

Degree of Doctor of Education (EdD) in Literacy and Language

The Sheffield EdD is a 4-8 year programme of study leading to the qualification of Degree of Doctor of Education. Designed to meet the needs of professionals working in a wide range of education and training related areas in the UK and overseas, the Sheffield EdD provides students with:

- a broad and flexible research-led programme (ESRC recognised)
- a stimulating and challenging learning experience through weekend residential courses, seminars, individual and group supervision
- significant opportunities for personal, professional, institutional and organisational development
- opportunities to work with professionals from different backgrounds within a supportive learning community
- opportunities to address issues and areas that are pertinent and directly relevant to professional contexts and concerns.

The EdD in Literacy and Language enables students to conduct high quality research into literacy; work with leading scholars in the field; explore practice, policies, theories relating to literacy and language; acquire theoretical and applied knowledge of contemporary issues in literacy and language and gain a doctorate under the supervision of a supportive team. The Language and Literacy module engages students in critical reflection on the New Literacy Studies, drawing on social theory and post-modern epistemologies. Students are asked to read current work that critiques these theorists, in the context of debates on local and global literacies. Critical literacies, as developed in Australia, and South Africa, are also the subject of the module. The module offers an opportunity to critically reflect on pedagogy and practice in education in the light of current theories of literacy. The aim of the module is to enable students to develop their own insights into the New Literacy Studies, and to construct their own standpoint from which to view literacy in theory and practice.



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

The Programme Team

The Sheffield EdD Programme is directed by Dr Chris Winter. The Language and Literacy named route is directed by Dr Julia Davies and the teaching team includes Dr Kate Pahl. The team has an established national and international reputation in teaching, researching and publishing in a range of language and literacy topics including social networking; digital photography; literacy and new technologies; pedagogical implications of Web 2.0; home and community literacy practices; family literacy; participatory research with young people; ethnography; multimodality; museums and families and visual methodologies.

For further details and how to apply please contact the EdD Secretary:

Email: EdD@sheffield.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)114 222 8096

<http://www.shf.ac.uk/education/courses/edd>

“The EdD in Language and Literacy has provided a safe place from which to take tentative steps into the complex and rewarding world of research in my chosen field and I have been able to focus on areas of personal interest supported by expert and inspiring tutors. It has been a great experience to learn with and from others from widely different backgrounds in education and to sow the seeds of enduring friendships through mutual support, debate and challenge.” *Rebecca Austin, Senior Lecturer in Primary Education, UK*

“Sheffield's Ed D Literacy and Language programme is an academic masterpiece, nurturing and developing keen critical approaches to the values, politics and cultural aspects of up-to-the minute local and global educational issues. The residential weekends are fully staffed, richly resourced, with intensive on-site support in residence. This is complemented by frequent, follow up, distance-learning email contact. Deciding to do this course has been one of the best decisions I have made in my 35 year teaching career.” *Sarah Freeman, Literacy and Dyslexia Specialist Teacher for Adults, UK.*

“This course was an exciting and stimulating educational experience that enhanced both my academic and professional life. The supervision and examination of the thesis was outstanding in every way providing the perfect balance of support and rigour.” *Dr. Albin Wallace, graduate of the EdD and Group Director of ICT and e-Learning*

Welcome to The School of Education

Structure of the Sheffield EdD

The EdD programme is divided into two parts. Part I is the taught component which most students complete over 2 years. Part II is the research element, leading to the thesis, when students receive regular supervision from academic tutors. It is expected that students will take 2-4 years to complete their research in Part II. Extensions to completion are possible.

Part I

Part I comprises of six compulsory modules, taught at weekend schools in October, February and May each year and assessed by 6,000-word assignments. The residential aspect of the programme is essential and supports the development of productive learning and research relationships that often continue beyond graduation. Three modules provide a critical introduction to research in education. Three modules examine key issues in education and training.

Part II

Students move on to Part II of the programme when they have received a Pass grade for all 6 modules, one of which is a research proposal. Part II takes the form of a research thesis of 50,000 words focusing on a topic of their choice, supervised by a member of the School with relevant expertise and interests. The thesis should offer a substantial contribution to the knowledge and understanding of education, and will be examined through a viva voce examination to ensure the highest research standards.

Who is the EdD in Language and Literacy for?

The Ed D Literacy and Language in Education is designed for those who wish to research their practice in Literacy and Language education in more depth, whether they work directly with literacy students, are involved in the professional education of literacy / language practitioners or offer other services related to literacy and language. Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds including: teachers from all types of school; further and higher education institution lecturers; librarians; e-learning technologists, drama specialists and other literacy professionals. We welcome students from all over the world, from professionals at all stages of their careers - from their first year up to post retirement age.

Current Language and Literacy Thesis Titles include:

- We are not peas: A study into the positive learning narratives of students on the special needs register
- Shallow Democracy: In other people's shoes - listening to the voices of children and young people
- Discourse and practice within Adult Literacy policy – a comparative approach
- Dyslexic teenagers' uses of new technologies
- The influence of television narratives on how children visualize and make sense of their school lives
- A comparison of teens' uses of technologies in the home and their perceptions of schools' uses of new technologies

Entry Requirements

Candidates should normally hold a good Honours degree and a Masters degree in a related area. Applicants are considered on the basis of relevant qualifications and experience. For applicants whose first language is not English, or who do not hold appropriate educational qualifications in English, the School requires a minimum standard in IELTS or equivalent of 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each section). Candidates are asked to submit a piece of academic/research based writing on application. Applicants are invited to make informal contact with the director of the EdD Language and Literacy named route to discuss their interests and suitability – Dr Julia Davies (Email: j.a.davies@sheffield.ac.uk).



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