months: 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (52 weeks including vacation).

Intensive coursework: 3 August – 28 August 2015 (4 weeks at UWA).