

# Grace Owen - Director

ACC DipCMI CMC MSc BSc



## Profile:

For more than 15 years, she has worked with thousands of leaders, from graduates to chief executives, equipping them to excel at work and preparing them to take the next step in their career.

Grace oversees all projects, programmes and coaching solutions. She is an executive coach to senior-board level leaders, from all sectors, at London Business School, on open leadership and EMBA programmes.

A thought provoking speaker and mentor, she is author of *The Career Itch – 4 Steps for Taking Control of What You Do Next*.

Her media contributions include BBC, The Bookseller, Fresh Business Thinking, The Guardian, Metro, Pride magazine, Reconnect Africa, Red magazine, Stylist magazine and The Times.

Grace is a passionate volunteer for charities large and small in the UK and Ghana, West Africa.

## Background:

A senior HR leader then internal Learning consultant at Marks & Spencer and Whitbread Restaurants.

At Costa Coffee, she was the first Head of Learning and Development (UK), which had 300 stores and 2,500 employees. Leading a national team of learning specialists and suppliers she established the department and offerings, virtually from scratch, implemented a coaching based change programme for leaders, co-designed a Disney inspired service excellence programme and devised an innovative workplace learning strategy before going on to initiate a successful employer branding project.

Grace founded Grace Owen Solutions in 2003 and since that time has grown an impressive portfolio of work across the private, public, charity, voluntary and enterprise sectors in the UK and abroad. Recent clients include London Business School, Lloyds Banking Group, the BBC and Retail Trust.

In January 2012 she launched a high quality, independent career consultancy service for leaders having realised that their professional and personal needs were not being met in the global war for talent.

## Coaching:

A coach since 2001, Grace's life and work have been dramatically enhanced through this intervention.

As an internal leadership and team coach she witnessed first hand how coaching made lasting improvement to business, team and individual performance. Following this she was a business coach for women starting their own enterprises.

Today, her clients face intense levels of complexity and uncertainty. They are senior-board level mid-life careerists who want to take control of their work and lifestyle in the present and for the future.

Client feedback consistently describes Grace as a warm, energising and professional partner who generates insight and clarity through reflection, creativity and intuition. She has a knack of connecting what has been disconnected, thus making a transformative, lasting difference to behaviour and measurable impact on the bottom line.

Grace mentors young leaders, coaches who are in training, the newly qualified and those with an established and growing niche practice.

## Continuing Professional Development:

She is preparing her Professional Certified Coach (PCC) portfolio for submission to the International Coach Federation. Less than 100 coaches hold this credential in the UK. She has attained certificates in Reflective Practice and Entrepreneurship from the Institute of Leadership and Management. She has diploma in Life Coaching and an MSc in Learning and Development, both with distinction, she is also a certified Master Coach.

## Memberships and affiliations:

Grace has an extensive network of contacts; she is a member of the International Coach Federation, the leading global coaching organisation and National Career Development Association (USA). She is an Ashridge Business School Alumni member, Fellow of the International Management Centres Association and Associate of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.