

# Education Postgraduate

MRes, PhD and EdD



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**



## Welcome to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate School

The Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate School at the University of Bath provides excellent taught and research postgraduate degrees spanning the many dimensions of economics, education, European studies, health, international development, international relations, modern languages, politics, psychology, social policy, social work, sociology, and sport and exercise sciences. Our programmes draw upon socially significant research of the highest quality, all round excellence in teaching, and a shared commitment to supporting your learning and career development.

The Department of Education is part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Our postgraduate research programmes - the Masters in Research (MRes), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Doctor of Education (EdD), are administered by the Faculty Graduate School, whose dedicated staff will advise you on which programmes are best for you, guide you through the admissions process, and help you to manage the progress of your studies.

The Department of Education has a longstanding commitment to both breadth and excellence in its research. Education is a designated pathway within the ESRC-accredited South-West Doctoral Training Centre, one of the UK's largest units of postgraduate research training for social sciences, in collaboration with the Universities of Bristol and Exeter.

Within the Department staff a wide range of substantive interests are represented, all of which contribute to one or more of five themes:

1. Educational Policy and Globalisation
2. Educational Philosophy and Theory
3. Educational Organisation and Change
4. Disability and Difference in Education
5. Sport in Education and Society.

In recent years, the Department has been particularly noted for its research on international policy issues, international schooling, education for sustainable development, educational discourse, intercultural communication, disability issues, the education of the body, and educational theory. We welcome applications for postgraduate research studies from all suitably qualified candidates and relevant disciplines.

We look forward to working with you.

**Professor Steve Gough,**  
Associate Dean for Research

**Dr Mary Hayden,**  
Head of Department

## Why study for a research degree in Education?

Studying for a research degree in education enables you to move the field forward in an original way. It is an opportunity for you to pursue a passion for your topic or satisfy your desire to expand knowledge in a crucial area. You might also be considering a research degree out of a need to improve your career opportunities, perhaps shifting directions at mid-career. Our students say that the process of pursuing a research degree helps to clarify their specific professional pathway; whether to pursue research and teaching in higher education or to become a highly developed, research-based practitioner in other education-related settings. Your studies will provide a new and stimulating challenge which will renew motivation and give you a broad array of skills and capabilities, skills that are in increasing demand in today's knowledge economy.

## Choosing the programme that is right for you

### MRes

The MRes (Education) provides a stepping stone for research leading to a PhD and is ideal if you need the time and opportunity to refine your ideas and to learn more about the variety of research methodologies used within the social sciences. The MRes programme is designed to develop you as a fully trained and competent social science researcher, able to understand and use research techniques appropriate to your topic area, and to be fully up-to-date with approaches used by other social scientists. It comprises a combination of taught units and personal research and is particularly appropriate if you are (or aspire to be) involved in research-related employment and if you are preparing to study for a doctorate.

### PhD

The PhD programme is for those who enjoy the challenge of working independently to develop their ideas, of theorising and of complex problem-solving, weighing up the evidence base in the light often of incomplete knowledge. You would have a clear idea of the research you would like to pursue and some understanding of the way in which you might approach it. Often you could be building on your previous study that indicates the development of your ideas and will make an original contribution to knowledge. Studying for a PhD involves the conduct of supervised research at the leading edge of the educational field which is written up as a substantial thesis.

### EdD

The Doctor of Education programme is a professional doctorate for those who are eager to make substantial and original contributions to the development of educational knowledge in a broad range of settings. The degree meets the need for the highest levels of professional development and training of both educators and those concerned with educational policy and administration. The prime focus of the EdD is on the interplay between the multi-dimensional practices of education and scholarship. The degree is designed to engage current practitioners with knowledge, awareness and understanding of the philosophical, organizational, political, social, managerial, interpersonal, and technical dimensions of schools and other educational institutions. Exploration of the nexus between theory and practice begins with a series of taught units that develop students' capabilities to perceive critical issues facing educators and policymakers today through the lens of contemporary and historical research and philosophy. This broad foundation enables students to hone their specific interests towards the conduct of supervised research that makes an original contribution to their field.



## Our programmes at a glance

	MRes	PhD	EdD
Duration	Full time: 1 year Part time: 2-3 years	Full time : 2-4 years Part time : 3-6 years	Full-time: 2-5 years Part-time: 3-8 years
Start date(s)	End of September	Typically end of September but may also start mid year.	July and/or January: All students must start with a taught unit on campus at one of these times
Programme structure	Teaching takes place during normal university teaching hours (full time and part time)	Individual specialised research on an agreed topic, supported by research training.	Taught phase: Intensive teaching weeks on campus in July and/or January. Some units available via distance learning that do not require attendance on campus.  Research Enquiry (thesis) phase: Individual specialised research on an agreed topic
Completion requirements	Taught units of 60 credits (including a Long and Short Research Apprenticeship Project), plus a 30 credit dissertation  Many of the skills training opportunities* for Doctoral students are also available for MRes students	PhD: 90,000 word thesis  Plus, expectation of 10 days skills training* per year (pro-rata if part time)	Four taught unit assignments of 8,000 words each and a 40,000 word research enquiry (thesis)  Plus, expectation of 10 days skills training* per year (pro-rata if part time)
Fees	<a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/pg/fees/taughtfees">www.bath.ac.uk/study/pg/fees/taughtfees</a> For up to date information please visit our web site	<a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/pg/fees/researchfees">www.bath.ac.uk/study/pg/fees/researchfees</a>	
Funding available	Students studying for the MRes may apply for postgraduate taught funding:  <a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/hss/graduate-school/funding/taught-funding/">www.bath.ac.uk/hss/graduate-school/funding/taught-funding/</a>  Opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Scholarships</li> <li>• ESRC-funded SWDTC 1+3 Postgraduate Studentships (full-time or part-time)</li> </ul>	Students studying for the PhD programme have a number of research funding opportunities available:  <a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/hss/graduate-school/funding/research-funding/">www.bath.ac.uk/hss/graduate-school/funding/research-funding/</a>  Opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University Research Studentships (full-time only)</li> <li>• Graduate School Scholarships (full-time only)</li> <li>• ESRC-funded SWDTC +3 Postgraduate Studentships (full-time or part-time)</li> </ul>	Internal funding opportunities are extremely limited and highly competitive.  Some students obtain funding or partial remuneration for study from their employer.
Normal Entry requirements	A good quality first degree preferably in Education or equivalent and relevant experience.	First or good second class honours degree (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject. A Masters level degree is preferred but is not essential	Applicants need to have a relevant graduate qualification – an advanced qualification in education (Masters level) or a related field, and appropriate professional experience in the practice of education, or a related profession.
Language requirements	All programmes: IELTS 7.0 (with not less than 6.5 in each of the four components) TOEFL 600 (paper-based test) or 250 (computer-based test) with a score of not less than 4 in the TWE or 100 (internet-based test) with not less than 24 in each of the components.		

Notes: \*Please see page 10 in this brochure for more details

## MRes in Education

The Master of Research (MRes) is a faculty wide, cross-disciplinary research training programme with an education strand which provides high quality training to potential doctoral students as well as a stand-alone qualification to train social science researchers. The MRes in Education is one of a suite of research training pathways we deliver as part of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) accredited South West Doctoral Training Centre (SWDTC).

On the MRes programme you will:

- explore alternative approaches, methodologies and paradigms of research in social and educational enquiry
- apply these approaches in a specific area of social and educational enquiry
- be supported, within an active research community, in identifying and investigating your own original research questions
- be equipped with the skills to contribute to research projects using any of the main methodologies of the social sciences.

You will study the following units: Principles and Skills of Social Research; Introductory and Advanced Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods; Contemporary Issues in Educational Research. In addition, students will undertake a Long and Short Research Apprenticeship Project and a Dissertation.

Depending on your research interests you will be placed within a research group or cluster, which will in the course of the year have seminar and reading group activities that you will be invited to join. You will also spend a small period of time shadowing an experienced researcher.

The ESRC requires that all the students whom it funds for doctoral studies should first complete a recognised programme of this sort. This programme satisfies the criteria for Master's level research training and as such, UK students applying for the MRes in preparation for a PhD at Bath are eligible to apply for ESRC funding for the MRes/ PhD 1+3 programme.

*"Although I knew I didn't want to study for a PhD, I wanted to gain a qualification that would validate my research skills. Being able to analyse and evaluate work effectively is hugely important in today's job market and I knew the MRes would be beneficial in my career."*

*"I enjoyed the Long Research Project and Dissertation experiences as they gave me an opportunity to put what I had learnt into practice and to engage with research methods and academic theories in a deep way. Because both projects focus largely on the methods rather than the content you get the opportunity to really get to grips with particular theoretical perspectives and to try out different methods. This is really useful because it reminds you how important these considerations are in research projects. It's too easy to get focused on the topic and forget that how you investigate it matters just as much."*

**Suzanne Carrie,**

MRes in Education alumna, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, University of the West of England



## PhD

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy provides the opportunity to research a topic in depth and to contribute to new knowledge to the world. You will be required to conduct supervised research at the leading edge of the educational field and write up a substantial thesis.

The PhD programme aims to:

- provide you with a framework within which you can conduct an original piece of research relating to your own experience and interest;
- facilitate your development as a fully-trained and competent educational researcher, able to understand and use research techniques appropriate to your subject area and to be conversant with approaches used by other social scientists;
- enable you to think through how you can use your existing knowledge and skills to different contexts and apply them to a variety of problems and to your future research activities.

From application to completion of your submission and viva, you will benefit from high quality individual guidance and support. A supervisory panel will be responsible for giving you advice and support, and monitoring your progress. You can have an expectation of reasonable access to your supervisory panel throughout your period of research; there is a minimum requirement for some face to face contact each year.

The final stage of the PhD degree is the oral or viva voce examination, in which you are required to defend your thesis to a Board of Examiners. The thesis must provide evidence of originality of mind and critical judgement about your chosen aspect of education, and must contain material which is worthy of publication.

This programme is recognised as being part of the following ESRC-funded SWDTC pathways:

- Education discipline-specific pathway
- Health & Wellbeing interdisciplinary pathway
- Global Political Economy: Transformations & Policy Analysis interdisciplinary pathway
- Environment, Energy & Resilience interdisciplinary pathway

Applicants to this programme are therefore able to apply for ESRC-funded +3 studentships. However, if you do not have sufficient research skills training then you may need to take a one-year MRes before progressing to your PhD, in which case you may be able to apply for 1+3 ESRC funding.

*“Having spent 15 years in the teaching profession, of which five years have been in Senior Leadership, I chose a PhD route to consolidate my teaching practice and to ensure that my research will make a significant impact in the development and learning of young people. The PhD programme gives me greater flexibility within my research and allows me to focus solely on my area of interest. It allows me to develop my study and research skills in a challenging and thought-provoking environment that the department offers. My supervision is personalised according to my development as a researcher and my research interests, and I have certainly enjoyed being given the opportunity and freedom to develop my research within a school context; and to ‘talk’ education with peers.”*

**Perry Knight,**  
PhD Education

Research focus: Understanding Contexts of Childrens’ transition from Primary to Secondary Education  
Research study supervisors: Dr Kate Bullock and Dr Paul Denley

*“I chose to study for a PhD at the University of Bath firstly because I was drawn to the work of the professors in the department. Although combining full-time work and part-time study is extremely demanding, the guidance and encouragement from my supervisors is truly inspiring. The opportunity to attend short courses and postgraduate meetings has enhanced my professional development and is an invaluable asset for my PhD studies. My student experience at Bath enables me to critically assess my own work as a lecturer. It refines my analytical skills and enables me to imagine new ways in which I may enhance my career when I complete my studies.”*

**Miriam McSweeney,**  
PhD Education, Lecturer at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

Research focus: An Investigation into Cultural Context and the Impact upon the Use of Technology in a third Level College in the Republic of Ireland.  
Research study supervisors:  
Prof Harry Daniels and Dr Kyoko Murakami



**Naasirah Abdullah Teo**, PhD Education

Research focus: Analysing adolescents' relations to academic study: An investigation of motive hierarchy  
Research study supervisors: Dr Seth Chaiklin and Dr Eva Vass

*"I have been always intrigued by how young adults can have a huge variety of relations to their academic study, both in terms of their motivation and what motivates them. Claiming that the young adults' motivation to their academic study is related to their socio-economic background for instance, can be myopic. My work does not sit in the traditional line of psychology, so I am able to offer a different perspective to analyse and understand young people and their relation to academic study in the context of everyday life activities. I most enjoy the independence and the challenges of looking at something that is unique in the field of educational and psychology research.*

*At the University of Bath, the academic staff here are very helpful, approachable and knowledgeable in their own field. I have no problem in building good rapport with them. The Postgraduate Skills Training has been excellent, and is delivered by some insightful instructors. I have also received great support from the Foreign Language Centre which has helped me improve my English and learn other languages. This PhD study certainly allows me to stand firmer in my career progression."*

## EdD

The Doctor of Education degree is aimed at experienced educational professionals and sets out to place you at the leading edge of your professional field in terms of knowledge, awareness and understanding.

### The EdD degree:

- is characterised by the high-level academic study of a range of educational and professional issues
- comprises four tutored units and a supervised research component
- enables you to make a contribution to knowledge through unit assignments, and through your research enquiry
- focuses on the interplay and relationship between professional practice and scholarship.

You will complete a taught element of four units (two of which are core) before moving onto the Research Enquiry.

### Core units:

- Educational Research: philosophy and practice
- Educational Policy: theory and practice

### Choose two options:

- Curriculum philosophy and practice
- Educational management, leadership and administration
- International education: philosophy and practice
- Language, culture and education
- Philosophy of education
- Pilot research enquiry
- Reading paper

On-campus units are offered at specific times of the year according to a programme published in advance. The Postgraduate Education Summer School normally runs for three weeks from the beginning of July. One or two units are also usually offered in January, and one core and one optional unit are typically offered via distance learning in either the spring or autumn term. Students' views about which units should be offered are sought at the beginning of each academic year before the programme is finalised.

On successful completion of the four units you will register for the Research Enquiry. The topic and the approach to that topic you take in your Research Enquiry should build on work that you have done in your unit assignments. The Research Enquiry (thesis) is a tutor-supported piece of research which draws on your unit study and your existing work and/or interests. The Research Enquiry will normally comprise a thesis of 40 000 words.

The EdD is identical to the PhD in the type and forms of support you receive. Throughout your study at Bath, you will have access to high quality individual guidance and support. In the Research Enquiry phase, a supervisor and co-supervisor will be responsible for giving you advice and support, and monitoring your progress. You should expect reasonable access to your supervisors throughout your Research Enquiry; there is a minimum requirement for some face to face contact each year.

The final stage of the EdD degree is the oral or viva voce examination, in which you are required to defend your thesis to a Board of Examiners. As with the PhD, the Research Enquiry must provide evidence of originality of mind and critical judgement about your chosen aspect of education, and must contain material which is worthy of publication.

*"I believe the University of Bath is the epicentre for on-going research in the field of international education. My involvement, in both my MA and EdD programmes, has offered me some of the best professional development. They have enhanced my ability to do my job effectively and more successfully as a senior manager/leader and, more recently, as Director of international schools in different locations worldwide. A truly value added component is the opportunity to create lasting friendships with the professors and lecturers who continue to show a genuine concern and interest in my success as an educator."*

### **Paul Sheppard,**

MA Education and EdD alumnus, Director of two International Schools, Washington DC

Research focus: An analysis of the nature of the Governance of International Schools and the potential for securing appropriate governance

Research study supervisor: Prof Chris James



**Catherine Simon, EdD**

Research focus: The Big Society and education policy in England

Research study supervisors: Prof Hugh Lauder

*"I began my studies at the University of Bath embarking on a part time Masters, having returned from teaching abroad with the Service Children's Education (SCE). It was challenging and stimulating and gave me a taste for education policy. On completion, I opted to pursue my interests further and enrolled on the EdD. The compulsory unit on Education policy set me on the path of exploring New Labour's policy for schools and families and the influences of neoliberalism and Third Way thinking. The Big Society places emphasis on the contributions of communities, private and voluntary organisations and philanthropies to deliver public services, including schooling. The origins of this concept are far from new and I am currently mapping the various strands of influence from biblical notions of community to the writings of Keane on civil society. The work has been fascinating and I am grateful that our current Education Secretary gives me plenty of material to work on.*

*All my research feeds directly into my work as a lecturer in Education Studies and taking the EdD route has enabled me combine a demanding job with demanding research. I have already been able to disseminate some of my work from the programme through conferences and occasional publications. My proudest moment so far has been the publishing of a university text book on New Labour's Every Child Matters agenda which began as my assignment for the policy module.*

*The high standard of academic research at Bath is due in no small part to the quality of its staff. I have found feedback timely, highly supportive, and helpful in sustaining progress and enthusiasm. I always come away from tutorials or seminars with my head buzzing with new ideas!"*

## Skills training and professional development opportunities

We take very seriously our commitment to supporting your development as a successful researcher. As a research student at Bath, you will have access to a wide range of opportunities and events across the university, designed to develop your personal, professional and career skills. These research and generic skills are an important part of your postgraduate studies, supporting the successful completion of your doctoral work and enabling you to build on them to enhance career opportunities.

The University of Bath has an established Researcher Development Unit (RDU) that is recognised nationally for providing outstanding researcher development support. The RDU coordinates a comprehensive programme of free skills development courses designed specifically for doctoral researchers on topics such as communication skills, research management, information skills and career management (<http://go.bath.ac.uk/pgskills>). If you are away from campus, you can also access their online training courses, specifically designed to support research students at Bath.

The Faculty Graduate School will help you assess and prioritise your training requirements, and also offers supplementary courses specifically designed for students in the Humanities and Social Sciences. It is expected that doctoral students undertake the RDU courses and other development activities to fulfil the required ten days of skills development per year (pro rata for part time). All of the Faculty run courses, and some of the RDU courses, are also available to our MRes students.

In addition to the RDU's PGSkills training there are a range of services to support you. For example: The Student's Union Skills Training programme (interpersonal and transferable skills training for all students); the Careers Advisory Service; Computing Services (a small fee may be applied for postgraduate students who have not booked through the PGSkills programme); Library and Learning Centre for information skills; the MASH maths resource centre; One-to-one writing or statistical analysis support; the Foreign Language Centre; the English Language Centre, there to help both UK and international students to develop their English language skills both verbally and in writing; Research Ethics Committees; or external training through 'Vitae', a UK organisation championing the personal, professional and career development of doctoral researchers and research staff.



*"An invaluable part of my three years as a postgraduate was being able to pick and choose the PG training courses that best suited my learning needs, my research status, those that would impact upon my future career pathway, and those that related directly to the successful completion of my PhD. From Media Training, Time Management, through to Viva Preparation, I certainly gained knowledge and 'constructive tips' but I also gained confidence and got to meet students across the University more widely."*

**Dr Jessica Francombe,**  
Lecturer in Education and Sport  
Department of Education alumna

## About Bath

The University of Bath is one of the most elite universities in the UK (3rd in The Sunday Times University Guide 2013). Its research is internationally respected, and its students are in demand by employers because of the high quality teaching offered here.

Our welcoming, purpose-built campus is safe and friendly, with a vibrant international community, excellent student services, outstanding arts facilities and a first-class sports complex. The campus is located about a mile from the World Heritage City of Bath - one of the most interesting, elegant and vibrant cities in the UK, home to several excellent museums and galleries, parks, numerous restaurants, cafés and pubs and a great range of shopping.

Frequent bus services link the campus, city and major student residential areas. Bath is not far from Bristol International Airport. By train, London is approximately 90 minutes and Bristol about fifteen minutes away. You are always connected to your work, your home and your social life when studying.

## Contact us

For more information about these programmes, entry requirements, how to apply, and fees and funding, please visit our website: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/hsspgr>

For further enquiries on admission, please contact:

### MRes

Email: [education-pgt-admissions@bath.ac.uk](mailto:education-pgt-admissions@bath.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0) 1225 38 6602

### PhD

Email: [education-pgr-admissions@bath.ac.uk](mailto:education-pgr-admissions@bath.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0) 1225 38 6753

### Edd

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