

The MBNLP Academy

One year, project based development programme with Michael Breen

People have been asking me for the opportunity to “study personally”, “shadow”, “apprentice”, “be mentored by” or “hangout and learn” and several other verbs that I didn’t like the sound of..

To honour the intentions and desires of these good folk, I have decided to start a programme called “The Academy”. And before we go into the who’s, what’s and how’s of our Academy, let me tell you a little about the person and place I am taking my cue from.

Plato’s Academy

In 388 B.C. Plato, the philosopher sage and leading student of Socrates dedicated a temple of the muses in a grove of olive trees, along the Sacred Way to the northwest of Athens. The place was dedicated to Academus, a hero from earlier times who had helped Athens avoid a war with Sparta by sharing secret information that he held – information that, according to legend, he had to go to the underworld to attain.

Plato established what has been called a school but it was not a school as we understand the term. Plato’s Academy was a place of learning through dialogue and experiment as well as lectures – even their meals were dedicated to learning. The way of relating between Academician’s would be described in contemporary terms as *learning conversations*.

And Plato would only accept for entrance those who were “intoxicated to learn what was in their souls.” Plato accepted these students from all countries and all other schools and educational or training backgrounds. They were divided into three groups: The *mathetes* or learners, the *synethes* or those of like habits and the *hetairos* or learning companions. Each was dealt with according to his abilities and needs. The fellowship, though, was the same.

Our Academy

So we now come to our Academy. A small group of you, as few as three, will work with me personally for a year, both individually and as a group. You can accompany me on all MBNLP programmes. You can meet from time to time as a group and perhaps enjoy a working meal, a film or a “field trip”. We may even travel. But most importantly you will work on progressing your own agenda - your work or business goals, your learning goals, your life goals. I will be available to you to answer your questions, facilitate, advise, consult, cajole, console, kick-start, poke fun at, provoke, evoke and do whatever else I deem necessary to support you in your making progress.

As a learning companion, I will expect you to make significant progress in mastering the tools and skills of NLP. I will explain, point out, suggest, wax rhapsodically, entrance, task and demand certain things. Always I will insist that you take responsibility for your own development.

Your goals and objectives will drive the programme. In the pilot schemes I have run we have worked on a very broad range of topics and issues. As well as the big picture life, organisation and career stuff, medium frame “I-want-to-learn-to-x” type things and small scale tactical problem solving; we also had time for numerous ad hoc explorations in the realm of the curious and the unusual.

When I was asked “How do you produce an audio tape” my answer was “Meet me at the studio, bring a pad and pen, a litre of Evian and get ready to work.” When you ask a question you may be invited to learn by helping out or you may be given a reading assignment or, if for example, as one person in the pilot asked: “How does Richard Bandler use language so brain twistingly?” The answer was: “Transcribe this tape, mark up all the language patterns and bring it to me when you are done. Then we will talk about it.” It took a month for the person to come back to me. But they had a better grasp of language patterns when they were done. I don’t fool around and if you want something I will tell you or show you how and then it is up to you...

Your Academy year starts and ends with an interview. In our first meeting I will expect you to come prepared with a project outline and outputs for what you would like to work on and achieve. I will give you a list of things to think about and write down before we meet. During that meeting we will agree on how you want to play, how far you want me to push and what your development needs might be. You will be spending time with me, both task focussed and “chill time”, and you will have access to my private telephone numbers.

I will require that you keep some sort of basic journal or record of your learning, insights and experiences during the year that we will use as the basis for our discussion at the end of the year.

I want to see you making significant progress during your year in the Academy. Join me only if you are serious (and fun).

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Michael Breen

The domains of action for the MBNLP Academy include:

All MBNLP trainings for one year,
project meetings with Michael and the group
Michael’s private telephone numbers & email
occasional “field trips”
ad hoc invitations to join Michael for fun, adventure or hard work

MBNLP will pay for the meeting venues; you will pay for your travel, accommodation and all incidental expenses. When you are invited to join or accompany Michael or the group; it is up to you whether you attend some of the meetings, all of the meetings or none of the meetings.

Your Academy year costs £12,500 + VAT