

## **FAQs about the Blended Study Format**

### **What are the benefits of studying in this blended format?**

This innovative format offers the usual high quality of AMI training while following best practice for adult distance learning. Weekly content will be offered in asynchronous way thus empowering the learner by allowing for repeated viewings of videos, slowing down the speaker, pausing to understand, and subtitling. Then, weekly sessions and in-person blocks with the AMI course team focus on the less tangible aspects of the training course, which support the guidance of an elementary classroom.

### **Do I need to have studied the AMI 3-6 Diploma or will there be a separate Foundation Module?**

The course includes content on the 3-6 years stage of development and how this relates to the 6-12 years stage. Therefore, there is no requirement to have an AMI 3-6 Diploma or to take a separate module.

### **Can I work alongside studying the course?**

This blended format is perfect for existing Montessori teachers and assistants and is also suitable for those new to Montessori currently working in a different sector who have some flexibility with their job in order to meet the observation and practice teaching requirements for consecutive, full days in classrooms. Because of the nature of the course, time management and meeting deadlines are key skills. Additionally, staying organized and having the time available in your schedule to complete weekly work throughout the course is important. You should budget for about 15-20 hours of study in your own time each week, in addition to the regular Tuesday evening session and the in-person modules. Please attend a training information session or contact us at [course@mariamontessori.org](mailto:course@mariamontessori.org) with any questions.

### **What equipment and supplies do I need?**

All students will need regular access to a computer with a camera and microphone and internet access. You will require access to a printer, too, so that you can print your completed album write ups and meet the material making requirements. You will take notes of lectures and create your "albums" or teaching manuals for the classroom. Having a notebook with coloured pencils nearby to make sketches of the materials will be helpful.

### **What will the assignment schedule be?**

Assignments will be given on a weekly basis for discussion in our in-person sessions. Written work is submitted for review once a month. Material making will occur throughout the course with a flexible submission schedule.

### **Where can I complete the practical sessions?**

160 hours of practical sessions under the guidance of your assigned mentor will be required. Students currently employed in a school (or having access to a local school) will undertake some of these sessions in their own communities.

### **Where can I complete the observation hours?**

For students already employed in a school or with a connection to a school, such as being a parent of a child at the school or any other affiliation, 50% of required observation hours can be in the school that the student is affiliated with. The other 50% of hours must be full days on site in a school with

an AMI trained elementary teacher and could be either two one-week sessions or one two-week session.

For students without a connection to a school, 100% of required hours will be on site in a school with an AMI trained elementary teacher, and can be either in one week-long sessions, two-week sessions or a combination of both. The training team will help facilitate these placements.

90 hours will be focused on 6–12-year-old children. 10 hours will be focused on early childhood.

### **Can I do Teaching Practice in my own school or a school I am affiliated with?**

For students already employed in a school or with a connection to a school, such as being a parent of a child at the school or any other affiliation, 50% of hours can be in the school that the student is affiliated with. The other 50% of hours must be full days, consecutively on site in a school with an AMI trained elementary teacher for one two-week session.

For students without a connection to a school, 100% of required hours will be on site in a school with an AMI trained elementary teacher, for two two-week sessions, a total of four weeks. The training team will help facilitate these placements.

### **How can I prepare for the course?**

You will need both the time and the initiative to complete weekly regular studies and stay motivated while working in a virtual format. You will need to be a proactive communicator and build relationships with fellow students and the training team. Technological skills, and the interest in strengthening them as a student on the course, will also be valuable. A strong command of written and spoken English is essential (at least a C1 level).

### **How will I be assessed?**

Students will complete examinations (oral and written) at the end of the course. They will receive feedback on written work throughout the course, as well as during a final album examination. Mentors will provide ongoing feedback.

### **What books do I need and where can I buy them?**

- Required Reading:
  - o To Educate the Human Potential
  - o From Childhood to Adolescence
  - o The Advanced Montessori Method, Vols 1 & II
  - o Education and Peace
  - o The Absorbent Mind
  - o Psychogeometry
  - o Psychoarithmetic
  - o Citizen of the World
  - o The Montessori Approach to Music
  - o The Human Tendencies and Montessori Education – Mario Montessori Sr

- Additional Recommended Reading
  - o The Secret of Childhood
  - o The Discovery of the Child
  - o Education for a New World
  - o The 1946 London Lectures
  - o Additional resources will be recommended throughout the course

Books can be purchased from the Montessori Society (UK).

### **What is the role of the Mentor?**

Early in the course, each student will be assigned to a member of the training team – a mentor - for collaboration and support. Students will have a scheduled “check in” meeting monthly with their mentor and once a term with the Director of Training. There will be regular contacts (in the form of emails or text messages) from the training mentor. The goal of these communications will be encouragement, connection and building a relationship of support with the training staff.

### **Do I need a visa for the in-person blocks in London?**

Students who do not have the right to work or study in the UK will need to apply for a Standard Visitor Visa for each of the two in-person modules.

<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/visit-to-study>