

University of Cambridge: Programme Specifications

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. Programme specifications are produced and then reviewed annually by the relevant teaching faculty or department and revised where necessary. However, we reserve the right to withdraw, update or amend this programme specification at any time without notice.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for all awards of the University is available online at: www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/camdata/archive.html

EDUCATION TRIPOS

1 Awarding body	University of Cambridge
2 Teaching institution	Faculty of Education
3 Accreditation details	n/a
4 Name of final award	Bachelor of Arts
5 Programme title	Education Tripos
6 UCAS code	Depends on subjects studied*
7 JACS code(s)	W400, L700, C100, G100, R910, V620, Q300, V100, W300, X300
8 Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	Education Studies
9 Qualifications framework level	None
10 Date specification produced/ last revised	May 2009
11 Date specification last reviewed	February 2011

Introduction

The Education Tripos is taught in collaboration with nine other Faculties in the University.

The subjects that can be studied with education, along with their UCAS codes are given below.

Education with Biological Sciences	C1x3	BA/BE
Education with Classics	Q8x3	BA/CLE
Education with English and Drama	W4x3	BA/EDE
Education with English	Q3x3	BA/EE
Education with Geography	L7x3	BA/GE
Education with History	V1x3	BA/HE
Education with Modern and Medieval Languages	R9x3	BA/MMLE
Education with Music	W3x3	BA/ME
Education with Physical Sciences (chemistry or physics)	F0x3	BA/PSE
Education with Religious Studies	V6x3	BA/RE

Aims of the course

The overall aims of the course are:

- to draw on a wide range of intellectual resources, theoretical perspectives and academic disciplines to provide an understanding of education and the contexts in which it takes place;
- to enable students to study the foundation disciplines of education - history, philosophy, psychology and sociology - and to appreciate their contribution to our understanding of educational policy and the processes and practices of education;

- to encourage students to engage with fundamental questions concerning the aims and values of education and its relationship to society
- to provide the opportunity to study another academic subject alongside education and to develop enjoyment and rigour in academic enquiry within this field;
- to equip students with the skills to conduct research and enquiry within the field of education thus enabling them to pursue postgraduate study in education
- to prepare students wishing to enter teaching with a high quality introduction to education as a basis for proceeding to a PGCE.

Skills and Qualities of Mind

The degree course aims to develop the skills and intellectual abilities

- to analyse and where necessary synthesise education issues and ideas systematically, demonstrating independence of mind and judgement;
- to analyse critically and to evaluate education policies and practices;
- to understand the complex interaction between education, politics, and the socio-cultural contexts in which education takes place;
- to understand and question relevant theories and concepts in education and the social sciences;
- to reflect on value systems and attitudes and examine how one's own personal values may influence perception and interpretation of facts, ideas and events;
- to communicate clearly ideas, both in written work and in oral presentations;
- to undertake systematic research and enquiry into educational issues and to present findings clearly and incisively.

Transferable Skills

Although the above skills are related specifically to educational issues within the social sciences, they are also generic transferable skills which we would expect students to apply to other fields and situations.

Hence the Education Tripos equips students to enter a wide range of careers relating to education, including administration in both local and national government; arts and museum education; educational journalism; educational activities within the community (including drama and music); educational careers within the media, charities and international policy organisations etc. The emphasis on understanding contemporary issues in society means graduates can embark on careers in other areas such as human resources and other forms of management. For those who decide to enter the teaching profession, it provides an excellent preparation for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education. The degree also provides a very sound basis for proceeding to higher degree work.

Programme Structure

Prelim to Part I - Foundation Courses

Students are required to take four papers. All students will follow two foundation courses in education:-

Education Studies I - Introduction to the Foundation Disciplines of Education - history, philosophy, psychology and sociology. This course will look at the contribution theory and research in these areas has made to the understanding of education policies and practices.

Education II - **Language, Communication and Literacy**. This course would take a thematic approach and would look at key issues in education from a number of perspectives. It will be concerned with education processes and practices.

Subject Studies - the other two papers will be in the subject the student is studying along side education, these papers are given in the regulations for the degree (see Schedule 1 of the regulations for the Education Tripos).

Part I

In Part I students take five papers.

Education Studies - **All students will take two papers in education studies**, covering the four foundation disciplines of education.

Subject Studies - All students will take two subject papers, not previously taken in the Prelim to Part I, given in the Schedule of papers for Part I (see Appendix).

For the final paper students can choose to do either:-

- another subject studies paper from those listed in the regulations, or
- a further paper in Education: **Modernity & Globalization and Education**

Part II

In Part II students take five papers. The Part II Education Tripos has a flexible structure that allows student to either take all five papers from education, or to combine education papers with those from other Triposes.

Papers are chosen from the following sections, the first two of which are compulsory for all students:-

Section I - Research and Investigation in Education. An 8-10,000 word dissertation related to the investigation and analysis of an educational problem. In preparation for the dissertation students follow a course that covers the major approaches and research methods used to investigate educational issues.

Section II - Advanced topics in Education Studies. One paper chosen from the following:-

History of Education
Philosophy of Education
Psychology of Education
Sociology of Education

Students must then choose **three further papers** which can be from the following sections:-

Section II - Advanced Topics in Education Studies.

Up to three further papers in addition to the compulsory one specified above.

Section III. Special subjects in education

Students may take one or more of the papers that make up this section. Papers may vary from time to time but the current specification is:-

Children and Literature
Educational Inclusion and Diversity
Creativity and Thinking

Section IV. Subject studies

Candidates may offer up to two papers from one subject area only, as outlined in Schedule 2 of the regulations, see Appendix.

Rationale

The rationale for the flexibility of Part II is that it allows students to specialise within particular areas in the degree.

Those who are most interested in education theory, its location within the social sciences and its implications for policy, can concentrate their choices in this area,

Students who have decided on a teaching career can specialise in courses which they feel will best prepare them for further training.

Students who wish to maintain an equal balance between education and subject studies can do so by taking three subject studies papers in Part I and two subject studies papers in Part II.

Teaching Methods

Students will encounter a wide range of different teaching methods which will vary according to the subject they are combining with education and may include, as well as lectures and supervisions, laboratory work in the sciences, field work in geography, practical work in drama and personal tuition in music performance. Specifically, in the education courses students are taught primarily through lectures and supervisions in the Prelim to Part I and Part I. Part II courses, which have smaller groups, use a greater variety of methods including student presentations and practical activities.

Assessment

Some parts of the degree are assessed by submitted work in the form of essays or dissertations, others by practical work (drama productions, musical performances and composition, laboratory or fieldwork notebooks) and others by written examination papers. The exact balance between these different forms of assessment will depend on the subjects being studied and the papers chosen. Students, however, will, do at least 50% of their assessment via written examination.

Assessment of Education papers is as follows:-

Prelim to Part I - Education Studies

Education Studies I - Introduction to the Foundation Disciplines of Education - 3 hour examination paper

Education Studies II - Language, Literacy and Communication - 2 hour examination paper, 3000 word assignment

Part I - Education Studies - compulsory papers. Two three hour examination papers with two disciplines in each paper, students answer three questions, one from each discipline plus one other from either discipline.

Part I - Education paper - Modernity, Globalization and Education. A three hour examination

Part II - Advanced Topics in Education Studies - three hour examination papers.

- Special Subjects in Education - likely to consist of submitted work, one essay for 30% of the marks, and a two hour examination paper
- Research and Investigation - 8-10,000 word dissertation.

Students may opt to do a dissertation in one of the Advanced Education Papers as an alternative to the Examination.

Progression requirements

Students would normally be expected to pass the Preliminary Examination to Part I, however, marginal failure would not necessarily preclude a student from continuing to the Part I Examination. Students are required to obtain a pass at Honours level in Part I to proceed to Part II.

Evaluating Quality of Provision

The following are in place for the current degree and will continue in the new degree.

- A rolling programme of student evaluations of the various courses within the degree, usually by electronic questionnaire and focus group discussions
- Student representation on the Undergraduate Course Committee and Faculty Board: a student/staff liaison committee for informal discussions with students about the course.
- Meetings of Directors of Study to discuss student progress and issues they have identified as problematic.
- Careful scrutiny of External Examiners Reports and implementation of any recommendations they make.

Affiliated Students

The regulations make provision for affiliated students and others who transfer from another Tripos in the University to take Part II of the Education Tripos, under the terms specified.