

Masters degrees galore

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While life on a small Caribbean Island may initially appear to limit access to higher education options, the reality is quite the opposite.

Along with on-Island institutions offering Masters-level degrees, thanks to the power of the Internet, these days Cayman residents have an unprecedented number of educational possibilities to choose from.

Cayman's largest post-secondary institution is the University College of the Cayman Islands. Since its humble beginnings to its current role as an education innovator for the Islands, UCCI now offers a range of post-secondary professional programmes aimed at the financial services and tourism sectors, as well as a Masters in Human Resource Management.

For this Masters' programme, UCCI has collaborated with the Cayman Islands Society of Human Resource Professionals to tailor to the Cayman Islands market while maintaining international expectations.

"The modular, flexible curriculum offers the opportunity for students to study portions à la carte in order to achieve specific expertise, knowledge and certifications. Alternatively the stand alone sections can be combined with an academic and project component to obtain a full Master's degree in Human Resource Management," says UCCI's Leigh Smellie.

"We will begin our second offering of the Masters in Human Resource Management in January- Spring Semester 2009. The programme offers internal certifications through SHRM and the AMA. The academic portion of the programme looks at Human Resource Management from an international context. So students benefit from both practical professional certifications and theoretical study," says Ms Smellie.

The school also offers a Certificate in Executive MBA Studies, which provides the essentials of Executive level MBA education offered jointly by the University College of the Cayman

Islands and the Rotman School of Management of the University of Toronto.

Graduate level university courses in MBA areas such as accounting, finance, economics, marketing and management run for two days each on Fridays and Saturdays at UCCI's Executive Training Centre.

In addition, UCCI's Certificate in Offshore Financial Services Certificate provides a Cayman-focused introduction to offshore financial services and their regulation; Students take six courses over a six month period.

Looking to the future, UCCI is working on implementing a full MBA programme tentatively scheduled to launch in the fall semester of 2009.