



Worldwide Association  
of Business Coaches

WABC

Fast Track to a Master's Degree

# Fast Track to a Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching) Degree

*With WABC's Chartered Business Coach™ (ChBC™)  
or the WABC Certified Master Business Coach® (CMBC®)*



Middlesex  
University

**Professional  
Development  
Foundation**

Sharing our passion for  
learning



## Fast Track to a Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)

*With the ChBC™ or CMBC®*

The Worldwide Association of Business Coaches (WABC), in association with Middlesex University and the Professional Development Foundation (PDF) in the UK, is pleased to offer a fully accredited master's degree tailored directly to business coaches.

The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** is a unique opportunity for business coaches who are seeking top-level professional development. This MA degree, like WABC's Chartered Business Coach™ (ChBC™) and the WABC Certified Master Business Coach® (CMBC®), the designations that lead up to it, allows you to leverage the real-world experience you've gained in your practice. You can design your own program, choose your own research area and complete your own work-based project—all without going outside your area of specialization.

The arrangement is simple. First, earn either the ChBC™ or the CMBC®. Then, use your credential as a fast track to the **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)**. In the end, you'll have a certified credential *and* a post-graduate degree—two of the most prestigious and marketable credentials our emerging profession can offer.

The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** is not restricted to business coaches who already have a university degree.

As long as you hold the ChBC™ or CMBC® designation, you are eligible to apply 90 credits towards this unique degree from Middlesex University. To earn the remaining 90 credits, simply complete three modules of work-based research.

## First International Master's Degree Specifically for Business Coaches

For over a decade now, WABC has dedicated itself to raising the profile of business coaching—still an emerging profession—and differentiating it from coaching in general. The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** is a logical step in those efforts. The first master's

program designed specifically for business coaches, this MA offers one of the richest learning experiences you'll encounter outside your professional practice.

To deliver this post-graduate degree, WABC turned to Middlesex University, an international leader in developing work-based programs, and to the Professional Development Foundation (PDF), an independent academic body accredited by Middlesex. Working with WABC's expert consultants, Middlesex and PDF have put together a program that meets the demanding requirements of business coaches who want to further their knowledge and their careers with unique professional development from a fully recognized and accredited university.

Like most master's programs, this one involves considerable research. What's different is that the research must be work-based; research into purely academic topics is not enough. Your research must relate to your business coaching practice and must have an effect upon it. Ideally, your research will also contribute to the business coaching field in general.

During the program, you will choose your own research subject. Your adviser will recommend that you follow your passion and focus on areas that are significant to your work as a business coach. Once you have a subject, you will design your own program, submit it for approval and then follow it through.

The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** is open to anyone who holds either the ChBC™ or the CMBC®. Once you've earned your designation, you have five years to start the master's program. As soon as you think you want to pursue the degree, your next step is to contact WABC for an exploratory discussion (see "More Information/Contact Us" below).

## Five Reasons to Get the Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)

The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** is intended for experienced business coaches who demonstrate a high level of professionalism and critical analysis in their practice. Earning the degree involves considerable time and effort but brings exceptional benefits. Here are just five.

### 1. Advertise Your Broad Mastery

The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** is the first international master's degree specifically for business coaches. It tells clients and the marketplace that you've not only mastered the technical aspects of practicing as a business coach but have extended that mastery to the research and academic aspects of the field. This degree brings with it the worldwide recognition and respect accorded anyone who holds an MA degree.

## 2. Enhance Your Business

The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** focuses on practice-based rather than academic research. As you design and complete your research project, you will reflect closely on your models of practice and your work environment. By leading you through a critical assessment of your coaching practice, this degree will help you rethink your business and refine your service to clients.

## 3. Learn from Leaders in the Field

Throughout your program, you'll be supported by an adviser and possibly one or two project consultants, all of them leaders in business coaching. Together, these individuals will help you refine your ideas and your project, and will advise you on the standards required to attain the degree. You will reap all the benefits of learning from the most specialized resources in our field.

## 4. Contribute to High Standards in Business Coaching

The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** encourages you to pursue research that will have a significant effect not only on your own practice but on business coaching as a whole. This puts you in the influential position of helping to shape the direction of our emerging profession. As a holder of this unique degree, you'll be a model of the high standards that professional business coaches can and should aspire to.

## 5. Prepare for a Doctorate

If you complete the **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** and remain a WABC Full Member, you'll qualify to apply for the Doctorate in Professional Studies (Business Coaching), offered by Middlesex University in collaboration with WABC. The world's only doctorate specifically for business coaches, the DProf is the highest academic achievement in our field.

## Are You Eligible?

You can apply for the **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** if you meet the following three requirements:

- You're an experienced practitioner of business coaching (external or internal coaching or a combination of both) who is actively publishing in the field, developing practice for other coaches or working with senior managers and business leaders. Your CV must describe and document your experience and practice.
- You hold either WABC's Chartered Business Coach™ (ChBC™) or the WABC Certified Master Business Coach® (CMBC®) designation.

- You're a Full Member of WABC in good standing and have maintained all the membership standards.

## Attaining the Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)

The **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** focuses on the professional development of experienced business coaches within the context of their organizational or professional practice. Earning this degree typically takes one to two years, during which you will critically reflect on your practice and complete a work-based research project.

What follows is an overview of the program, including enrollment, resources and the two fast tracks to the degree.

### Enrollment Process

You can enroll in the **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)** at any time during the year. Induction days occur in early October and February through PDF and are conducted online, but these days are optional for candidates of this program. Complete information is available online for international students.

Enrollment involves four steps:

1. As soon as you are interested in the degree, even if you're not yet a WABC Full Member or are still working on your ChBC™ or CMBC® designation, contact WABC for an exploratory discussion about your eligibility (see "More Information/Contact Us" below).
2. If you meet the eligibility criteria, you'll be referred to PDF for an interview process to explore with faculty whether the program is suitable for you, your experience and your expectations.
3. Once you've completed your ChBC™ or CMBC®, you will go through an admittance interview with PDF.
4. Once you're accepted into the program, you must pay the full fees (see "Fees" below).

There are no residency requirements for this program. You will be registered with Middlesex University as a work-based student and will enjoy the full privileges of being a Middlesex student.

**Note:** You must be a Full Member of WABC in good standing before and during this program.



## Program Resources

Throughout your program, you'll have access to a range of resources:

- a dedicated adviser, who will provide you with guidance and feedback and whom you must maintain contact with throughout the program
- handbooks, manuals and other online material available through PDF's virtual learning environment
- online library access
- online seminars and workshops

As the focus of your research develops, you may be assigned one or two project consultants, specialists in your area of study or methodology whose expertise you can draw upon. Your consultant(s) can come from PDF faculty or, if no one suitable is available there, from a university of your choice in your own country or elsewhere.

## Fast Tracks and Modules

To attain the **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)**, you must earn 180 credits. You will earn the credits in one of two ways, depending on which qualifying designation you hold.

### The ChBC™ Fast Track

If you have the ChBC™ designation, you have already earned the first 90 credits. To earn the remaining 90 credits, you must complete three modules, to an approved standard and within a time frame agreed to between you, PDF and Middlesex University.

1. Program Planning Module (PDF 4811): Create a customized program of work-based research that is acceptable to PDF and Middlesex University.
2. Research Methodology Module (PDF 4825): Develop your understanding of research and prepare a research proposal for your work-based project.
3. Work-Based Project Module (PDF 4860): Carry out the work-based project you proposed in PDF 4825 (i.e., a project relevant to business coaching), present your research findings and write a reflective report. Or, if you have significant published or public work in business coaching, you may submit that work together with a critical reflection (PDF 4861).

### **The CMBC® Fast Track**

If you have the CMBC® designation, you can earn the first 90 credits towards the degree simply by completing a conversion module (PDF 4802). This module allows you to claim the required credit by identifying the learning you've gained through the CMBC® and your professional experience.

After completing the conversion module, you will continue with the three modules described above for the ChBC™ fast track.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can people without the ChBC™ or CMBC® pursue this MA?**

No. This degree is attainable only through the ChBC™ or CMBC® fast track as outlined above.

### **Is there a time limit for beginning the MA?**

You can be officially considered for the program as soon as you've completed the ChBC™ or CMBC® designation. You must begin the MA within five years of obtaining your designation.

### **Is there a time limit for completing the MA?**

Most candidates will complete the degree in one to two years. You're expected to finish the program within five years of being admitted.

### **How many hours does it take to complete the MA?**

For most candidates it will take about 900 hours. This includes the time required for reading, discussion, research and other scholarly activity. The total number of hours depends on you as a candidate, your experience and what you hope to achieve in the program.

### **What are the roles of the Professional Development Foundation and Middlesex University?**

The MA program is developed, administered and delivered by UK-based Professional Development Foundation (PDF), an academic partner accredited by Middlesex University to offer the degree. The MA degree is validated and awarded by Middlesex University.

Even though you will take the program from PDF, you'll be registered with Middlesex University as a work-based student and will enjoy the full privileges of being a Middlesex student. When you graduate, you will receive your degree from Middlesex and will enjoy the full status of being a Middlesex alumnus.

Middlesex University also confers the Doctorate in Professional Studies (Business Coaching), which is open to holders of this MA degree.



### Can I get a tuition credit for income tax purposes?

Middlesex University and PDF will provide you with documentation on request. It may or may not be accepted in a given country, depending on tax regulations.

## Fees

One all-inclusive fee: **£4200**

[Currency Converter](#)

## More Information/Contact Us

To learn more about the **Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)**, please read the related [standards document](#). You can also read about [WABC Full Membership](#), the [CMBC®](#), the [ChBC™](#), and the [Doctorate in Professional Studies \(Business Coaching\)](#).

For an exploratory discussion about your eligibility, [contact WABC](#) any time.