

Doctorate in Professional Educational, Child and Adolescent Psychology

Programme Director: Vivian Hill



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Educational Psychology?

Educational Psychology is an applied psychological discipline. Psychological theory, models and concepts are used to help make sense of complex issues that affect the lives of children and young people to inform effective interventions.

What do Educational Psychologists do?

Educational Psychologists (EPs) consult around a range of concerns about a child or young person's psychological well-being, development and situation in the context of educational, family and community settings. They work with children and young people individually or in groups, with parents/carers and with a wide range of other professionals to deliver their work.

Part of the educational psychology role is to work at a strategic level, carrying out research and advising on educational policy development. Other areas of work include delivering training on issues such as behaviour and stress management.

Where do EPs work?

Most EPs are employed by Local Authority/Children's Services. Some EPs work privately. EPs work with children and young people up to the age of 19 years in a variety of educational and community settings. Apart from services to schools, EPs increasingly work in a range of other teams and settings such as Children's Centres and early years settings, services for Looked After Children and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

What qualifications do you need to be an EP?

The title Educational Psychologist is protected by law, only those with recognised qualifications can practise as an EP. Anyone using the title Educational Psychologist must be registered with the Health Professions Council.

In 2006 the qualification requirements to practise as an EP changed. It is now necessary to hold a doctoral level qualification in Educational Psychology which is recognised by the Health Professions Council (HPC) and The British Psychological Society (BPS).

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/>

<http://www.bps.org.uk/>

All of the national doctoral training programmes follow a core curriculum developed by The British Psychological Society. The programme at the Institute of Education was established in 2006. The programme was approved by the Health Professions Council and accredited by The British Psychological Society in 2010.

What does the doctoral programme involve?

Information on all aspects of our programme can be found in our programme information pages on the Institute of Education website.

How many people apply for a place on the programme?

The programme receives a significant number of applications for training places each year, so competition for a place is high. You are advised to take plenty of time to research the role and work of the educational psychologist and to carefully consider how best to tell us about the knowledge, skills and competencies you have to offer the profession, in your application.

How do you select who will be interviewed for a place?

Details about the programme's admissions criteria can be found in the programme information pages on the Institute of Education website.

I have a 2:2 degree. Will my application be considered?

If you have a 2.2 then your application may still be considered, dependent on further academic qualifications at a higher level and high quality experience.

What kind of work experience should I gain before applying for a training place?

Ideally applicants will have at least two years employment experience. Through your work experience you will have developed your knowledge of psychology and its application and knowledge of child development. You will have an understanding of current issues for children and their families and an awareness of equality and diversity issues. You will have developed the ability to engage in planning and decision making processes demonstrating high levels of professionalism.

Successful candidates have worked in a wide range of settings including schools, early years settings, CAMHS, social care, research, higher education and the voluntary sector.

Does holding a teaching qualification (PGCE) give you a better likelihood of being accepted on the course?

It is not necessary to have a teaching qualification. People selected for our programme have a diverse range of relevant experiences in working with children and their families, and come from educational, health and social care backgrounds.

Can I study the programme part-time or via distance study?

No, the programme requires full-time study due to the breadth and level of subject matter covered and the requirements of placement experience. The programme is academically and practically demanding, it is not viable to work, even in a part-time capacity whilst training.

Is age a barrier to applying?

No, all applications are considered on their merits in relation to the admissions criteria. Please refer to the programme brochure for information on the programme admissions criteria.

When are interviews for the programme held?

Interviews for the programme are held each year, usually in the spring term.

Is the programme open to International/EU students?

Places are available to International/EU students who meet the programme admissions criteria and University entry requirements for English language proficiency. With regard to the latter, high standards of both written and spoken English are required, which must reflect scores of at least 7 in the International English Language Testing System, with individual scores for writing and for reading being no lower than 7. The normal level of pass required in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) will be 650 in the paper-based test or 280 in the computerised test or 114-115 in the internet-based test. For International English Language Test System (IELTS) the pass score required is an overall score of 7.0. The reading and writing band also needs to be 7.0. Overseas students whose first language is not English should note that it is essential to enclose a certificate of competence in English with their application.

International/EU students not resident in the UK are required to fund themselves for the three years of the programme. In some cases this funding may be provided by their Government or a scholarship organisation in their home country.

It is essential that prospective applicants are eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership and have a good honours degree in Psychology or equivalent. Your degree needs to be recognised by the BPS and evidence of this should be included in your application. You will need to have been awarded your degree by the time you apply. You should also provide evidence of relevant experience of applying psychology in work with children in community settings and/or the educational/childcare system.

How easy is it to get a job once qualified?

To date all successful graduates of the programme have secured employment as an EP.

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