Part B - Doctoral Programme Profile

Education 2019/20

This Education Doctoral Programme Profile accompanies the University of Southampton **Doctoral Programme Profile 2019/20,** and details additional Faculty/programme-specific information.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time/part time
Duration in years	48 months (following standard progression for a FT student)

Accreditation details	N/A
Final award	PhD
Name of award	PhD
Interim Exit awards	MPhil
FHEQ level of final award	8

QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Doctoral Degree Characteristics Statement (2015)
Programme Lead	Dr Michaela Brockmann
Date specification was written	26/5/15
Date Programme was validated	[Enter date here]
Date specification last updated	19/9/16

All Doctoral Programme Profiles should be read alongside the University of Southampton **Doctoral Programme Profile 2019/20** and the University of Southampton's _Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy_ and _Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision_.

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme is based primarily on research, plus a taught element of research training, as appropriate. The programme consists of supervised study, including research and generic skills training, and may be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis. The programme aims to develop your academic knowledge and research skills in order for you to make a substantive original contribution at the forefront of your field. Over the course of the programme, you will acquire research methodology, skills and understanding in a range of research approaches. You will develop and extend your specialist subject knowledge. You will also gain transferable skills designed to broaden your professional skills and knowledge and enable you to critically apply these in developing your own professional role and context.

Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are for students to develop:

- _the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, or of a quality to satisfy a peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication;_
- _a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice;_
- _the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;_
- _a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry._

Programme Structure

The following summary should be read in conjunction with the Faculty Postgraduate Research Handbook and the University Regulations as specified in the Calendar.

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible to always predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. Research students are however, all required to undertake three Progression Reviews during their studies, as detailed in the _Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision_. The timetable shown below is indicative of what you can expect. Maximum

candidature is 48 months in full-time registration, 84 months in part-time Registration. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods. The timings listed below are those for a full-time student. Timings for a part-time student are adjusted suitably.

Programme details

Year 1
By the end of three months you should have completed your academic needs analysis and highlighted any modules or training that should be attended to enhance your studies, confirmed your full supervisory team and written an outline of the motivation for your research, together with a plan of work for year 1.

Throughout the year you will be expected to develop knowledge in your chosen area of research through reading and developing a review of previous work in the area, as agreed by your supervisors. You will also be developing your research questions for your research and starting to conduct analyses, where appropriate. The relative timescales for these tasks will be discussed with your supervisors.

At the end of your first year there will be a review meeting (first progression review) conducted by at least one of your supervisors and an independent assessor. You will be required to submit a report detailing your progress prior to the review meeting. This is to ensure that the research is progressing well and on target, and provide an opportunity for issues to be raised about the programme or the supervisory arrangements. Research training module grades (if any) and any other assessed written work together with the supervisor's report may be considered at this time and at future annual reviews.

Students have the opportunity to meet regularly with the Graduate School (which comprises an academic representative from each Academic Unit as well as the Director of the Faculty Graduate School) at a mixture of training and networking meetings, this gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues a PGR may be having during their studies.

Year 2
Training requirements for year two will be discussed in the review meeting conducted at the end of the first year and if additional training needs are identified, these will be followed up throughout the year.

Your progress on the programme will continue to be monitored and assessed as specified in the University's *Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision*. In this year you are expected to expand on the work started in year 1 and to enter fully into work related to your research questions.

Between months 18 and 21 of your candidature (months 30 to 42 for part time students) it is expected that you will submit an interim thesis. You must successfully meet the requirements of the **Confirmation of PhD Registration** (Second Progression Review) if you wish to submit for a PhD. The criteria you must meet in order to be confirmed to PhD status and the process which must be adhered to is outlined in the University's Code of Practice and the Faculty's PGR Student Handbook.

If you meet the requirements for confirmation you will remain on the PhD programme, otherwise you may either request to be transferred to an MPhil, or be given one further opportunity to meet the requirements of the Confirmation Panel. This must be by the end of month 24 (month 48 for part time). Failure to meet the criteria for a successful progression review will lead to the termination of your PhD candidature.

Year 3
Evidence of continued progress is provided by publications and presentations in a suitable venue (e.g. an international conference). For full-time students it is unlikely that further major training will be needed at this stage; the target date for submission of your thesis is normally month 36 for full time students, or month 72 for part time students, as this may coincide with the end of any supporting studentships.

Towards the end of your third year there will be a review meeting (the Third Progression Review) conducted by your supervisors. In most cases you will be required to produce a short report on your progress since confirmation, identify publications and other research outputs, and the work left to complete your thesis. If your progress at this review is deemed to be unsatisfactory, a full review will be conducted with an independent assessor.

Year 4 (and higher for part time)
For students in full-time registration, the final thesis (whether MPhil or PhD) must be submitted *at the latest* by the end of the 48th month. For candidates in part-time registration the deadline for submission is 84 months. These times exclude periods of suspension) unless special dispensation is granted by the Graduate School following review by the Special Considerations Board. The latter will only be granted rarely, in the case of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.

Programme Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication

- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice

- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems

- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- a range of research skills, processes and methodologies;
- the skills needed to conduct and analyse research at doctorate level;
- critiques of different research designs and methodologies;
- how to search the literature and electronic sources for relevant related research;
- the ethics and politics of conducting research;
- how to analyse and appropriately interpret research evidence.

Teaching and Learning Methods
The programme combines subject specialist knowledge, transferable skills, and production of a research thesis. Teaching and learning methods will be appropriate for each one of these and may include: seminars, group work and discussion, student presentations, research project design and fieldwork, one-to-one tutorials.

Assessment methods
Transferable skills and knowledge assessment will be through formal formative feedback. Research Thesis assessment will be through examination of the interim and final theses combined with Viva Voce examinations.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- critically assess different research and subject specific methodologies and designs;
- synthesise library and Internet materials relating to your research and subject specific topic;
- construct logical arguments concerning the nature and philosophy of your subject specialism and research methodologies;
- analyse and interpret field data;
- analyse research documents;
- critique research and subject specific papers on design, methodology and findings;
- demonstrate ethical procedures and political sensitivity in conducting and writing up research;
- apply subject specific and research knowledge to your own professional context (where appropriate).

Teaching and Learning Methods
The programme combines subject specialist knowledge, transferable skills, and production of a research thesis. Teaching and learning methods will be appropriate for each one of these and may include: seminars, group work and discussion, student presentations, research project design and fieldwork, one-to-one tutorials.

Assessment methods
Transferable skills and knowledge assessment will be through formal formative feedback. Research Thesis assessment will be through examination of the interim and final theses combined with Viva Voce examinations.

Support for student learning

Learning and Supervision
You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition, you will have access to modules on the Education Research Training Programme, research seminars by staff and external speakers, student-led seminars and presentations.

Research students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members, one of whom will be the main supervisor. The supervisory team typically either consists of a main supervisor and a second supervisor, or for a multi-disciplinary project more than one co-supervisor (one of whom must still be designated as the main supervisor).

Applicants may indicate a preference for the supervisory team on their application form, but the names will not be confirmed until a formal offer is made. In some cases, the composition of a supervisory team may change as the research project evolves and in response to other circumstances.

In addition to the University-wide learning support, students studying on the Education Doctoral Programme will be able to access:

- The supervisory system – two or more members of academic staff will be assigned as your academic supervisors. Academic supervisors will offer academic guidance, act as support and guide for your independent research thesis. Usually one member of your supervisory team will act as the main supervisor, taking the lead in supporting you through the programme and in monitoring your progress via our Postgraduate Researcher (PGR) Tracker system. You will undertake an initial needs analysis with the guidance of your supervisors and PGRTracker will help you focus on the key milestones that mark your progression through the whole doctoral process. You will meet with one or more of your supervisors on a regular basis throughout your time working your thesis and summaries of your progress and supervisory reports will also be logged on PGRTracker.
- The Doctoral Programmes Director who oversees postgraduate research programmes in Education.
- Course handbooks and web-based materials.
- Computers and desk space for full-time students during the period when you are in candidature.
- Access to a laptop for part time students during the period when you are in candidature.
- Photocopying facilities.
- A Research Training Support Grant of up to £750/year (for full-time students, pro rata for part-time) during the period of candidature, to support the costs of conference attendance and/or relevant personal development and training or other expenses related to undertaking your PhD, as approved by the supervisor(s) and Doctoral Programmes Director.
- Access to training courses provided by the Faculty Graduate School and the University Doctoral College. This will include courses in general study and communication skills, use of software and tools which support the research process (such as data analysis and referencing tools and workshops on writing for publication and presentation at conferences), workshops to support your progress on the PhD (such as preparing for a viva examination) and a number of workshops focusing on personal development to enhance your employability.
- Access to a range of Education research seminars held within Southampton Education School and research methods seminars provided in the faculty.
- Formal induction to the research provision and staff's research specialisms and responsibilities.

The Faculty also offer the following learning support:
- Induction programme for orientation, introduction of the programme and staff, and dissemination of materials.
- Postgraduate Student Handbook, including guidance on selection of technical modules.
- Access to all administrative and academic material on the Faculty, Programme and individual module web sites and Blackboard.
- An opportunity to meet with the Graduate School (which comprises an academic representative from each Academic Unit as well as the Director of Graduate School) at a mixture of training and networking meetings. This gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues you may be having during your studies.
- Infrastructure to support your research.
- Access to other staff of the Faculty.

- Access to Faculty cluster of computers with relevant specialist software.

Fees, Additional Costs and Funding

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, reports and theses as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for the programme of study. Costs that students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 1.

Intermediate exit points (where available)

None other than the MPhil award described above.

Admission

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Bachelor's degree	Upper 2nd class	Education preferred	Professional experience in education preferred if UG degree is not in education.
Master's degree	Merit	Any	Especially if applicant's UG degree is not in education and no evidence of prior professional experience in education.

A minimum of a 2(i) honours degree (or equivalent) is required for consideration for admission to a Postgraduate Research programme in Education. Applicants would normally possess a Masters Degree for admission to the PhD. Applicants without a Masters Degree will be expected to register for the Integrated PhD.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
The University has a **Recognition of Prior Learning Policy**

English Language Proficiency
Applicants whose first language is not English and who are not exempt from taking an English Language test, according to the University of Southampton's regulations, are required to obtain a minimum of 6.5 overall in the IELTS test (or equivalent), with no individual elements of the test scoring below 6.0 (or equivalent).
The University's Admissions policy on English Language requirements can be found here.

Career Opportunities

Successful students who are awarded a PhD will be well qualified to pursue a career in Higher Education in research, teaching or administrative roles. They may also pursue careers in Education as teachers and institutional leadership or management positions, or within local or national government, as policy advisors or Education consultants.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/education/postgraduate/research_degrees/courses/phd_education.page?

Appendix 1:

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and thesis as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Stationery		You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.
Textbooks		If embarking on training modules; if a module specifies core texts these should generally be available in the course collection in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as **optional** background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Equipment and Materials Equipment	Photography	If appropriate for data collection as part of your research you will need to provide your own camera.
	Recording Equipment	If appropriate for data collection as part of your research you will need to provide your own equipment.
IT	Computer Discs	For back-up and file transfer purposes you will need to purchase USB memory sticks etc.
	Software Licenses	Some software is made available to you while a student.
	Hardware	Access to a PC workstation or a laptop is provided for full time students. Part time students have access to a laptop.
Clothing	Fieldwork clothing:	You will need to purchase clothing if appropriate for your research.
Printing and Photocopying Costs		May be incurred in producing draft work for review by supervisors. In the majority of cases, any assessed work for training modules such as essays; projects; these are likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. Three soft-bound printed copies of the final thesis are required.
Fieldwork: logistical costs	Accommodation:	You will need to cover the costs of these if they exceed your RTSG and are necessary for your research.
	Insurance	
	Travel costs	
	Immunisation/vaccination costs	
	Medical Insurance	
	Disclosure and Barring	

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
	Certificates or Clearance	
	Translation of certificates	
Conference expenses	Accommodation	If appropriate for your research. (Some support funding is available for conference attendance).
	Travel	
Parking Costs		You must cover your own parking costs.