PROGRAMME INFORMATION: 2017 entry

The Doctorate in Education (EdD) programme is designed to support the professional development of practitioners in the fields of education and training, and to bring benefits to the organisations in which they work. It is a research-based programme focusing on the improvement of professional practice, which will enable participants to acquire a range of research skills and strategies that can be used to support practice-based research.

Key themes are an understanding of learning and its development in work contexts of various kinds, and of how leadership promotes professional learning of high quality. Prospective applicants include: school, further and higher education staff; Local Authority and other consultants; staff working in a range of inter-agency settings; youth and social workers; health professionals; staff from public sector and commercial/business organisations.

Programme structure
The programme is part-time and participants are expected to complete within five years, with provision for earlier and later completion. Phase 1 consists of two years part-time study; Phases 2 and 3 comprise the remainder of the study period.

Phase 1
Phase 1 consists of two study themes that will be presented concurrently; the inter-relationship of these two themes will be emphasised throughout.

- **Issues in professional learning and development**
  The theme will be examined from three perspectives: participants’ own professional learning; the organisational, cultural, social contexts of professional learning; the leadership role in supporting professional learning. A range of topics will be explored arising from staff research and the interests of participants.

- **Approaches to research**
  Research paradigms and their relationship to practice-based research will be explored. Approaches to research and research skills appropriate to the design and execution of practice-based research will provide a basis for the development of participants’ research projects.

Phase 2
Participants will continue to develop their practice-based research, with supervisory support. A programme of sessions relating to the two themes will continue, providing opportunities for participants to present and evaluate their own work. Guest lectures or staff-led sessions will offer opportunities to continue to engage in critical debate on issues at the forefront of the field.

Phase 3
Participants will continue to develop their practice-based research, with supervisory support, leading to the production of a thesis.
All phases
Where relevant, participants will be required to follow elements of the University’s Researcher Development Programme, at appropriate points during all phases of study. This training programme takes place on weekdays.

Throughout the programme participants will be subject to ongoing monitoring and assessment of progress in line the University Research Degree Regulations.

Study pattern
A series of study days, organised in two-day blocks and single days (including weekend days), supervision meetings, research training and e-learning support.

Study days for Years 1 & 2 will comprise six two-day blocks, in each case a Friday and Saturday in September, November, January, March, May and late June/early July. For Years 3 and upwards, study days will be on Fridays only. Dates for 2017/18 will be supplied in due course.

Entry requirements
Entry qualifications are assessed on an individual basis. Normally participants will have: an Honours degree or equivalent; a relevant Masters Degree and five years’ relevant professional experience. Participants will also be currently working in or allied to the fields of education or training, or have access to an appropriate research setting. Applicants will be proficient in the English language.

Assessed Work in Phase 1
Your principal supervisor-designate will provide guidance on the nature of the assessed work you are to submit, negotiate arrangements for submission and provide feedback. Assessment in Phase 1 will normally comprise the following:

Year 1
- A critical review of a small number of key texts relevant to the area of interest – a 4,000 word submission after 6 months, extended to a 7,000 maximum words submission after 12 months.
- To progress through to the registration process, the participant will be asked to submit a research programme proposal (approx 400 words) and a progression document outlining their progress to date and their phased plan of study to complete the doctorate (max 6,000 words). These documents will be submitted at least 3 weeks in advance of the assessment date and an initial registration assessment viva will be held in April 2018 (after 8 months of the start of the programme).
- A discussion paper showing critical engagement with issues in the field of practice-based research, based on small-scale empirical research in the participant’s own practice setting – a 7,000 word maximum submission after 12 months of the programme.

Year 2
- A paper examining and evaluating the research approach(es) drawn on to date in the participant’s practice-based research
- A paper demonstrating reflexive engagement with an aspect of practice in relation to the theme of professional learning and development
Further details on Year 2 items of assessed work to be provided in following year.

At the end of Phase 1 a progress assessment will take place. If the participant has met the relevant criteria, the award of MA by Research is available at the end of Phase 1, for which participants would need to develop a submission based on their programme of work for this phase.

**Programme of Work and Research Proposal for Registration**

Within 8 months from enrolment each participant will have submitted a programme of work to be undertaken and had this approved by the Research Degrees Board. In Year 1 the development of the programme and proposal will be supported by the supervision team, and through discussion of key issues on study days. There will be an opportunity to bring draft proposals for discussion.

**Supervision arrangements**

There should be regular contact with the principal supervisor designate throughout the year.

**Research training**

Support is provided through supervision, discussion of key issues on study days, and attendance at Generic Research Training sessions.

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**APPLICATION PROCEDURES 2017**

Applicants for the Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) Programme complete the University application form and provide a statement of no more than 2,000 words in support of their application. Two references are required to be submitted with the application: one should provide an opinion on the academic ability of the applicant and the other on the applicant’s professional roles and responsibilities. The closing date for receipt of applications is May 19th, 2017.

**Open Evening**

There will be an Open Evening for all prospective candidates on Wednesday April 19th at 6.30 p.m on the de Havilland campus. To book a place, contact j.berry@herts.ac.uk

**Application Form**

An application form was attached to the email accompanying this information and can also be downloaded from [http://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/doctorate-in-education](http://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/doctorate-in-education)

Please send the completed application form, statement and references by email or post to:

Dr Jon Berry  
EdD Programme Director  
School of Education  
University of Hertfordshire  
College Lane  
Hatfield AL10 9AB
Statement
The 2000 word statement in support of your application should provide information on:
• your reasons for wishing to follow this EdD programme;
• your proposed area of research and what has prompted your interest in this area;
• your involvement in any prior research in this area;
• how your research interests will relate to your work roles and responsibilities, and be of benefit to the organisation;
• the nature of the practice-based research you wish to undertake, and initial ideas about appropriate research strategies.

The proposal should be written in formal, academic style and properly referenced.

It is recognised that your thinking about an area of practice-based research will not be fully developed, and that the first year of the programme is designed to support you in developing a detailed programme for your research.

Interviews
Interviews are normally conducted by two or three members of staff, one of whom may be a possible supervisor. The interview provides the opportunity to:

• confirm the appropriateness of the entry qualifications of the applicant;
• consider how previous studies provide a basis for doctoral level work;
• consider the applicant’s critical and reflective abilities with reference to her/his research interest;
• discuss the statement provided in support of the application;
• consider the availability of a supervisory team for the research interests identified.

Interviews will be held in early June, 2017.

Offer Letter & Dates
Formal offer letters will be sent out in due course after the interviews with a view to enrolling in September, 2017. Dates for study days for 2017/18 will be available before the end of June, 2017.

Fees for 2017 Cohort
For those starting the programme in the academic year 2015-2016 the fee was £4,500 per annum for home students. The fee for 2017/18 has not been finalised at the time of writing.
Further Information

For any further information about the programme or for an informal discussion before making an application contact:

Dr Jon Berry  
EdD Programme Director  
School of Education  
University of Hertfordshire  
College Lane  
Hatfield. AL10 9AB  
UK  
01707 285660  
j.berry@herts.ac.uk