

EDUCATION AT CAMBRIDGE

DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
Faculty of Education

Choosing your Doctoral Programme

PhD

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Education is available on a full- or part-time basis. It is primarily designed to prepare students for independent research so that on completion they can claim professional standing as University academic staff or in any other profession requiring advanced research skills. However, PhD graduates from the Faculty of Education have gone on to work in a number of professions, both in the UK and other countries, including teaching and research in universities, education policy for government departments and NGOs, management consultancy and administration.

EdD

The Doctor of Education (EdD) is a part-time doctorate designed for students researching aspects of their own professional practice. Candidates will be experienced educational professionals, including teachers, school leaders and those working in related fields (for example, policy, advice and support or management), who are committed to extending their understanding and improving practice. For the duration of their studies all EdD students are members of a Research Community. Research Communities meet regularly, providing opportunities to engage with fellow students across the year groups.

Research in the Faculty

The Research Community

Our doctoral students are part of a vibrant and innovative research community. We currently have over 200 doctoral students in the Faculty from all over the world who make an important contribution not only to the vitality of the Faculty's research culture but also to its outstanding reputation internationally.

All academic staff and graduate students are members of one of our academic groups.

Supervision

One of the great strengths of studying at Cambridge is the level of individual support you will receive from an expert in your field. The Faculty assigns all doctoral students a supervisor to guide them through their course. Supervisors meet with students regularly to discuss progress and will offer feedback on written work at appropriate times and help you to identify your own training needs.

The Faculty has around 50 academic staff supervising on our graduate programmes offering a very wide range of expertise. Before applying you are strongly encouraged to explore whether your proposed doctoral project fits within one of our 'research-active' areas.

There is a real buzz and intellectual interest in what everyone is doing...students and staff mix freely and exchange ideas

The Doctoral Journey

Programme Overview

The first year will be spent following training in research methods, culminating in the preparation of a 20,000 research report and attendance at the registration viva. Upon passing the viva, students will be formally registered for the PhD or EdD. In the second year, students normally conduct their field work for 2-3 terms and start data analysis. The third year is devoted to data analysis, writing up and submission. For part-timers, these elements are spread over 5 years. The final award of the degree is decided on the results of the candidate's research presented in the final PhD dissertation and on the candidate's performance in the oral examination (viva).

Field Work

Field work is a crucial and exciting element of the doctoral programme. Following registration, most students spend 2-3 terms collecting data, normally in their second year full-time or third year part-time. Current students' research has taken them all around the UK and all around the world - to Canada, Chile, China, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the US, to name but a few of the countries. Field work is a challenging and rewarding experience and the skills you develop are useful tools regardless of the career path you follow after your PhD or EdD.



Research Methods and Transferable Skills

Research methods

In the first year (first two years part-time) students follow a programme of research methods training which covers a broad range of social science research methods, including interviews, observations, survey design, case study and qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Students will develop their understanding of different research strategies, foster skills in appraising and synthesising published research studies and acquire the understanding and skills necessary to design and conduct their own research study.

Other seminars and courses

In addition to the compulsory research methods training in the first year (first two years part-time) students are also encouraged to attend seminars in the Doctoral Seminar Series. Topics in previous years have included publishing, effective interactive teaching, ethics and social media and project management.

Doctoral students also benefit from academic events within the wider University.

The Social Sciences Research Methods Centre offers training covering qualitative and quantitative research methods, from basic training to advanced statistical analysis.

The Researcher Development Programme includes seminars on a range of topics, such as writing skills, effective undergraduate supervision, research integrity and skills analysis.

“All the seminars and workshops I attended were just so helpful and useful for me. My most memorable was one about creating a theoretical framework for research. That seminar was a turning point in my writing. Brilliant”

Facilities at the Faculty

The Faculty provides cutting edge facilities for all of its students. **The Library & Information Service** provides a friendly and comprehensive service. It is located over three floors and holds all the most recent issues of current journals in addition to its book stock. There are around 40 study spaces and computers for searching online bibliographical databases. The library website also provides full-text access to many online resources in the field of education such as electronic journals, ebooks, reports and conference papers.

As a student, you will also benefit from outstanding **IT facilities**. The Faculty has three IT rooms equipped with a variety of Windows PCs and Apple Macs. All computers are directly connected to the Cambridge University Data Network allowing fast **internet access**. There is a wide range of academic, **educational and**

productivity software available. There is also a range of peripheral equipment available to students such as **scanners and printers**. The University also provides central facilities through the University Computing Service. An extensive range of equipment is available day and night.

A wide range of audio **visual equipment** is available for loan to students including video and audio **recording and editing equipment, transcribers, digital cameras** and associated items. Facilities for the preparation of conference presentation materials, **OHP transparencies, reports and binding**, together with related advice on methods and design are available from the Audio Visual Support Service.





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