

Diploma in Associative Economics

Course Director: Christopher Houghton Budd, Ph.D.

The *Diploma in Associative Economics* is a distance learning process supervised by Dr Christopher Houghton Budd but 'driven' by the diplomée. It is organised in the following way.

Portfolio:

The diplomée is required to design, organise and maintain a portfolio (see Section 6 in Mentoring Guidelines) that, when complete, tracks, maps and demonstrates his or her conceptual understanding, technical grasp, and practical experience in regard to associative economics. The diplomée is the author of this portfolio and the role of the mentor is to coach the diplomée in whatever way is relevant to his or her situation. The topic area must belong to one of 6 main research areas: *Accounting Reform*, *Prospects for a World Currency*, *Youth Financial Literacy*, *The Role of the Corporation and the Future of Not-for-profits*, *Financing Education* and *The Economics of Farming*.

The aim of the diploma is primarily to acquaint the diplomée with the approach to economics inaugurated by Rudolf Steiner¹ in 1922 and to ask how economics as he perceived it already lives in or could be brought about in today's circumstances. In practice, however, it is based on doctoral-style mentoring undertaken with a view to equipping diplomées for eventual accreditation by both mainstream and alternative institutions in the fields of economics, finance and business.

For practical purposes portfolios are evaluated at a level not less than MBA and according to guidelines of a standard not less than those of a university of good standing. Importance is also attached to the monetary and financial aspects of economic life. These are not absolute criteria, but signal the level at which a diplomée should pitch his or her studies.

Taught Elements:

- Attendance at the *Colours of Money*² workshop (or its equivalent).
- Participation in the 9-module *Metamorphosis of Capitalism*³ course (or its equivalent).

Tutored Element:

- One-on-one-supervision by a combination of remote and face-to-face sessions (as agreed between mentor and diplomée).

Essays:

- Mentor-assessed, essays should be 2,000 words if in effect a chapter; 6,000 words if in the style of a dissertation. The number is up to the diplomée but at least 2 x 2,000 words and 1 x 6,000 words.

Presentations:

- Peer group- and panel-based presentations.

Reading: The basic reading requirements are (Available online at cfae.biz/publications):

A Human Response to Globalisation – Discovering Associative Economics, Marc Desaulles.

The Metamorphosis of Capitalism – Realising Associative Economics, Christopher Houghton Budd.

Economics – The World as One Economy, Rudolf Steiner.

(All these can be bought online at cfae.biz/publications.)

Other reading, which should be germane to the overall purpose of the diploma and to the diplomée's chosen topic, is as suggested and agreed between the mentor and the diplomée.

Cost:

There is a one-off non-refundable registration fee of £50. Any course or module that the diplomée is required to take is paid for at the published price when it is taken. Otherwise mentoring services are tailored to the needs of the diplomée and charged on an hourly rate (£35 ph in 2010) on an 'as incurred' basis. Diplomées pay 5 hours in advance.

¹ Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), a philosopher and scientist whose concept of economics is of a single world economy, associatively managed.

² For details of this course please contact chb@cfae.biz.

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