

A group of seven graduates in red and gold academic regalia are celebrating in front of a stone building. They are smiling and gesturing enthusiastically, with one woman in the center raising her hand in a peace sign. The background shows a large stone building with a red brick tower in the distance.

# The Professional Doctorate in Education (DEd) School of Education Trinity College Dublin



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

# About the School of Education

- 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.

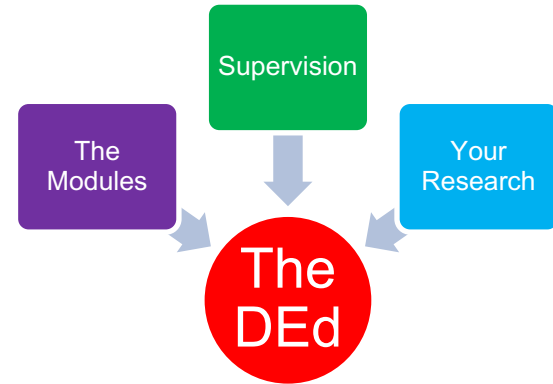
# What is the structure of the DEd?

## 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

	Module	Thesis	Milestones	Additional
Year One	'Research for fieldwork: Part 1' Core Module *1: Perspectives, Praxis & Power	Working with supervisor on thesis planning; exploration of literature; developing the research design	Research Assignment One Core Module Assignment	Literature review should be 50% complete at the end of Year One Research Design should 50% complete at the end of Year One
Year Two	'Research for fieldwork: Part 2' Core Module *2: Imagination, Transformation & Learning	Continue working with supervisor on lead-up to fieldwork Begin fieldwork during/end of SM Two	Confirmation at end of Year Two Research Assignment Core Module Assignment	Literature review should be 90% complete at the end of Year One Research Design should be complete at the end of Year Two
Year Three	'Building Theories, Explanations & Models: advanced data analysis'	Empirical work	Research Presentation at end of SM Two: 'The Research so Far. . .'	Workshop on thesis writing etc.
Year Four		Writing-up Viva Voce		Workshop on thesis writing etc. 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.

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

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 re-consider whether the DEd is the right programme for you.

We are more than happy to discuss your ideas with you.



# Working with your Supervisor(s)



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- 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](mailto: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.



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## 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

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- The School of Education Seminar Series
- School of Education Conferences

# Doctoral Students Coffee Mornings

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- 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.

Emer Emily Neenan TCD School of Education

What Irish school students can tell us about geoscience and why we should listen

interest understanding

Emer Emily Neenan neenan@tcd.ie

Communicating Research to a Lay Audience

IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

Trinity College Dublin Colláir na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath The University of Dublin

# Annual Postgraduate Research Conference



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](mailto:loxleya@tcd.ie)

<https://www.tcd.ie/Education/programmes/doctoral/d-ed/>