

Faculty Doctoral Strategies

Faculty of Institute of Education – Executive Summary

The UCL Institute of Education (IOE) has a long and distinguished history of research excellence. We have been ranked number 1 in the world for Education in the 2017 QS rankings, for the fourth year running. We are also ranked first in the UK for our research strength and conduct more world-leading research in the field of education than any other university (Research Excellence Framework 2014). The IOE has the largest doctoral community in the UK of students researching education and related social sciences, consistently hosting over 800 doctoral students.

The IOE's areas of expertise include:

- **Disciplines of education.** Exploring early years to workplace and lifelong learning, as well as children and families, health and wellbeing, and international development.
- **The organisation and improvement of learning.** Investigating factors that lead to tangible improvements in learning taking into account broader social, cultural and historical contexts.
- **Curriculum, culture and knowledge.** Appraising the relationship between knowledge, learning and culture in educational environments.
- **Children, families and early learning.** Examining early learning and education for children in families and formal institutions.
- **Longitudinal and social research.** Studying the long term impact of education and skills in employment, health, social and other outcomes through statistical and quantitative research.

IOE staff conduct research for governments, NGOs and international organisations and the IOE's expertise continues to influence and shape educational policy across the world.

This environment makes studying with us as a doctoral student both rewarding and exciting. Our students learn in a setting that is fully dedicated to education and related social sciences while working with academic supervisors who are leading contributors to their field.

Research students study in our prestigious Centre for Doctoral Education. The Centre brings together all IOE students registered for PhD, EdD, DEdPsy, MPhil and MRes degrees and provides a vibrant and productive research environment designed to support high-quality, innovative research.

Distinctive Features / Best Practice

The Centre for Doctoral Education

The IOE's Centre for Doctoral Education provides a focus for doctoral work across the Faculty.

- It provides a forum for research students and staff to develop their intellectual interests
- It brings students together to develop cross-disciplinary research perspectives
- It ensures high quality training in research methods
- It develops a research culture and community for doctoral students through conferences, seminars, workshops and social events

Work-leading expertise in professional doctorates

The IOE's EdD programme has provided professionally-relevant doctoral study for 20 years. Its structured, part-time format has been designed to enable leading professionals internationally to combine doctoral study with their working lives.

The DEdPsy provides a three-year professional doctorate programme that is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS). Successful completion of the programme enables graduates to register as a Practitioner Psychologist with the HCPC and as a Chartered Educational Psychologist with the BPS.

The pedagogy of professional doctorates forms an area of research expertise for the IOE, and the academics providing these programmes have published widely in this area.

The UBEL Doctoral Training Partnership

The IOE directs UBEL – the UCL, Bloomsbury and East London Doctoral Training Partnership (<https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk>). This supports cross-disciplinary doctoral study, provides advanced research training, and provides annual studentships

Research training

The IOE has an extensive programme of training and support available to doctoral students, benefitting from the world-leading research expertise of its academic staff. The programme is structured around an initial course introducing the requirements of doctoral study; introductory courses on methods and specialist topics; advanced courses providing in-depth support and development; student-led reading groups; and support for academic writing.