



Welcome to MMI!

Thank you for your interest in the Maria Montessori approach to child education and in the Maria Montessori Institute (MMI)*.

Our aim is to pass on to our students the educational insights developed by our founder during her lifetime's work with children around the world. The educational method known as the Montessori system is recognised as one of the best throughout the world and is entirely compatible with the demands of our complex modern society. It is based on the firm belief that every child is born with creative potential, the drive to learn and the right to be treated as an individual.

Our Course is designed to be especially relevant to those dealing, or planning to deal, with children in the first six years of life, and we also welcome post-graduate students interested in a child-related career. The course focuses upon the essentials of Montessori theory. In the true tradition of Dr Montessori, we also place great emphasis on practical work under the guidance of experienced tutors. We see the balance between theory and practice as a vital component of any Montessori training.

MMI is the only centre in the United Kingdom authorised by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) to run its training courses. The international diploma awarded at the end of each course opens the way to a wide range of careers. Diploma holders can use their qualifications to work with children during their most formative years; they can also set up their own Montessori Children's House.

We believe that the training is a uniquely rewarding experience. We know that the AMI Diploma is highly valued. This prospectus gives details of what we have to offer.

Lynne Lawrence

in'stitūte *n.* a place for teaching and learning

*Maria Montessori Institute operates under the auspices of the Maria Montessori Training Organisation, an Educational Charity.

About the Institute

The Maria Montessori Institute (MMI) has evolved directly from courses given in London by Dr Maria Montessori between 1919 and 1951. Our training course is authorised by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), which was set up by Dr Montessori herself to safeguard the integrity of her work.

Today AMI is active in all five continents and is recognised worldwide. Our lectures, tutorials, written assignments and course material are all prepared and delivered under direct authorisation from AMI.

MMI is the only college in the UK which delivers the AMI syllabus through AMI qualified instructors and awards diplomas on the results of AMI examinations, thereby providing authentic Montessori qualifications.

MMI is situated in Hampstead, a delightful residential area of North London. We are located in a splendid listed building (William Willett 1890) with large, bright study rooms and a beautiful garden. Students can enjoy the safety and tranquillity of Hampstead while only 20 minutes from Central London, with all the cultural and historical attractions of one of the world's great capital cities.

Recommended residential accommodation is available within short travelling distances.



The Montessori Children's House

MMI runs three Children's Houses for children between 3 and 6 years old. These are located in Hampstead, Notting Hill and West Hampstead. Each of these Children's Houses provides a practical example of the Montessori approach to education, and gives ideal opportunities for observation and teaching practice.

The open-plan design allows children freedom to work within a small community. They are offered a wide range of activities designed for individual development and social integration through the use of Montessori materials and equipment.

An Elementary class for children aged between 6 and 12 years old is also run on the Hampstead site.

Prospective students can apply to have their own children admitted while they are taking the course.



Maria



Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori was born in Italy in 1870 and died in Holland in 1952, after a lifetime devoted to the study of child development.

Dr Montessori was a true pioneer. The first woman to qualify in Italy as a doctor of medicine, she became increasingly interested in the needs of children. By 1900 she was Professor of Pedagogy at the University of Rome. Her early work centred on women's rights and social reform and evolved to encompass a totally innovative approach to education. Her success in Italy led to international recognition, and for over 40 years she travelled all over the world, lecturing, writing and establishing training programmes. In later years, "Educate for Peace" became a guiding principle which underpinned her work.

The Montessori method was widely acclaimed and accepted. It was soon imitated, often by well-meaning people who did not have the time or the opportunity to study the system in depth.

As a consequence AMI's work is to promote a true understanding of what is perhaps more a science than a philosophy, and to maintain the high standards Dr Montessori insisted on.



The principles we follow

The MMI Course follows the principles laid down by our founder and validated by current educational research:

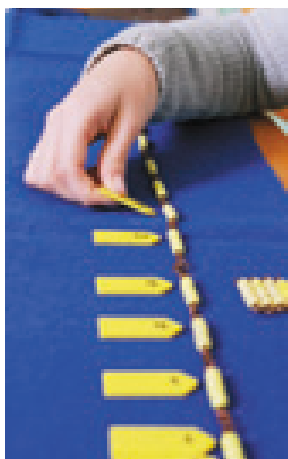
- Children are individuals profoundly affected by society and the immediate environment. Every child is born with creative potential, the drive to learn and the right to be treated as an individual.
- Specially prepared environments, in school and at home, help to develop the child's natural potential.
- Children must be given freedom to work and move around within suitable guidelines that enable them to act as part of a social group.
- Children should be provided with specifically designed materials which help them to explore their world and enable them to develop essential cognitive skills.
- Mixed age groups encourage all children to develop their personalities socially and intellectually at their own pace.

These principles are followed in the Children's Houses run by MMI.

Montessori



About our courses



The AMI Diploma Course

MMI offers students a comprehensive tutor-guided course leading to the AMI International Diploma. The course can be taken full-time in one year or part-time in two years.

The part-time course runs in the evenings and on occasional week-ends. This option often appeals to mature students in work or those with family commitments.

Students should be over 18 years old. Applicants should hold a qualification of 3 A Levels or an equivalent national qualification. Many of our students are university graduates.

Designed to be especially relevant to those working or planning to work with young children in the first six years of life – teachers, carers, psychologists, therapists, nurses – our course also relates to those who work with highly gifted or sick children. Anyone interested in a child-oriented career is welcome.

All our courses are international in character, and we actively seek students of all ages, races and creeds.

NB. MMI does not offer distance-learning courses because the tutor-guided standard of practical training provided for our students cannot be acquired through this type of course delivery. AMI does not give its approval to such courses.



Course Content

The course content is the same whether taken full-time or part-time, and includes:

- Montessori philosophy: child development; building the human personality; the laws of psychological growth; the successive phases of development and characteristics.
- Montessori theory: the role and attitude of the Montessori teacher; the preparation of a Montessori environment, along with the integrated study of how to develop each child's potential.

These lectures focus on the essential concept of Montessori education as "an aid to life".

Montessori Equipment and Materials

Dr Montessori created special educational materials, from observation and research, to develop the child's natural capacity for:

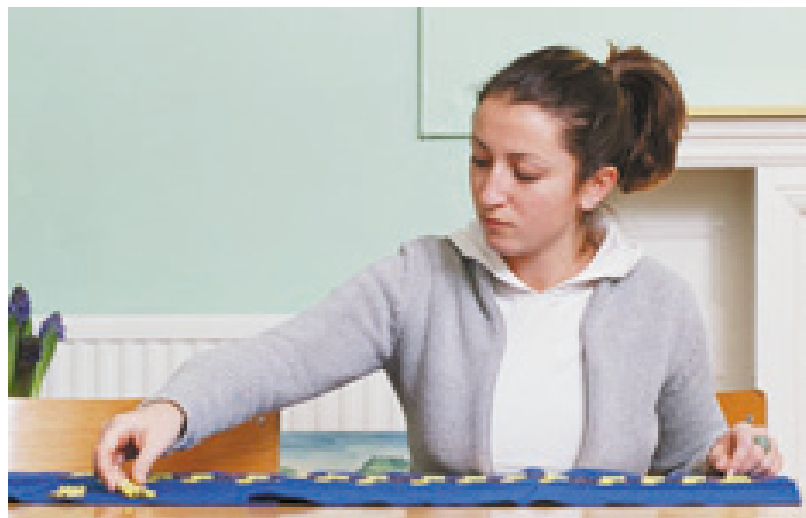
- Life skills: activities to guide the child's independence and social development.
- Sensory perception: providing the means to explore the environment, to develop the child's intelligence and cognitive skills.
- Language: a unique approach to language development, including writing and reading.
- Mathematics: preparing the understanding of basic mathematical concepts in an exciting original way.
- Culture: exploring the cultural resources of the child's environment.

Supervised Practice

Students are given the chance to discover and question, through their own individual experience, the use of Montessori materials and equipment.

Supervised Tutorials

Students are encouraged to bring together theory and practice through stimulating discussion and a lively exchange of ideas.



Written Assignments

All students compile a personal record describing Montessori materials and how they are used.

In addition they prepare an Observation Journal, and hand in other written work as required during their Course of Study.

Experience in a Montessori Children's House

Students observe the Montessori approach in action in a selected AMI school and do the teaching practice that is an essential element of the course.

Students always remark on the warmth and friendliness of MMI tutors. They particularly appreciate the close personal interest shown in them as individuals. Our high staff-to-student ratio guarantees small classes where tutors can facilitate a real exchange of ideas as well as giving the essential hands-on guidance students need for the best practice of Montessori education.

The course is not only thorough and effective but stimulating and enjoyable as well. No one forgets this positive experience.

Graduates of MMI become members of the Montessori Alumnae, which keeps former students in touch with each other and provides a forum for further professional development.



The Diploma is awarded!

Students who have completed the course satisfactorily and maintained an acceptable attendance record sit for the Diploma examination at a recognised examination centre.

The examination consists of 5 separate elements:

1. Theory paper – 3 hours.
2. Applied Theory – 3 hours.
3. Practical – oral examination in the presence of an AMI-appointed external examiner.
4. Reference files – compiled during the course.
5. School visits – observation and practice.

90% attendance at lectures and full attendance at practical sessions are a requirement in the final assessment for the AMI international diploma.

The decision of the Board of Examiners is final.



The Montessori Assistants Certificate Course AMI

MMI also offers a one-term, part-time Certificate Course which includes the philosophy and practical skills needed for the role of assistant in a Montessori School. Assistants have a very important role in supporting and helping the teacher in the class.

The Course would also be of interest to parents and child-care professionals from other fields.

This Certificate is an ideal preparation for the AMI Diploma Course.

For further details please contact MMI.