

MA Professional Ethics and Leadership

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA Professional Ethics and Leadership
b) Programme code(s)	TBC
c) Programme credit value(s)	180/120/60 CATS 90/60/30 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Pearson Nkhoma
e) Entry requirements	An undergraduate degree of at least second class standard in any discipline, or equivalent. Applicants without a degree, or with a degree in an unrelated field, may be considered on the basis of relevant professional experience (normally three years minimum) demonstrating ability to work at Level 7, in line with Goldsmiths' admissions policy. Exemption from modules and entry with advanced standing (including via PGCert/PGDip) is available under the Goldsmiths Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy and Procedures, up to a maximum of 120 credits for the MA. English language: IELTS 6.5 (6.5 in writing, no element below 6.0) or equivalent.
f) Academic year effective from	2026

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

The MA Professional Ethics and Leadership aims to:

- develop advanced understanding of ethical theory and professional responsibility
- strengthen students' capacity to evaluate ethical challenges in complex professional environments
- cultivate ethically informed leadership capable of navigating institutional, legal and technological change
- support critical reflection on professional values, power and accountability
- prepare graduates to design ethically grounded strategies for leadership and governance across sectors

Overview

The MA Professional Ethics and Leadership provides an interdisciplinary and professionally focused postgraduate framework that enables practitioners to analyse, evaluate and develop ethically informed responses to complex challenges across professional contexts including education, social care, law, business and digital sectors. The programme examines how ethical reasoning informs leadership, governance and

professional decision-making within contemporary organisational environments. It develops ethical leadership grounded in research-informed practice, social responsibility and an informed understanding of emerging digital, organisational and societal contexts.

Drawing on interdisciplinary expertise across professional fields, the programme supports the development of advanced ethical reasoning and leadership capability required to navigate complexity, uncertainty and accountability in professional practice. It promotes independent professional judgement, critical decision-making and responsible leadership practice, preparing graduates to contribute to organisational cultures and address evolving ethical, technological and societal challenges.

The programme also supports flexible lifelong learning through multiple progression and exit points, including the Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) and opportunities for Continuing Professional Development (CPD). These pathways enable professionals to engage with postgraduate study in ways that align with career development and professional learning needs.

SDG Impact Statement: The programme contributes to the priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by supporting ethical leadership, inclusive professional practice and responsible innovation, particularly in relation to Quality Education (SDG 4), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10) and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16).

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	TBC
c) HECoS Code(s):	TBC
d) QAA Benchmark group:	N/A

4. Awards

Item	Information
a) Awarding institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
b) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
c) Home School:	Mind, Body & Society If other, name here:
d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. Creative Management 2. Computing If other, name here:
e) Entry awards:	☐ Foundation Cert ☐ CertHE ☐ DipHE ☒ PGCert ☒ PGDip
f) Interim exit awards:	☐ Foundation Cert ☐ CertHE ☐ DipHE ☒ PGCert ☒ PGDip
g) Final awards:	MA

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	☒ January ☒ Sept/Oct ☐ Other If other, specify: Click or tap here to enter text.
c) Mode of study:	Online Distance Learning Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the table below.
d) Total hours directed learning/year	130
e) In-person hours	0 hours 0%
f) Online hours	130 hours 100%
g) Pace of study:	☒ Full time ☒ Part time
h) Duration of programme	Full time: 1 ☒ years ☐ months Part time: 2 ☒ years ☐ months
i) External accreditation:	N/A
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A

6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

	Learning Outcome	Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Analyse ethical theories and professional frameworks relevant to leadership in complex professional contexts.	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Integrate governance, regulatory framework, safeguarding and digital ethics principles into coherent	7	Political in the personal

	approaches for strategic professional practice.		
D3	Generalize ethical principles to anticipate systemic risks and responsibilities across diverse professional sectors.	7	Responsible agency
F1	Propose strategic interventions that influence ethical culture, governance and decision-making processes.	7	Political in the personal
F2	Design research-informed strategies that address complex ethical and leadership challenges within organisational and policy contexts.	7	Collaboration
F3	Develop sustainable and accountable solutions to high-level professional and technological ethical dilemmas	7	Responsible agency
P1	Develop strategic ethical direction for organisations operating within complex and uncertain multidisciplinary environments.	7	Diversity of perspective
P2	Facilitate ethically responsible strategic decision-making within multidisciplinary and cross-sector environments.	7	Responsible agency
P3	Manage organisational ethical practice to promote accountability, inclusion and long-term professional integrity.	7	Responsible agency

7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Programmes are staged in **Phases**, where each Phase relates to an exit award.

Compulsory modules must be taken by all students.

Option modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

Phase 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Introduction to Professional Ethics and Leadership	New Module	30	7	Compulsory	1	1	N/A
Business Ethics	IM71062 A	15	7	Option - Shared	2	1	N/A
Legal Ethics	SW7102 5A	30	7	Option - Shared	1	1	N/A
Safeguarding	CU7108 2C	30	7	Option - Shared	2	2	N/A
Research the Professional Workplace	ED71088 B	30	7	Compulsory	1	1	N/A
Dissertation	CU7107 9B	60	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	2	N/A
Trauma (informed Practice)	CU7108 6A	30	7	Option - Shared	3	1	N/A
AI & Digital Ethics	IS71138 B	15	7	Option - Shared	2	2	N/A

Phase 2 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Strategic Leadership & Talent Governance	IM71001 C	15	7	Option - Shared	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	N/A
Ethics of community engagement	CU7xxxx x	15	7	Option - Shared	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	N/A
Mental Health and Wellbeing	PS74019 A	15	7	Option - Shared	1-2	1	N/A
Developing Management Skills	IM71061 A	15	7	Option - Shared	1	2	N/A

8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your learning experience. You are expected to attend all of your timetabled learning activities.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

Teaching is delivered through lectures, seminars and case-based discussions that support critical engagement with ethical frameworks and professional dilemmas. Sessions encourage discussion and analysis of real-world examples drawn from professional practice. Independent study includes directed reading, preparation for seminars and research for written assignments.

Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:

Essays and analytical reports; Policy or governance briefings; reflective portfolios; Case-based analyses; Research proposals and a dissertation.

These assessments are designed to support the development of ethical reasoning, critical analysis and independent research skills.

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3
Exam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0
Live	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0
Portfolio (multi-modal)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2
Practical / multimedia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1
Written	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	9

Of which...	Individual:	3	Group:	2	
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9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/
b) Placement opportunities	N/A
c) Programme-specific requirements	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	TBC

10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

11. Curriculum map

Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Introduction to Professional Ethics and Leadership	Click or tap here to enter text.	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Researching the professional workplace	ED7108 8B	Compulsory	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Dissertation	CU7107 9B	Compulsory	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Legal Ethics	SW7102 5A	Option - Shared	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Business Ethics	IM71062 A	Option - Shared	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐
Safeguarding	CU7108 2C	Option - Shared	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐
Digital Ethics	IS71138 B	Option - Shared	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Leadership & Talent Management	IM53003 B	Option - Shared	☐	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Ethics of Community Engagement	CU5304 0A	Option - Shared	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐
Addiction	PS71058 B	Option - Shared	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trauma	CU7108 6A	Option - Shared	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Mental health and wellbeing	PS74019 A	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒
Neurodevelopment, neurodiversity and education	PS71066 B	Option - Shared	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

