

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION



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WELCOME TO THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

The Institute of Education is at the forefront of progressive development in its specialist field contributing to the initial and continuing professional development of all those who work in education in the region and beyond. The University of Worcester has a very strong reputation for providing excellent, inclusive higher education. It is an evermore dynamic engine for social, economic and cultural development in the region, particularly recognised for creative, high achieving work with partner organisations and for promoting opportunity in an equal, inclusive way.

As an exceptional provider, the Institute of Education has a clear commitment to research. Members of the academic staff actively engage in continuing their own professional development, demonstrating their love of learning and providing effective support for others researching theory and practice, as well as researching a variety of aspects of education in a wide range of settings.

WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

Our staff have taught, researched and practised in a broad range of contexts, both in the UK and more widely. Their passion for the place of high quality education within local communities and wider society is fuelled by a vision for the transformative nature of education and its power to create opportunity and raise aspiration.

We have excellent and purposeful links with partners in a wide range of settings and schools. This provides the opportunity to nurture new networks and to bring together those with shared interests and aspirations. It also ensures a dynamic and interactive learning environment – essential for a professional doctorate.

Our student community includes colleagues from around the world, engaged in evaluation, reflection and analysis of a variety of education systems. We have a vision for widening participation in higher education coupled with a commitment to raise aspirations and help all members of our community achieve the best they possibly can.

Our campuses provide well-equipped learning spaces. Our purpose-built facilities include the new award-winning library which has over a quarter of a million books, and the Peirson Study & Guidance Centre. The Institute of Education offers a welcoming and supportive environment in which to research and to learn. As a community of learners committed to research-informed reflective practice, we offer a warm welcome. Education has a constantly changing landscape and we look forward to exploring new challenges with you and to developing learning.

WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER'S DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD)?

The University of Worcester's Doctor of Education (EdD) is a professional doctoral degree designed to enhance your insight into practice and deepen knowledge of your working context. The programme provides an opportunity for you, as an education professional, to work creatively by analysing and synthesising research literature and your own research evidence, to understand your own professional context more critically and to find solutions to key challenges in your working environment. In doing so, it is envisaged that our students will become communities of practice within their profession, and ultimately lead within these.

The Professional Doctorate award is distinct from the PhD award in the following respects:

- There is a considerable weighting given to a taught component which comprises an integral and key part of the programme, and the assessment of the taught component contributes directly towards the final award.
- The thesis produced by Professional Doctorate students will make an original contribution to knowledge within the relevant area or areas of professional practice.

The benefits of the EdD are both organisational and personal. The evidenced-informed insights and new knowledge generated are likely to impact greatly and you will broaden and deepen your professional outlook.

WHY WORCESTER?

Our EdD programme offers you:

- **Academic rigor:** Gain a deeper understanding of your chosen subject area with a challenging combination of research training and supervised research.
- **A wide variety of research interests:** Our academics have a high degree of professional and personal experience which you'll benefit from in both the taught and research element of your programme.
- **Excellent supervision:** Your supervisory team is drawn from experienced professionals working at the forefront of their disciplines.
- **Resources:** Access to the University of Worcester's virtual resources and to the state-of-the-art library facilities at The Hive.
- **Networking opportunities:** Working alongside health and business professionals to form a 'community of practice'.

THE BENEFITS TO YOUR ORGANISATION:

- Access to vital 'cutting edge' thinking.
- The opportunity to significantly enhance your organisation's innovative capacity.
- The opportunity to offer senior educationalists the chance for further career development.

PROGRAMME AIMS

The EdD Programme will develop your ability to integrate rigorous academic and critical analysis with practical relevance and application, enabling you to become a more effective evidence-based practitioner and contributing to the development of your profession through the furtherance of knowledge.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

The Professional Doctorate is designed for busy working professionals so the taught programme begins with a three day workshop followed by ten in depth teaching blocks delivered either by face-to-face meetings or by virtual tutorial, delivered over an 18 month period, to complement your workload.

The EdD is delivered through a process of critical engagement between academic staff and participants. The learning process includes lectures, facilitated discussions and participant presentations, as well as online interaction and workshops focusing on aspects of professional culture and the research process. These activities will be informed by participants' knowledge, experience and contexts, focusing on exploring research questions and issues brought to the programme by those involved.

The research stage of your programme usually takes 2-3 years to complete and will culminate in the production of a 50,000 word thesis that will be examined by viva voce. The thesis stage of the programme will commence following notification that you have passed the taught element of the programme.

MODULE SUMMARY

The Researching Professional

The purpose of this module - stretching across the length of the taught component of the professional doctorate - is to consider, in a holistic sense, the nature of 'knowledge', its generation and management in various contexts, and the relationship of this to your professional culture, identity and role. The multiple factors - at a macro, meso and micro level - which shape knowledge and organisational cultures will be critically explored. How knowledge is constructed and used, as well as how evidence and research is used to inform, shape and reshape practices, and professional self-identity within this, will all be critically evaluated within this module.

Research Methods and Design

This module will reflect on the variety of methods available to complete doctoral level research. You will discuss relevant and appropriate knowledge and skills required, including literature searching at doctorate level, critical reading, identifying and defining the research question, methodological and analytical processes involved in completing the research process, and research ethics associated with particular methods. You will also be introduced to a variety of research methods dependent on the interests, circumstances and expertise of the participant cohort. Throughout this module, you will have the opportunity to compare and contrast research paradigms and approaches, consider the implications for your own research question and develop a design, including the formation of a research question.

Project Development, Planning and Management

This module develops further the rationale for your doctoral research project, drawing appropriately on relevant literature, conceptual or theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches. A key aspect of the module is a focus on the practical aspects of conducting a piece of research. Specifically the module will equip you with the knowledge, skills and capabilities to plan, initiate, manage and write your doctoral research project.

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants are expected to be active experienced professionals who will have a recent and relevant Master's qualification. Applicants must also have a minimum of three years' experience of working in an education context.

HOW TO APPLY

We are recruiting now for a January 2018 start. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2017 with interviews being held at the end of November. Please apply by completing the application form that can be found at www.worcester.ac.uk/professionaldoctorate and submit this to the Research School.

FEES

Current fees can be found on the University website: www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/course-fees

CONTACT

For more information about the EdD programme, please contact research@worc.ac.uk or call 01905 542595.



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