

PROGRAMME INFORMATION: 2024 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

Throughout all phases of the programme, researcher development is supported through regular meetings with their supervisory team; through the centrally-provided Researcher Development Programme (RDP), which comprises sessions on a wide range of generic themes related to research and researcher development and enables

EdD research students to engage with the wider UH research community; and through EdD Study Days.

Study Days

A series of study days take place. There are 8 of these in the first two years. The provisional dates for 2024-2025 (TBC) are:

Friday 11 October, 2024 and Saturday 12 October, 2024
Friday 06 December, 2024 and Saturday 07 December, 2024
Saturday 08 February, 2025
Saturday 05 April, 2025
Friday 13 June, 2025 and Saturday 14 June, 2025

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

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

Assessment will normally comprise the following:

Formal Assessments

- Registration Assessment (within 8 months of enrolment) and Doctoral Progression Assessment (within 28 months of enrolment). These assessment points both require the submission of progress report (maximum 6,000 words) and a viva examination;
- Final submission of a written document that presents and defends a thesis (maximum 80,000 words). A submission may also contain other works or artefacts on which the thesis and its defence are based. The submission will be defended at a viva examination.

EdD Formative Papers

The EdD includes Formative Papers that are designed to complement the formal assessment processes and feed into the development of the students' research. The Papers include a critical review of key texts; a small-scale study; reflexivity; and methodology papers. These papers are staged over the first two years on the programme.

Your principal supervisor will provide guidance on the nature of the assessed work you are to submit, negotiate arrangements for submission and provide feedback.

Entry requirements

Entry qualifications are assessed on an individual basis. Normally participants will have: an Honours degree or equivalent; a relevant Master's 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.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES 2024

Applicants for the Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) Programme are strongly advised to speak to the Programme Director before applying. An application should include:

- A completed application form, including a personal statement (500 words);
- A research proposal in support of your application (2000 words);
- Copies of your qualification certificates and transcripts (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 photo page.

Please aim to send applications by June 5th, 2024.

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 Jed Hopkins: j.hopkins4@herts.ac.uk

Open Evening and Proposal Writing Session

A virtual Open Evening will be offered for all interested applicants on Wednesday 17 April, 17.30. We are also hosting a Proposal Writing Session on Thursday 18 April, 17.30 and another one on Friday 10 May, 17.30. To receive a link to any of these sessions, please contact Dr Jed Hopkins: j.hopkins4@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-July 2024.

Offer Letter

If successful, formal offer letters will be sent out in due course after the interviews with a view to enrolling on 1st October, 2024.

Fees for 2024 Cohort

For those starting the programme in the academic year 2024-2025, 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 Jed Hopkins, EdD Interim Programme Director
School of Law and Education (SLE)
University of Hertfordshire

j.hopkins4@herts.ac.uk