

Doctorate in Education (EdD)



- Are you an experienced professional in education seeking to develop personally and professionally?
- Are you already qualified to Masters level and looking for the next challenge?

Our taught doctorate programme in education could be the opportunity and challenge you seek.

The Open University (OU) has a world-class reputation for pioneering participatory and inclusive research, and has a history of engaging with communities of practice and policy-makers to generate critical, impactful and solution-orientated research. The **Doctorate in Education (EdD)** will enable committed professionals to study flexibly (alongside professional or other commitments) to achieve a doctorate.

The EdD is an innovative programme of part-time study designed to support original research that will have an impact on education practice or policy. The EdD provides the opportunity for you to develop your own practice-based research in a structured and supportive environment. This professional doctorate differs from a PhD in that one of its key aims is to make a contribution to education *practice or policy*, as well as to theory.

Who is it for?

The doctorate programme is open to senior, established professionals working in education settings, including head teachers and trainers but also other professionals working in formal, informal and non-formal educational settings, whether in the public, voluntary or private sectors.

Why the OU?

The Open University (OU) has a successful track record of delivering innovative and highly flexible education, and of supporting students to combine study alongside professional and personal commitments. The OU has a long history of taught doctorate programmes, having delivered a well-established Doctorate in Education (EdD) for over 20 years.

As a student on the EdD programme you will study with students on a sister programme in Health and Social Care (DHSC) and will have access to professional researchers across a broad range of and education, health, and social care fields of practice. This means your study and research will be able to reflect the increasingly multidisciplinary and multi-agency culture of these areas of practice.

What's involved in the EdD?

The EdD involves four years of part-time study, in two stages:

Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

This comprises the 'taught' component of the programme which will equip you with the skills and knowledge to support your engagement with the research and the practice field in which your project is located. This phase will involve you studying online modules on topics including: the context of education research, literature reviewing, ethics, the principles of research design, and methods of data collection and analysis. Stage 1 is assessed through the submission of formative and summative assignments which focus on developing your literature review, refining your research questions and your proposal for research.

Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

Students who successfully complete Stage 1 will progress to Stage 2 - the 'research' component of the programme. During this time you will carry out your study and work towards completing your thesis. The research stage has a structured schedule of submission of assignments which will pace you through 'work in progress' pieces and provide regular opportunities for feedback on your progress.

In both stages (1&2) you will be supported through online seminar discussions and annual residential weekends at the OU's campus in Milton Keynes. You will be allocated two supervisors – your main one in year 1 and a co-supervisor in year 2.

Am I eligible?

- Applicants should hold a Masters Degree in Education, or a related discipline.
- Applicants should also have at least two years of relevant professional experience or informal expertise as a practitioner in education.

How much does it cost?

Special annual fees for BFSU students who start in October 2022 start will be around £4,260.00.

How can I apply?

Our next intake to the EdD is October 2022 –the formal application period is from November 2021 until the end of January 2022. However, it is important to start thinking now, as early as possible, about potential areas of research as the application will ask you to outline your proposed research topic.

We welcome research proposals that fall into one of the following areas of study:

- Child and Youth Studies (including sports)
- Curriculum, equity and assessment
- Educational leadership, management and development
- Technology enhanced learning
- Language and literacy

You will be asked to send your completed application form and research proposal to – WELS-Prof-Docs@open.ac.uk. The application form and research proposal template can be found on our website and contains more information on what you need to include with your application.

Next steps

Visit our website for more information on the programme and how to apply:

http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/professional-doctorates_process

For information on fees: <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/fees-and-funding/fees-what-you-need-to-pay>