

# DOCTOR OF HEALTH SCIENCE



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# WELCOME TO THE INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & SOCIETY

The University of Worcester is one of the fastest growing Universities in the country, with over 10,000 students and an increasing range of new facilities including the new award-winning library which has over a quarter of a million books and the Peirson Study & Guidance Centre.

There are six academic departments within the University, including the Institute of Health & Society. Discipline areas include Psychological Sciences, Nursing and Paramedic Sciences, Midwifery and Parenting Studies, Applied Social Sciences and Applied Professional Studies. Specialist facilities include a Practice Simulation Suite and a Motion and Performance Centre with computerized 3D image capture and force plate facilities along with the McClelland Health and Wellbeing Centre.

Research specialisms include dementia, psychological approaches to mental and physical health promotion, evidence-based practice, domestic violence, and nursing and midwifery practice.

## WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER'S DOCTOR OF HEALTH SCIENCE (DHSc)?

The University of Worcester's Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) is a professional doctoral degree designed to enhance health leadership and professional practice. The programme is designed to provide an opportunity for health professionals to work creatively by analysing and synthesising research literature and their own research evidence to understand their own professional contexts more critically and to find solutions to key challenges in their 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 DHSc 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 DHSc 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 will benefit from in both the taught and research elements 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:** Work alongside other health professionals, educational specialists and business executives 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 health practitioners the chance for further career development.

## PROGRAMME AIMS

The DHSc 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 this knowledge.

## PROGRAMME DELIVERY

The Professional Doctorate is designed for busy working professionals so the taught programme begins with a 3 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 DHSc 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 - 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 Masters qualification. Applicants must also have a minimum of three years' experience of working in a health or social care 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](http://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](http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/course-fees)

## **CONTACT**

For more information about the DHSc programme and applications for this, please contact [research@worc.ac.uk](mailto:research@worc.ac.uk) or call 01905 542595.



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