

## **PROGRAMME INFORMATION: 2021 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. 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 2021-2022 (TBC) are:

Friday 01 October and Saturday 02 October 2021  
Friday 19 November and Saturday 20 November 2021  
Saturday 22 January 2022  
Saturday 12 March 2022  
Friday 13 May and Saturday 14 May 2022

As well as the above sessions, there is an optional residential writing weekend on Friday 29 - Saturday 30 July 2022 (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) within 8 months of enrolment. This is the basis for a registration viva.
- A critical review of key texts relevant to the area of interest, with submission after 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.

#### **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.

Within 30 months of enrolment, there is a second Doctoral Review Assessment for which a Progression document is submitted (max 6,000 words) and a viva or meeting

at which this work is discussed. At this stage, the award of a Masters by Research (MRes) 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 2021**

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.

Please aim to send applications by June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

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](mailto: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](mailto:k.smith27@herts.ac.uk)

### **Open Evening**

There will be an Open Evening virtual session for all prospective candidates on Wednesday April 28th 5.30 p.m. To receive a link to the session, please contact Dr Karen Smith: [k.smith27@herts.ac.uk](mailto:k.smith27@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, with critical analysis of relevant literature;
- the approach to practice-based research you wish to undertake;
- 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 2021.

### **Offer Letter**

If successful, formal offer letters will be sent out in due course after the interviews with a view to enrolling in September 2021.

**Fees for 2021 Cohort**

For those starting the programme in the academic year 2021-2022 the fee is £4,340 per annum for home students, see: <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:

Dr Karen Smith  
EdD Programme Director  
School of Education  
University of Hertfordshire  
College Lane  
Hatfield. AL10 9AB  
UK  
01707 285730  
[k.smith27@herts.ac.uk](mailto:k.smith27@herts.ac.uk)