

PROGRAMME INFORMATION: 2020 entry

The Doctorate in Education (EdD) programme is designed to support the professional learning and 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 practitioner 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 normally expect to complete within five years, with provision for earlier and later completion. Participants' development of their research is supported by their supervisory team from the start of the programme and through Study Days. The programme comprises three phases:

Phase 1

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

❖ Issues in professional learning and development

The theme is 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 is explored arising from staff research and the interests of participants.

❖ Approaches to research

Research approaches and their relationship to practice-based research are explored. These approaches to research and the development of research skills appropriate to the design and execution of practice-based research provide a basis for the progression of participants' research projects.

Phase 2

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

Phase 3

Participants continue to develop their practice-based research, with supervisory support, leading to the production of a thesis. Programme sessions here are designed to help participants enhance the quality of their doctoral level writing; the quality of their conceptual thinking and the rigour of their research; and to prepare their doctoral work for submission.

All phases

Where relevant, participants are able and sometimes required to follow elements of the University's Researcher Development Programme, at appropriate points during all phases of study.

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 take place. There are 8 of these in the first two years. The provisional dates for 2020-2021 (TBC) are:

Friday 02 October and Saturday 03 October 2020
Friday 20 November and Saturday 21 November 2020
Saturday 23 January 2021
Saturday 13 March 2021
Friday 14 May and Saturday 15 May 2021

As well as the above sessions, there is an optional residential writing weekend on Friday 30 - Saturday 31 July (TBC).

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 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

- To progress through to the registration process, participants submit a registration document outlining their research proposal, their progress to date, and their phased plan of study (max 6,000 words). This is the basis for a registration viva to be held within eight months of enrolment.
- A critical review of key texts relevant to the area of interest (max 7,000 words) and 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 (max 7,000 words), with 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 (max 7,000 words).
- A paper demonstrating reflexive engagement with an aspect of practice in relation to the theme of professional learning and development (max 7,000 words).

Within 30 months of enrolment, there is a second Doctoral Review Assessment for which a Progression document is submitted (maximum 6000 words) and a viva or meeting at which this work is discussed. At this stage, the award of an MA by Research is available if the criteria for this are met.

Supervision arrangements

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

Research training

Support is provided through supervision, discussion of key issues on study days, and attendance at Researcher Development Programme sessions.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES 2020

Applicants for the Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) Programme are advised to speak to the Programme Director before applying.

- A completed application form, including a personal statement (500 words);
- A research proposal in support of your application (2000 words);
- Copies of your qualifications (an Honours degree or equivalent, normally at least 2:1 or above; and normally a relevant Masters' degree in an appropriate discipline);
- English language qualifications (if applicable). International students from countries where English is not the official first language should have a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. This could be waived if you have already studied in the UK or in a predominantly English-speaking country such as the USA or Australia and hold a degree from one of those countries;
- Details for two referees 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;
- A copy of your passport.

Given the current circumstances, we have extended the deadline for submission of applications – please contact the EdD Programme Director, Dr Karen Smith (k.smith27@herts.ac.uk), to discuss.

The application form can be downloaded from <https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply#directly>

Please send your application directly to the Doctoral College: doctoralcollegeadmissions@herts.ac.uk

You can contact the Doctoral College with any specific questions about the application process, or you can contact the Programme Director, Dr Karen Smith: k.smith27@herts.ac.uk

Open Evening

There will be an Open Evening for all prospective candidates on Wednesday April 1st 5.30 p.m. To book a place, contact the EdD administrator, Alison Hudson: a.j.hudson@herts.ac.uk

Personal statement and Research proposal

The **personal statement** (500 words) within the application form (question 11), should provide information on:

- your reasons for wishing to follow this EdD programme and why you are suitable for a doctoral programme;
- how your engagement in research will relate to your work roles and responsibilities, and be of benefit to the organisation;
- your involvement in any prior research in this area, or other empirical research, including a statement on the research methods you used;
- other information that you feel is relevant to your application.

You should submit a 2000-word **research proposal**, which provides information on:

- your provisional title;
- the proposed aims of the research and what has prompted your interest in this area;
- a justification for your proposed research area, outlining some of the existing literature and evidence;
- the approach to practice-based research you wish to undertake, and initial ideas about appropriate research strategies and data collection methods.
- the potential contribution of your research to professional practice.

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 your entry qualifications;
- consider how previous experience and education provide a basis for doctoral level work;
- consider your critical and reflective abilities with reference to your research interest;
- discuss your research proposal;
- discuss the statement provided in support of the application;
- consider the availability of a supervisory team for the research interests identified.

We will seek to hold interviews in June or July 2020.

Offer Letter

If successful, formal offer letters will be sent out in due course after the interviews with a view to enrolling in September 2020.

Fees for 2020 Cohort

Information about fees can be found at: <https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>. International students should contact the International Office to discuss visa requirements:

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/international/new-international-students/coming-to-the-uk/applying-for-your-visa>

Further Information

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

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