



Worldwide Association
of Business Coaches

WABC

Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)

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*With WABC's Chartered Business Coach™ (ChBC™),
Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business
Coaching) or Equivalent Experience, Training and
Qualifications*



**Middlesex
University**



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The Worldwide Association of Business Coaches (WABC), in association with Middlesex University in the UK, is pleased to offer a fully accredited doctoral degree tailored directly to business coaches.

The **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)** is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for business coaches seeking the highest level of professional development. This doctorate, like WABC's Chartered Business Coach™ (ChBC™) designation and Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching) degree, 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.

You have a choice of routes to achieve your doctorate. If you have already earned either WABC's ChBC™ or the MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching), you can build on your credential to earn the **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)**. If you do not have either of these credentials, your combination of professional experience, training and qualifications may qualify you to enter the program. In the end, you'll have the most superior and respected credential our emerging profession can offer.

The **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)** is not restricted to business coaches who already have a university degree.

If you hold WABC's ChBC™ designation or the Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching) degree, you are eligible to apply 60 credits toward this unique doctoral degree from Middlesex University. If you do not have these credentials, you can apply based on your personal combination of professional experience, training and qualifications.

First International Doctorate Specifically for Business Coaches

WABC is dedicated to raising the profile of business coaching—still an emerging profession—and to differentiating it from coaching in general. To that end, WABC has developed a suite of credentials that our industry can trust, credentials marked by



rigorous assessment and recognition of professional mastery. The **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)**, the first-ever international doctoral degree for business coaches, is the highest rung on the ladder of lifelong learning and achievement in our field.

To deliver this superior degree, WABC turned to Middlesex University, an international leader in developing work-based programs. Middlesex designed this fully accredited doctorate for advanced business coaches who are creating and adapting innovative practices to meet the needs of a varied client base.

Like all doctoral programs, this one involves research at the highest level. What's unique is that the research can't be purely academic; it must be practice-oriented and must relate to the development of practice. Besides meeting the assessment criteria of conventional doctoral programs, your research must have a demonstrable impact on your own practice and that of others in our field.

During the program, you will choose your own research subject. Your academic adviser will urge you to focus on an area that is at the heart of your practice and is meaningful to your work as a business coach. Once you have a subject, you will design your own project, submit it for approval and then follow it through.

The **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)** is open to any WABC Full Member who has WABC's ChBC™ designation, the Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching) degree or equivalent experience, training and qualifications. If you are using WABC's ChBC™ designation or the Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching) degree to enter the program, you must apply within five years of receiving your designation or degree.

Middlesex University

represents excellence in work-based learning. Its Doctorate in Professional Studies, the only doctorate of its kind that's transdisciplinary (supervising studies that span a number of disciplines), is considered the world's foremost professional doctoral degree.

Home to the Work Based Learning Research Centre, Middlesex has on its faculty two of the world's four professors of work-based learning. Middlesex also chairs the international conference on professional doctorates held every two years.

The 100-plus graduates of the Doctorate in Professional Studies program span diverse professions, from veterinary science to executive coaching. What they share is the professional mastery of their practice and the superior critical analysis they bring to their research.

Five Reasons to Get the DProf in Business Coaching

The **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)** is intended for advanced business coaches who bring the highest level of professionalism and critical analysis to their practice. Attaining the degree involves considerable time and effort but brings unprecedented benefits. Here are just five.

1. Rise to the Top as a Practitioner

The DProf in Business Coaching is the only international doctorate specifically for business coaches. It's not a degree for coaches who want to build their technical expertise; it's for coaches who have already done that and now want to enhance their professional practice and standing. This degree tells your clients and the marketplace that you've moved beyond excellence in practice to the highest professional mastery in our field, earning the title of "Dr." and the respect that comes with it.

2. Take Your Business to the Next Level

The DProf in Business Coaching focuses on practice-based rather than academic research. As a result, you'll examine work issues from the perspective of your business, not your discipline. This doctorate, by requiring you to critically evaluate and develop your coaching practice, will help you fine-tune your service to clients and elevate your business to the next level.

3. Learn from the World's Best

Once you've developed your topic, one or two subject-matter specialists will be assigned as your project consultants. Whether they come from Middlesex faculty or from a university of your choosing, these specialists will work with you to refine your project and your ideas. Think of it as a direct line to the world's best minds in business coaching.

4. Broaden Your Horizons

The DProf in Business Coaching encourages you to take a multidisciplinary approach to your research whenever a single-discipline approach is too restrictive. It also leads you to examine practice issues in a broad, interrelated way. Whether you're thinking of moving from one distinctive practice to another, or you're seeking a more inclusive approach to your practice, this degree gives you the wide-angle lens it takes to see all facets of our field.



5. Become a Thought Leader in Business Coaching

Because you will conduct your research project within your practice, you'll be ideally placed to make a significant, lasting, high-level impact within your own organization or that of your clients. As a holder of this unique doctorate, you'll also be considered a voice of authority, able to contribute to and influence the direction of our professional community and practices around the world.

Are You Eligible?

You can apply for the **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)** if you meet the following requirements:

- You're a Full Member of WABC in good standing and have maintained all the membership standards.
- You're an advanced 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 advanced practice.
- You hold WABC's Chartered Business Coach™ (ChBC™) designation or the Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching) degree, or you have an equivalent combination of experience, training and qualifications as evidenced within a specific claim assessed at the beginning of your program.

Attaining the DProf in Business Coaching

The **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)** focuses on the professional development of advanced business coaches within the context of their organizational or professional practice. Earning this degree typically takes three to four years, during which you will critically reflect on your practice, design and complete a work-based research project and be examined orally on your research.

What follows is an overview of the program, including application, enrollment, resources and the two stages of study.

Application and Enrollment

To apply for the **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)** program, you must meet the eligibility criteria listed above. Note that being or becoming a Full Member of WABC is just the first step in qualifying to apply for the program.



The application interview process with Middlesex University, described in Step 2 below, is a separate part of the process.

Application and enrollment involve three steps:

1. Contact WABC for an exploratory discussion about your eligibility (see “More Information/Contact Us” below). If you are already a Full Member of WABC, Step 1 will be a brief discussion, leading to Step 2. If you are not a Full Member, the Step 1 discussion will explore your eligibility for Full Membership in WABC and possible qualification to apply for referral to Middlesex University for Step 2.
2. If you are a Full Member of WABC and you meet the other eligibility criteria (see “Are You Eligible?”), you’ll be referred to Middlesex University for an interview process to explore with faculty whether the program is suitable for you, your experience and your expectations.
3. Once you’re accepted into the program, you must pay the fees for the first year of study (see “Fees” below).

You can enroll in the DProf in Business Coaching at any time during the year. Induction days occur in early October and February at Middlesex University in London, but these days are optional for candidates of this program. Complete information is available online for international students.

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 student status.

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 academic adviser who will provide you with guidance and feedback
- handbooks, manuals and other online material available through Middlesex’s virtual learning environment
- online library access
- seminars, workshops, lectures and facilities on campus

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



Stages and Modules

To attain the **Doctor in Professional Studies (Business Coaching)**, you must earn 540 credits over two stages of study. Stage 1, which takes one year, prepares you for your research in Stage 2. If you have achieved the ChBC™ or MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching), Stage 1 requires you to submit two pieces of compulsory work (plus one optional piece). If you do not have the ChBC™ or MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching), you will need to complete two additional pieces of compulsory work in Stage 1 (Modules 1 and 2 below). Stage 2, which takes two to three years, includes completion of your research project, final report and oral exam.

Stage 1: Preparation for Research (180 or 300 credits)

1. Critical Review of Learning (20 credits)—**compulsory**: Candidates for the DProf in Business Coaching who have **not** achieved a ChBC™ or MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching) must, in their first year, undertake a critical review of their learning to date and prepare a reflective account of this review. (The ChBC™ and MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching) are recognized as equivalent to this review; candidates with those credentials can proceed straight to Module 3.)
2. Claim for professional learning (40 credits)—**compulsory**: Candidates who do **not** have a ChBC™ or MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching) must, in their first year, make a claim for the learning they have achieved in developing their professional model of practice as a business coach, which identifies them as a senior practitioner in the field. If your claim is accepted, you may proceed with your research without having to undertake further professional development in the technical aspects of business coaching.
3. Claim for research and development capability (60 credits)—**compulsory**: Most candidates for the DProf in Business Coaching will have already developed research expertise, whether through earning their ChBC™ or MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching) or through major project work in their professional lives. In this module you can make a claim for your research and development capability, which, if accepted, excuses you from taking an additional course to develop these skills. If you feel unable to make the claim, you can complete a short project to bring your research skills to the expected level.
4. Claim for accreditation of advanced professional learning (120 credits)—**optional**: An estimated 20% of candidates may qualify to make a special claim for advanced professional learning. If you've completed a project such as publishing a book in the field or working at the senior committee level within a professional body, you can make a claim for this advanced learning. If it's



accepted, you'll earn another 120 credits and conduct a smaller research project in Stage 2.

5. Planning the practitioner research program (60 credits)—**compulsory:** Once you've completed the previous modules, you'll be ready to plan your research project. In this module you will determine your research approach, methodology and instruments, and design a research plan. A committee of experienced researchers will review the plan and give you feedback to improve its robustness, ethics and potential for impact at the level required. Once you've incorporated their feedback, your final Learning Agreement will serve as the plan for Stage 2.

Stage 2: Research Project (360 or 240 credits)

Over the next two years (or three, if you require an extra year), you will conduct your work-based research project with the support and guidance of your academic adviser and project consultant(s). In your final research report, you will cover the literature relevant to your topic, present and analyze data, interpret and implement your results, and assess the strategic impact on your practice and professional community. Once you've completed the report, you must pass an oral examination on your project to complete the degree.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the DProf degree differ from a PhD?

The DProf is the professional equivalent of the PhD. It is fully accredited and has the same rigorous assessment methods and criteria as the PhD but is distinct in some important ways:

- The DProf focuses on practice-related research within the workplace rather than on purely academic research. It therefore places candidates and their work environment at the center of the research project.
- DProf candidates are mentored to develop a research project that is unique to them and their career, and that will make an impact throughout their profession.
- The DProf in Business Coaching recognizes candidates' previous learning in achieving the ChBC™ or MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching) and reduces the Stage 1 submission requirements accordingly.

Can DProf graduates use the title "Dr."?

Yes. This is another way in which the DProf is equivalent to a PhD.



If I am already a Full Member or become a Full Member of WABC, am I guaranteed admission into the DProf program?

As a Full Member of WABC, you are eligible to apply for the program but, like all DProf candidates, you must go through an interview process with Middlesex University. This allows you and Middlesex faculty to explore whether the program is suitable for you, your experience and your expectations.

If I hold the ChBC™ or Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching), am I guaranteed admission into the DProf program?

No. Like all DProf candidates, you must first go through an interview process with Middlesex University. This allows you and Middlesex faculty to explore whether the program is suitable for you, your experience and your expectations.

If I don't hold the ChBC™ or Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching), can I pursue this degree?

Yes. You can apply for the program if you have an equivalent combination of experience, training and qualifications. Note that you will have to undertake extra work in Stage 1 to identify that you've achieved the right level of professional mastery and prior learning in your field.

Is there a time limit for beginning the DProf?

If you've completed the ChBC™ designation or the MA in Professional Development (Business Coaching), you must begin the DProf within five years of obtaining your designation or degree.

Is there a time limit for completing the DProf?

Most candidates will complete the degree in three years, some in four. You're expected to finish the program within ten years of being admitted.

How many hours does it take to complete the DProf?

There are no specified hours of study. The total number of hours depends on you, your experience and what you hope to achieve in the program. Some candidates will meet the required standards for the doctoral level before others.

Am I required to be on campus at any time?

There is no requirement to be on campus. The university offers induction, research seminars and workshops on campus but these are optional, and some are video recorded for later viewing. In Stage 1 of the program, you must give a presentation to the program approval panel before you can begin your project. In Stage 2 of the program, you must make a final presentation and take a viva voce



(oral examination) when you have completed your project. These events may be conducted via video conferencing (using an IP address, not Skype, WebEx or other similar services) **or** in person at Hendon Campus, London.

Can I get a tuition credit for income tax purposes?

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

Fees

The fees below include all tuition, academic support from the adviser and project consultant(s), library and electronic resources, study materials, and optional workshops, lectures and DProf Days at Middlesex.

First-year fees are due as soon as you register in the program. Subsequent fees are due at the beginning of each new year of study. More details, including accepted methods of payment, are available from [Middlesex University](#).

Students with a ChBC™ or Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)

EU Students

- Year 1: £3650 depending on claims made in Stage 1 (more claims mean a lower fee)
- Years 2–4 (and subsequent years if needed): £6000 per year

International (Non-EU) Students

- Year 1: £4550, depending on claims made in Stage 1 (more claims mean a lower fee)
- Years 2–4 (and subsequent years if needed): £7500 per year

[Currency Converter](#)

Students without a ChBC or Master of Arts in Professional Development (Business Coaching)

EU Students

- Year 1: £4650, depending on claims made in Stage 1 (more claims mean a lower fee)
- Years 2–4 (and subsequent years if needed): £6000 per year



International (Non-EU) Students

- Year 1: £5850, depending on claims made in Stage 1 (more claims mean a lower fee)
- Years 2–4 (and subsequent years if needed): £7500 per year

[Currency Converter](#)

More Information/Contact Us

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

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