The Professional Doctorate in Education (DEd)
School of Education Trinity College Dublin
The School of Education was established in 1905 (and had the first professorial chair in education in Ireland)

Long tradition in offering research degrees at masters and doctoral level

First University in Ireland to introduce a professional doctorate in education (2005)

Highest ranked School of Education in Ireland (73rd in QS world rankings; 95th THES world rankings – 2020 data)

Very active research culture – 2 university research centres and 4 research groups

Regularly host research conferences, seminars, podcasts and related events

15 full-time academic staff; 8 administrators

500 students: 80 doctoral, 200 MEd, 160 PME, 40 BMusEd

Seen 30 DEd completions

10-15 PhD graduations per year

Cohort of experienced doctoral supervisors all of whom are research active
Overview of the DEd Programme

Four-year part-time postgraduate course leading to an NFQ Level 10 qualification

Opportunity to engage in substantial and sustained high-quality research

Programme structure conducive to practitioners needs

Focus on developing deeper critical understanding of own professional practice

Consists of 5 modules and a 60/70K word research-based thesis

Small Cohort Based (10-12 in a the group)
Since the Programme began in 2005
the School of Education’s aim for the DEd has been to:

Enable
Enable students to question, challenge and to transform personal and professional knowledge in a deep and meaningful way that has direct impact on thought and practice.

Develop
Develop a strong sense of belonging to a cohort of mutually supportive professional inquirers and critical thinkers that will provide a social, professional and academic bond that assists each student in their persistence.

Engage
Engage in innovative and creative pedagogical practice within the programme and in particular to explore different and imaginative ways of assessing learning and progress through the programme.
What is the structure of the DEd?

**Supervision**

Students work with a supervisor from ‘day one’ who in a relationship based on collegiality guides and supports the development of the research thesis.  

**The Modules**

The five modules offered over three years have been designed to both intellectually challenge and support students over their DEd ‘Journey’.

**Your Research**

Students produce a thesis based on an identified issue which is both a contribution to knowledge and professional practice.
# Year by Year Structure of the DEd

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<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Research for fieldwork: Part 1’</td>
<td>Working with supervisor on thesis planning; exploration of literature; developing the research design</td>
<td>Research Assignment One</td>
<td>Literature review should be 50% complete at the end of Year One</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Module *1: Perspectives, Praxis &amp; Power</td>
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<td>Core Module Assignment</td>
<td>Research Design should 50% complete at the end of Year One</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<tr>
<td>‘Research for fieldwork: Part 2’</td>
<td>Continue working with supervisor on lead-up to fieldwork</td>
<td>Confirmation at end of Year Two</td>
<td>Literature review should be 90% complete at the end of Year One</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Module *2: Imagination, Transformation &amp; Learning</td>
<td>Begin fieldwork during/end of SM Two</td>
<td>Research Assignment</td>
<td>Research Design should be complete at the end of Year Two</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year Three</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<tr>
<th>Year Four</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<tr>
<td>Writing-up</td>
<td>Viva Voce</td>
<td>Workshop on thesis writing etc.</td>
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Mock viva
What are the DEd entry requirements?

- An appropriate masters level qualification or equivalent
- A minimum of three years experience in an educational or related context

In addition to holding an appropriate masters level qualification, the entry process will also involve:

- The submission and approval of a research proposal that demonstrates the potential to work at doctoral level.
- Interview with the course director and (potential) supervisor to discuss and evaluate the above proposal and student's suitability and potential for study at a doctoral level.
- Review of the application by the DEd Applications Committee.
What to consider when applying

As the DEd is primarily a research-based programme. We strongly recommend that you think about what the focus of your research will be.

Successful applicants onto the programme are usually matched to a supervisor in relation to their subject area and methodology.

We also strongly recommend that potential applicants contact a (listed) member of staff or the programme director to discuss their research prior to putting in a formal application.

. . . . this can help develop the application or perhaps reconsider whether the DEd is the right programme for you.

. . . . so please do look at our academic staff web pages to see what areas or fields we currently work in.

We are more than happy to discuss your ideas with you.
Working with your Supervisor(s)

• DEd students are allocated a supervisor(s) who supports, guides and helps facilitate the research & thesis

• They are usually experts and active researchers in the student's chosen field of study

• Essential for ‘getting through’ the doctoral process

• Students begin their research from ‘day one’ of the programme

• We have a lot of experienced supervisors in the School of Education

• They have usually gone through the doctoral process themselves!

• Students are expected to meet on a regular basis their supervisor to progress the research
DEd Administrative Support in the School of Education

To support both students and academics, the School of Education has two administrators attached to the DEd:

Ms Fiona McKibben
Ms Caroline Morgan
DEd/PhD Research Officers
Contact at: PHDRSRCH@tcd.ie

They can also be an initial point of contact if you are unsure of whom to speak to or require non-academic related information about the Ded.
The Research Culture in the School of Education

Research students within the School of Education are strongly encouraged to become active members of our research community.

Students are also encouraged to attend and when the time is right, present their work at conferences and seminars held outside of the School or Trinity.

As well as the School of Education Research Seminar Series, regular conferences and ad hoc events, we have student specific activities.

- Research Student Coffee mornings
- Research Student led *Talk About Education* seminar series
- The Post-graduate Research Conference
- The School of Education Seminar Series
- School of Education Conferences
Doctoral Students Coffee Mornings

- Informal gathering
- Meet other doctoral students
- Exchange ideas, research techniques, materials & information
- Provide a support network for being a research student
Talk About Education Seminar Series

These seminars are by and for the postgraduate research students of the school (and anyone with an interest in educational research, or postgraduate research in general) and have alternative and more casual formats than the traditional seminars.

These sessions generally take place at 5pm in the TRiSS Seminar Room on the second Thursday of every month.

These sessions are also an opportunity for students to meet and network with each other and to engage with academics in a less formal setting.
The PGR Conference is a great opportunity for students at any stage in their postgraduate career to get experience in presenting work-in-progress in a supportive environment.
For more information or to make a formal application

- Formal applications are made via the TCD applications system and the specific School of Education portal:

  - https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/research/schools/education.php

For more information

DEd Programme Coordinator: Prof Andrew Loxley
loxleya@tcd.ie

https://www.tcd.ie/Education/programmes/doctrinal/d-ed/