PROGRAMME INFORMATION: 2019 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 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 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. 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 will be invited to and sometimes 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 take place. There are 8 of these in the first two years. In 2019-2020 these will be as follows:

- Friday 27 September and Saturday 28 September 2019
- Friday 29 November and Saturday 30 November 2019
- Saturday 25 January 2020
- Saturday 14 March 2020
- Friday 15 May and Saturday 16 May 2020

As well as the above sessions, there is a non-compulsory residential writing weekend on Friday 17 - Saturday 18 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-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**
- 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 a small number 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.

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**APPLICATION PROCEDURES 2019**

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

- A completed application form;
- A statement 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;
- 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;
- A copy of your passport.

Please send applications by May 17th, 2019.

An application form was attached to the email accompanying this information and can also be downloaded from [https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply#directly](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 for all prospective candidates on Tuesday April 2nd at 6.00 p.m. on the de Havilland campus in Room R110. To book a place, contact the EdD administrator, Alison Hudson: [a.j.hudson@herts.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.hudson@herts.ac.uk)
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 applicant’s research proposal;
- 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 June, 2019.

Offer Letter & Dates
Formal offer letters will be sent out in due course after the interviews with a view to enrolling in September, 2019. Dates for study days for 2019/20 are listed above.

Fees for 2019 Cohort
For those starting the programme in the academic year 2019-2020 the fee is £4,215 per annum for home students.

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

Dr Karen Smith
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Hatfield. AL10 9AB
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