



Course Brochure

2023 - 2024

AMI 3-6 Diploma Course



Dr Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori was a truly remarkable woman. Born in 1870, she was the first woman to be granted a medical degree from an Italian University.

After graduation, Dr Montessori became director of a school for intellectually disabled children. Her work with these children saw remarkable results. When they competed successfully in public examinations, Dr Montessori began to wonder what could be possible using similar methods with all children.

Her life work began in 1907 with a group of pre-school children from the slums of Rome, when she opened her famous "Casa dei Bambini" or "Children's House". Through her observations and work with these children she discovered their astonishing, almost effortless ability to learn. Children taught themselves! This simple but profound truth formed the cornerstone of her life-long pursuit of educational reform.



Montessori - A Career for You

Worldwide, there are approximately 22,000 Montessori schools. In Aotearoa, New Zealand at present there are more than 300 Montessori environments and the growth in demand for qualified staff still exceeds availability. Career opportunities exist for MMEF graduates as the AMI diploma is internationally recognised for its high standard and authenticity.

Become an AMI teacher and prepare for the task of helping children develop their full potential.

The Montessori teacher/guide:

- respects children as self-directed individuals and fosters growth toward independence and social responsibility
- creates an atmosphere of calm, order, and joy; a safe and stimulating environment which supports the developmental stages of each child
- helps children progress at their own pace and gradually discover their own capabilities
- gives engaging presentations with the beautiful, self-correcting Montessori materials

"With the support of the prepared adult, the child with his unlimited possibilities can be the transformer of humanity, just as he is its creator. The child brings us great hope and a new vision."
Dr Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind

Why Take AMI Training?

Founded by Dr Maria Montessori

The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), founded in 1929 by Dr Maria Montessori, is a global community which continues today to protect the integrity of her work.

The courses offered by the Association Montessori Internationale prepare adults to work with children at the following levels: Assistants to Infancy (0-3), Primary (3-6), First Plane (0-6) and Elementary (6-12). Work is also underway to document the current body of knowledge relating

to Montessori education for the 12–18 year age group and an Orientation for teachers (in collaboration with NAMTA) is available.

A Guarantee of Quality

The Association Montessori Internationale accredits training centres throughout the world. These centres offer AMI diploma courses which are internationally recognised for their high standard and authenticity. The training is pedagogically similar in each centre. Training centres accredited by AMI remain under the constant supervision of AMI, are staffed by AMI Teacher Trainers and each course is examined by an external examiner appointed by AMI.

Knowledgeable Trainers Make the Difference

Every AMI course is conducted by an AMI trainer. These dedicated trainers have extensive teaching experience, an academic background, have participated in a rigorous Training of Trainers Program and possess in-depth knowledge and understanding of Montessori principles and applications.

AMI Diploma Provides Opportunities

- AMI trained teachers have abundant career prospects and are in demand in New Zealand
- The AMI diploma is recognised worldwide
- AMI is a truly international organisation
- An experienced AMI trained teacher might consider becoming a lead teacher, administrator, consultant, teacher-trainer, or the owner of a school
- AMI also offers further programmes for diploma holders including annual Refresher Courses and the Educateurs sans Frontières programme (Educators without Borders) which aims to champion the cause of all children and to revisit Montessori principles and practices from the perspective of society at large.
- Each year thousands of teachers are trained worldwide. The number of AMI teachers graduating is still less than demand which is due to the worldwide recognition of the quality of the AMI Diploma.

The Montessori Approach

"The Montessori Method is a system of education born from the observation of the needs of the children at every stage of their physical and psychological development. Its objective is to help the child with the enormous task of inner construction necessary to pass from childhood to full adulthood."

Dr Mario Montessori, Jr., Education for Human Development

Thus, this approach attempts to promote in children characteristics which will help them to develop into free and functionally independent adults with a clear vision of the world around them and their role in it.

In the education of the child the adult has an indispensable function. Guidance is essential to the human development of the child, provided that this is offered with genuine respect for and trust in the child's human potentialities. We can say that the primary function of the teacher is not so much to teach as to direct the natural energy of the child.

A continuous focus of study during the course is the characteristics of the child from 3 to 6 years of age, the needs expressed during this stage of development, and the means we have available to assist the child's work of self-construction.

Why Take "Face-to-Face" Training?

The Montessori approach offers a broad vision of education as an aid to life. It is designed to help children with their task of inner construction as they grow from childhood to maturity. It succeeds because it draws its principles from the natural development of the child. Its flexibility provides a matrix within which each individual child's inner directives freely guide the child toward wholesome growth.

The preparation of the adult about to undertake work with young children demands a high degree of self-discipline and commitment, and a professional attitude. This preparation can only be achieved through immersion in the Montessori theory under the supervision of experienced lecturers. Furthermore, the special materials, to be used with the children in a Montessori class, require individual training and supervised practice - as each piece of apparatus has a function in the total scheme of the Montessori Prepared Environment.

These fundamental aspects cannot be covered in sufficient depth by distance learning. Montessori training is a process of re-orientation where students begin to discover for themselves the profound truths underlying the Montessori approach.

Courses are either full-time offered over an academic year, or several summers or modules. The course programme includes lectures, seminars and demonstrations on Montessori philosophy, child development and the Montessori materials. Each course also includes significant components of observation, supervised practice with the materials, material making and teaching practice. Students prepare albums which detail the purpose, use and presentation of each piece of material. In the words of Dr Montessori, the teacher '*must give her lesson, plant the seed and then disappear; observing and waiting*' (The Call of Education, Vol. 11, no. IV, December, 1925). This apparently simple proverb continues to be a piece of worthwhile advice and a source of inspiration. It is at the core of the role of the Montessori adult.

The 3-6 Diploma

The 3-6 Diploma includes a comprehensive study of the Montessori Method and child development including:

- The Montessori Philosophy and Psychology of Early Childhood Education
- The Child's Acquisition of Fundamental Learning Skills
- The Development and Education of the Senses
- Language Development
- Mathematics
- Montessori Materials and their Role in Assisting Child Development
- The Critical Role of Observation in the Development of Children
- Montessori Professional Experience
- Theories of Child Development
- Research Links between Montessori pedagogy and Current Themes in Early Childhood Education
- Montessori in Aotearoa, New Zealand



Montessori Teacher Education in Aotearoa, New Zealand

The Montessori approach made its first appearance in New Zealand in 1912 when the Montessori materials were used in Mother Aubert's Wellington Foundling home. There is an account of the introduction of the Montessori Method into New Zealand schools in 1916, and a kindergarten was attached to the Kelburn (Wellington) Demonstration School that ran using the Montessori approach and materials - operating from 1915 onwards. The Catholic school system also began adopting aspects of the Montessori Method at this time. Some of the Catholic convents retained the Method for their infant classes up until the 1940s and 1950s, particularly in the South Island.

The second wave of Montessori began in the mid 1970s. New Plymouth began the move towards Montessori pre school education when an American Montessori teacher spoke to a parent group in 1974. In the late 1970s two Montessori trainers were invited to New Zealand from England. Workshops were run in Christchurch and Auckland in 1977 and 1978. By the mid-1980s there were 13 Montessori pre-schools in New Zealand. These schools opened in direct response

to the desire of parents to have Montessori education for their children. The need for quality Montessori teaching staff has long been appreciated in New Zealand. Over the past 10 years many New Zealand Montessori schools have recruited their teachers from overseas in a bid to attract and retain quality Montessori teaching staff. Many have advertised in AMI colleges around the world, and New Zealand is now home to Montessori Directresses from as far afield as Ireland, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Italy and the United States. This was due to the recognition of authentic Montessori training and the on-going stability this afforded their school's community. Montessori preschool education presently caters for the needs of more than 4,000 children, or about 9% of early childhood services.

Changes in legislation regarding the qualifications of pre-school teachers brought to the fore the long-term unsustainability of solely recruiting Montessori staff from overseas, highlighting the need for quality, face-to-face training of Montessori teachers here in New Zealand. The Montessori Association of New Zealand (MANZ) worked with the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to introduce a three-year B.Ed. (ECE) degree. The last degree with a Montessori speciality was offered in 2017.

We see the AMI training course as imperative to ensure comprehensive face-to-face Montessori training is available in New Zealand, assuring the provision of quality Montessori professionals for the future.

Association Montessori Internationale

The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) was founded in 1929 by Maria Montessori to maintain the integrity of her life's work, and to ensure that it would be perpetuated after her death. AMI is the recognised international authority on Montessori education. During its long history AMI has fostered the growth and development of Montessori programmes and teacher training and worked to support the development and education of children and young adults in a vast variety of settings throughout the world.

AMI is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (since 1985) and an NGO in operational relations with UNESCO (since 1962).



MMEF Training Faculty

Carol Potts –Director of Training

AMI 3-6 trainer, New Zealand

Course Administrator & student support

Guest lecturers

Enrolment Fee

\$500 + GST to be paid upon acceptance of an offer of place

Course Fees

Option 1

\$9,500 + GST to be paid by 3rd October 2022

Option 2

Instalment 1 - \$7,000 + GST to be paid by 3rd October 2022

Instalment 2 - \$3,000 + GST to be paid by 7th August 2023

Or for centres only:

Option 3

Instalment 1 - \$5,000 + GST to be paid by 3rd October 2022
Instalment 2 - \$3,000 + GST to be paid by 7th August 2023
Instalment 3 - \$2,000 + GST to be paid by 8th January 2024

AMI Annual Membership Fee: \$65. All payments refer to New Zealand Dollars.
MMEF reserves the right to cancel the course due to insufficient enrolments.

Acceptance on to the Course and payment of the course fees whether in full or by instalments, forms a binding contract between the prospective student and/or centre and Maria Montessori Education Foundation (MMEF), from which time the student agrees to pay the entire Course fees irrespective of whether they complete the Course or not.

Refunds and Withdrawals

- Domestic Tertiary Learners, if you withdraw up to and including the first eight days of the start of the course, you will receive a refund of your course fees, less NZ\$500 or 10%, whichever is smaller.
- If Domestic Tertiary Learners withdraw after Day 8 of the course, there will be no refund of course fees and any outstanding course fees must still be paid.
- International Tertiary Learners, if you withdraw up to and including the first ten days of the start of the course, you will receive a refund of your course fees, less NZ\$500 or 10%, whichever is smaller.
- If International Tertiary Learners withdraw after Day 10 of the course, there will be no refund of course fees and any outstanding course fees must still be paid.
- If for any reason MMEF is unable to offer the course, all course fees will be fully refunded.

Protection of Fees

MMEF has made arrangements to ensure that your fees are protected.

In the unlikely event of MMEF going out of business or cancelling your course, the fees for your unused course tuition will be refunded.

Additional Materials and Supplies

Learners are required to prepare specific materials during the course. MMEF advises that the learner budgets up to \$800 for material making and course supplies including textbooks, notebooks, coloured pencils and associated supplies; folders, binders and dividers.

Entry Requirements

Criteria for Selection

The following general entry criteria will apply to all applicants.

Intending learners must:

- Be at least 18 years of age prior to the commencement of their training course
- Successful completion of a Level 6 Diploma or equivalent from a recognised tertiary institution
- Sign-off evidence of having observed a Montessori classroom session in action
- Successful completion of the Police Vetting process.

NOTE: Special admission status may, in some circumstances, be granted to a limited number of applicants who do not have formal academic qualifications but who wish to be admitted on the basis of their relevant life/work experience. In such cases, an interview will be conducted with candidates seeking entry by this avenue by the Director of Training.

International tertiary learners applying for MMEF programmes must also meet the following criteria:

- Produce evidence of having met the English language entry requirements of 7.0 Academic overall band score in IELTS or another recognised English language test where English is not the applicant's first language.
- Obtain the necessary immigration documentation e.g., applicable visa and recommended medical and travel insurance before commencement of the programme. Evidence of these must be cited by MMEF once the learner has the necessary documentation. This must be no later than the commencement of the course.

Applicants will be accepted without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, marital status, age or national origin as long as the above requirements are met.

Recognition of Current Competence

MMEF has determined that under the category of special admission to its Diploma course it will, in certain cases, assess an applicant's relevant life and/or work experience as an avenue of *admission only into the course*. This process will however *not* be used to award credit for and exemption from part or all of the Diploma course. All accepted applicants will be expected to complete all parts of the Diploma course.

Graduation Requirements

AMI Early Childhood Diploma in Montessori Education is granted upon the successful completion of the course requirements. Taken into consideration are regular attendance (minimum 90%) at lectures, observations, practical sessions with the materials, and practice teaching; submission of albums containing illustrated notes of didactic materials, preparation of specified classroom materials, written papers and practice teaching and observation reports. Passing competency must be achieved on written theory and practical examinations. In addition, learners must pass oral examinations conducted by a National & External Examiner from the Association Montessori Internationale.

All AMI Diplomas state only that the holder "has studied the principles and practice of the Montessori method for children" for the specified age group and has "passed the written and oral examinations." The diploma by itself does not automatically qualify the holder to teach. The state in which the graduate wishes to work will likely have other teaching requirements which must be fulfilled.

Diploma Requirements

AMI Early Childhood Diploma Requirements:

The Association Montessori Internationale Diploma is granted upon satisfactory completion of the course requirements in attendance at lectures and supervised practice sessions, observations and practice teaching, classroom materials and albums; passing marks on both written and the oral examination conducted by Examiners of the Association Montessori Internationale.

Learners not fulfilling any part of the course are given six months to make up the work. Learners failing any part of the examination must retake that part of the examination the following year. The examination may only be taken twice.

Reviews: Each learner's work and progress on the course are regularly reviewed by the faculty. Individual conferences are held with each learner regularly to discuss progress toward

successful completion of the course and future Montessori work. Additional conferences are held as necessary and/or as requested.

Dismissal: Learners may be asked to discontinue their course for medical, psychological, academic or other cogent reasons. Learners are expected to abide by the conditions laid down for taking the course and any arrangements made during their training.

International Tertiary Learners

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING – CAROL POTTS: The Director of Training will additionally be the designated person responsible for all inquiries regarding pastoral care for International tertiary learners.

CODE OF PRACTICE: MMEF has agreed to observe and be bound by the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary & International Learners) Code of Practice. Copies of the Code are available on request from this institution or from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority website at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/education-code-of-practice/>

IMMIGRATION: Full details of visa and permit requirements, advice on rights to employment in New Zealand while studying, and reporting requirements are available through the New Zealand Immigration Service, and can be viewed on their website at <http://www.immigration.govt.nz>

ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH SERVICES: Most international learners are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand. If you receive medical treatment during your visit, you may be liable for the full costs of that treatment. Full details on entitlements to publicly funded health services are available through the Ministry of Health and can be viewed on their website at <http://www.moh.govt.nz>.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE: The Accident Compensation Corporation provides accident insurance for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand, but you may still be liable for all other medical and related costs. Further information can be viewed on the ACC website at <https://www.acc.co.nz/>

MEDICAL AND TRAVEL INSURANCE: International learners must have appropriate and current medical and travel insurance while studying in New Zealand. The insurance coverage must include all travel costs (to and from and within New Zealand), medical care, and costs associated with repatriation, expatriation, and funeral expenses.

Accommodation

Hostels in Auckland generally provide you with your own bedroom and shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. You may be able to buy meals or choose to cook your own. Prices for hostel accommodation range between \$210 and \$380 per week.

Hotels and serviced apartments in Auckland provide private bedroom, bathroom and living facilities, with prices starting at \$550 per week.

Furnished apartments can be single bedroom or multiple bedrooms to share with others. Depending on the location and size of the apartment, cost can range from \$180 to \$350 per person per week. Apartments can be difficult to find for short term rental.

The following websites may assist you in your search for accommodation:
<https://www.aucklandnz.com> and www.tourism.net.nz/region/auckland

Maria Montessori Education Foundation only provides the above information about accommodation to learners. It does not arrange accommodation for learners, and it does not visit specific accommodation to assess its suitability for individual needs.

Examples of typical cost of living expenses in Auckland (approximate):

Monthly bus & train pass	\$210.00
A pizza for two	\$28.00
A beer in a café/pub	\$9.00
A cappuccino	\$5.00
A movie	\$18.00
A CD	\$33.00
A can of coke	\$4.50
A souvenir t-shirt	\$25.00 - \$40.00
A haircut	\$30 men/\$80 women
A daily newspaper	\$2.50
A swim at a local pool	\$15.00
A visit to the doctor	\$50 - \$75.00

