

Sheridan Institute of Higher Education will be running two 12-week courses during Semester 1 for qualified teachers and school leaders to deepen their own professional learning:

- Leading School Improvement
- Worldview Foundations in Education

Each of these two courses can be undertaken as a free-standing professional learning course or as part of a Master of Education degree course. All classes are run once a week from 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm on the Sheridan city campus in Aberdeen Street. Semester 1 classes start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March with Worldview Foundations in Education running on Wednesday afternoons and Leading School Improvement running on Thursday afternoons. Please find some further information about these two courses and about Sheridan below.

### ED673 LEADING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Lecturers: Mathilda Joubert and Dr Natalie Leitão

The growth in comparative national and international tests like PISA, PIRLS and NAPLAN since the 1980s has led to a Global Educational Reform Movement, or GERM (Sahlberg, 2011). This unit will provide a deep understanding of the key factors involved in leading school improvement to raise educational outcomes for young people.

The challenge is, however, knowing how to lead school improvement with courage, conviction, clarity and compassion so that we don't infect our schools with GERM, but improve our schools and the lives of students and teachers within. This unit directly addresses two of the five professional practices identified in the Australian Professional Standard for Principals: Leading teaching and learning and leading improvement, innovation and change and is designed to suit current or aspiring leaders in educational settings to deepen their knowledge, understanding and skills in leading effective school improvement.

In this unit you will learn to analyse case studies of school improvement from around the world, conduct a school improvement audit, develop a school improvement plan and reflect critically on the leadership implications of managing change successfully. Topics covered in this unit include: the moral purpose of school improvement; key factors involved in successful school improvement around the world; identifying what works best in education; understanding the right and wrong drivers for change; using data to drive school improvement; diagnosing school improvement needs; designing school improvement plans; implementing school improvement strategies; managing change successfully; understanding the leadership challenges of implementing school improvement; and leading school improvement with moral courage.

Upon successful completion of the ED673 unit, you will be able to:

- Critically analyse school improvement case studies and synthesise complex ideas to identify key factors in school improvement.
- Apply advanced data-informed thinking by critically analysing school improvement needs.
- Develop a contextually grounded strategic school improvement plan, demonstrating acuity in applying theoretical models to an educational context.
- Synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories through a research-informed consideration of the leadership implications in leading school improvement.
- Engage in reflective thinking, applying judgement and providing coherent and sustained arguments supported by evidence.

## ED650 WORLDVIEW FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION

Lecturer: Dr Mark Fielding

Educational practice emerges from philosophical foundations and the framework of pre-theoretical assumptions embedded in what has become known as an individual's worldview. These worldview assumptions filter and shape thinking and practice and as such play a very significant role in educational processes. The purpose of this unit is to equip teachers to critically engage with a range of worldview assumptions that form the foundations of educational philosophy and practice. The unit will then guide you towards best practice models based on both a critical examination and thoughtful classroom practice with regard to biblically aligned assumptions.

Upon successful completion of the ED650 unit, you will be able to:

- Articulate clearly an understanding of the various definitions given to the concept of worldview, the origin of worldview assumptions, and the extent of their influence in the life of individuals and of a community or culture.
- Identify worldview assumptions commonly encountered within an Australian cultural context.
- Identify implied worldview beliefs that may be found within education systems and educational materials and be able to constructively critique them.
- Evaluate the assumptions underlying their classroom practice and critique these with regard to biblically aligned norms.
- Develop a framework for the ongoing improvement of classroom practice through reflection and analysis of philosophical underpinnings of practice.

## ABOUT SHERIDAN

Sheridan Institute of Higher Education is a nationally accredited Christian Higher Education Institution, offering undergraduate and postgraduate studies across Education, Business, Humanities, and Science. Sheridan operates on a semester model with two 12-week blocks of teaching per year (Semester 1: February to June; Semester 2: July to November). Classes for postgraduate education courses are run after school hours from 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm on our city campus where there is access to parking and to public transport. The Sheridan campus is located on Aberdeen Street, Perth, close to Perth and McIver train stations. Instruction takes place in small classes in a supportive environment that fosters intellectual inquiry, equips for professional practice, and encourages servant leadership. There are no exams in any of the Education units, only assignments.

The Sheridan Master of Education (MEd) degree and the Graduate Certificate of Education (GradCertEd) degree are suitable for qualified educators and educational leaders who want to deepen their knowledge and understanding of education and enhance their professional skills and expertise. The courses offer units organised into specialisations: Educational Studies, Educational Leadership and Educational Research. You can enrol in the full MEd (7/8 units), the GradCertEd (4 units) or just a single unit for professional development. Sheridan prides itself in making high quality Higher Education accessible to students. As a result, fees are kept low, include the cost of textbooks, and payment plans are available. The cost of a single unit at Sheridan is currently \$825.00 for domestic students and \$1,600.00 for international students. Students who subsequently apply and are accepted into the MEd or GradCertEd will receive full credit for any units taken on an individual basis up to 33% of the course. The cost for the GradCertEd (4 units) is \$3,300.00 for domestic students and \$6,400.00 for international students. The cost of the MEd (8 units) is \$6,600.00 for domestic students and \$12,800.00 for international students. It is also possible to audit a unit, which involves attending classes but not submitting assignments (and not accruing academic credits). The cost of auditing a unit is \$500.00.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For information on entry criteria, fees, and application processes, please consult the Sheridan Institute of Higher Education website ([www.sheridan.edu.au](http://www.sheridan.edu.au)) or contact our admissions team (08 6222 4222), [enquiries@sheridan.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@sheridan.edu.au). You can also contact the Registrar, Mr Glen Davies, (08 6222 4222) [admissions@sheridan.edu.au](mailto:admissions@sheridan.edu.au) for information about application procedures and deadlines.

For information about the course content, feel free to contact Dr Susan Conradie, Dean of Education at Sheridan ([sconradie@sheridan.edu.au](mailto:sconradie@sheridan.edu.au)).