Programme Specification

National EdD (Wales)

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National EdD (Wales)
Postgraduate Programme Specification

1.

Awarding Institution/Bodies	Aberystwyth University, Bangor University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Wrexham University
Teaching Institutions	As above
School	All Schools/Departments in the National EdD Partnership
Proposal Team	Prof Michelle Jones, Cardiff Metropolitan University (National Programme Director) Prof Alma Harris, Cardiff Metropolitan University Prof Carl Hughes, Bangor University Dr Jane McDonnell, Bangor University Dr Megan Hicks, Aberystwyth University Dr Lucy Trotter, Aberystwyth University Dr Sue Hoarder, Wrexham University Ms Kelly Smith, Wrexham University
Programme Accredited By	National Validation
Final Award (in full) (including any named exit awards (in full)) as it should read on the graduation certificate	***Professional Doctorates*** - Doctor of Education (EdD)
Programme Title	**Programme Title:** - Doctor of Education (Wales) (EdD)
Type of Award (Single subject: joint subject: major/minor: Single subject with named pathway)	Single Subject
Programme Director(s)	Prof Michelle Jones, Cardiff Metropolitan University (National Programme Director) Prof Alma Harris, Cardiff Metropolitan University Dr Jane McDonnell, Bangor University Dr Megan Hicks, Aberystwyth University Dr Sue Hoarder, Wrexham University
Mode of Study	Part-time, blended learning (Distance learning component via the Professional Learning Passport, PLP)
Normal Duration of Programme	Up to 6 years
Period of Candidature	Up to 6 years
Language of Study	English or Welsh

UCAS Code (or other coding system if relevant)	N/A
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmarking Group(s)	Research Degrees
HECoS Subject Code	N214
Date of Production/Revision	15 July, 2024

2. Criteria for admission to the programme

The National EdD, is a Part-Time Programme for students who have completed the National Masters in Education (Wales) or any other Masters degree where an equivalency can be demonstrated in terms of a) the subject (Education) and b) where the Masters degree is fully recognised within the UK.

Applicants will progress onto the National EdD programme having completed 180 credits (120 credits through taught modules at Level 7 (M), as part of the National MA Education (Wales), the Masters of Educational Practice (MEP) or another recognised Masters level programme with a clear educational focus).

Applicants may be granted exemption for the above Master's level study in the following situations:

i. The applicant has completed a minimum of one year's full-time or two years' part-time supervised postgraduate work in the same academic discipline, which included appropriate Research Methods training, deemed to be satisfactory to the School's Research Degrees Group to permit the completion of the National EdD (Wales);
ii. The applicant can otherwise provide the School's Research Degrees Group with satisfactory evidence, equivalent to (i) above that they have sufficient relevant expertise, experience or qualification beyond graduation for the purposes of completing the National EdD (Wales). In this case, the student must complete a 20 credits or equivalent Research Methods module alongside the commencement of the National EdD (Wales).

In addition to the above entrance requirements, applicants must be capable of demonstrating proficiency in English or Welsh at a level necessary to complete the level 8 programme of work and to defend their Final Thesis within a viva. In the case of overseas applicants (whose first language is not English) normally an IELTS score (or equivalent) of 7.0 is required at entry with a minimum of 7.0 in the reading and written components and a minimum of 7.0 in the remaining components. Such applicants will be asked to provide evidence of language proficiency as part of their application process. There will be a formal interview process for all applicants.

3. Aim of the programme

The aims of the National EdD (Wales) are to equip students to:

- Systematically acquire and understand a substantial body of knowledge that is at the forefront of their chosen area of study and within a recognised academic discipline;

- Create and generate new knowledge, through original research that is deemed by examiners to be at the forefront of practice and their academic discipline, merits publication, and adds value to the chosen field of study;

- Reflect critically in relation to the work completed and to provide a scholarly contribution that is recognised at level 8 and is a significant piece of coherent, empirically based, scholarly work.

4.Distinctive features of the programme

As part of the Welsh Government's ongoing commitment to establishing an evidence-informed profession and enhancing opportunities for educators in Wales to support the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales, the Minister for Education has supported the development of a new bilingual National Education Doctorate (EdD) (Wales). Building on the success of the National MA Education (Wales) and the existing strong partnership between Universities in Wales, the National EdD (Wales) will offer a clear progression route for professionals who are keen to build upon their learning and research experience gained in their Masters, by working with academics and research experts across the participating Welsh Universities and with experts internationally.

The distinctive features of the programme are:

1.**Progression** – many of the National Masters Students want to continue higher level study that affords them the breadth of expertise and the quality of support they have experienced on the National Masters. A National EdD will provide this opportunity.

2.**Bilingual provision** – delivery and expertise in both languages will be a feature of the National EdD. Hence in promoting scholarship in both languages, this new qualification is important.

3. **Communities of Practice** – the 'National Cohort' model will create an infrastructure of connected, highly qualified individuals, at doctoral level, who will be best placed and motivated to help the Welsh system move forward. With successive cohorts, there will be layers of expertise that the system can draw upon. The National EdD (Wales) programme will require students throughout Wales to form their own communities of practice for support and reciprocal engagement during the programme.

4.**Expertise** – leading academics in Wales and also internationally will offer clear, consistent and regular grounded guidance to help the students navigate their way successfully through doctoral level study. The collective nature of the expertise available to students on the National EdD (Wales) will go beyond that normally experienced at a single institution.

5. **Blended Learning** – the National EdD (Wales) will ensure that participants benefit from a blended learning approach to maximise flexibility with dedicated supervision in writing up their thesis.

6.**The design of the National EdD** affords practitioners, within a wide range of educational contexts, the opportunity to follow a part-time level 8 programme of study, through collective support and advice from the participating six universities to enable them to successfully complete doctoral level work.

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5. Relevant QAA subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes

The programme outcomes have been informed by the following guidelines and reports:

1) QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education: Advice and Guidance_Research Degrees (2021);
2) QAA Characteristics Statement: Doctoral Degree (2018);
3) QAA Higher Education Credit Framework for England: Advice on Academic Credit Arrangements (2021);
4) Credit & Qualifications Framework for Wales (2018);
5) HEFCE: CRAC (The Career Development Organisation) Report on the Provision of Professional Doctorates in English HE Institutions (Jan, 2016);
6) UKCGE Structures and Strategy in Doctoral Education in the UK and Ireland (2022).

6. Programme intended learning outcomes

1. To systematically acquire and understand a substantial body of knowledge that is at the forefront of educational professional practice or is likely to lead to professional or organisational change in the candidate's workplace/profession;
2. To create and generate new knowledge, through original research that is deemed by examiners to be at the forefront practice and their academic discipline, merits publication, and adds value to their chosen field of study;
3. To reflect critically in relation to the work completed to provide a scholarly contribution that is recognised at level 8 and to produce a significant piece of coherent, empirically based, scholarly work.

7. Teaching, learning and assessment strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

Teaching and Learning

The aim of this National EdD (Wales) is to ensure that greater research capacity is built within the Welsh education system, hence this doctorate follows the contours of PhD study broadly to ensure that this is a route worthy of the award.

The primary L&T method is blended learning, supported by a suitably qualified and knowledgeable supervisory team.

Given the nature of the National EdD (Wales), students will be expected to take responsibility for their own independent learning, supported by an expert supervisory process. Participating universities view supervision as a partnership between the student and members of their supervisory team, with all having rights and responsibilities as laid out in the National EdD (Wales) Student Handbook and the National EdD (Wales) Supervisory Handbook.

The National EdD (Wales) supervisory team will be members of the host University's academic staff with expertise in the student's chosen field of study. The supervisory arrangements will follow the norms and stipulations associated with doctoral level supervision in each institution and will be in the best interests of the student.

Students will engage in one taught module (60 credits) to prepare them for undertaking research at level 8 and constructing a thesis which will satisfy the requirements of doctoral level study and external examiners' expectations around doctoral level work.

Assessment Methods

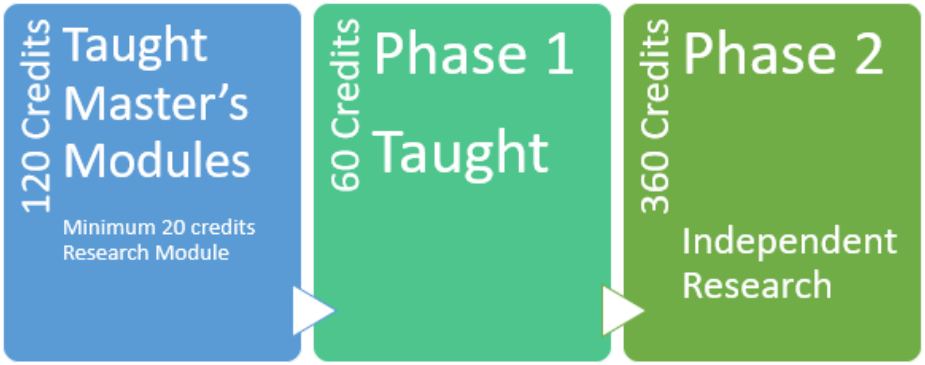
Assessments will take place to ensure that students have a sufficient grasp of research design, methodology, and empirical investigation. The 60 credit module will provide this and of course having undertaken a Masters degree with a dissertation component, the 60 credit course will assume fundamental knowledge in research methods, research design etc and will therefore offer a high-level advanced research module that equips the students for level 8 study.

The National EdD (Wales) will not put in place multiple assessment points as the main aim is to prepare students for their thesis and not to distract them from this work with fragmented assignments which may or may not help them with their thesis.

The thesis will be examined in the normal way through a Viva Voce that ensures parity between PhD and EdD routes to a doctorate award and quality assures all work undertaken on the National EdD (Wales) is of sufficient quality to warrant the doctoral award.

8. Programme structures and requirements, levels, curriculum units (modules), credits and awards. Also make reference to any features that make the programme distinctive.

Professional Doctorate: Programme Structure (*Please see detailed Module Guide for Phase 1 taught***)**



Pre-Registration

Candidates following the National EdD (Wales) will be granted exemption from the first **120 credits** if they have completed the Level 7 180-credit National MA Education Wales/ or another Masters in an educational field. These modules help the candidates focus their work towards their organisational or professional context and literature that may underpin their field of interest.

Phase 1

During Phase 1, candidates complete 60 credits at Level 8 (Project Design, Ethics Approval and Pilot). This module focuses candidates on the potential methods that they may adopt within the main project. This new module will be co delivered by a national team comprising a period of residential intensive teaching with periodic online sessions. All students will have access to the PLP that will host pre-recorded sessions to support students throughout the doctoral process. This L8 module will prepare the students for their thesis writing and completion of the EdD.

Phase 2

Candidates then complete 360 credits within Phase 2 through an independent piece of research aligned to their organisation or professional context.
The National EdD (Wales) supervisory team will be members of the host University's academic staff with expertise in the student's chosen field of study, but there is an expectation that students will attend national sessions at specific points.

January Intake

Level 8							
Module Code	**Module Title**	**Term***	**Credit Value**	**Shared Module**	**Available in Welsh (Yes/No)**	**Short Course**	**Compensatable (Y/N)**
CORE	Independent Research	All	360	No		No	
DEW801	Planning for Doctoral Study and Thesis Preparation	Year 1, Sem 2 & 3	60	No	Yes	No	N
Award – Masters (180 credits of which 120 may be imported)			120*				
Award – Doctorate			420				
Final Award – Doctorate			**540**				

*Includes 120 credits exemption

9. Support for students and their learning

A range of support is provided to doctoral students throughout their period of study:

International scholars will provide 'Q&A' sessions that have proved extremely popular across the National MA Education (Wales).

Publication and international dissemination will be a strong feature of the programme (e.g. Links with the Wales Journal of Education and the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement ICSEI).

- Student Charter
- Communities of Practice
- Meet & Greet and Induction Programme
- A Supervisory Team suitable to support the subject matter and methods adopted
- Regular National Cohort Events
- Library and study skills packages
- Library and learning resources
- Access to Student Services including those offered by Disability support, Counselling, Mental Health support, Finance and Welfare advice, Out of Hours assistance, Chaplaincy and Health Service
- Student Union representation and services including advocacy and support
- School based research groups
- Host institution School/Department Research Seminars
- National Doctoral Researcher Community Meetings
- Residential Events
- Student Conference

10. Work-based and placement learning or approach to authentic assessment

Students will already be in their workplace.

11. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

University quality assurance and enhancement procedures include:

- Programme Committee meetings with student representation
- Staff-Student Liaison Committee meetings

- Student evaluation and feedback at each progress review and the annual Postgraduate Researcher Experience Survey
- Programme Enhancement Planning
- External Examiner Reports (Taught Provision)
- Periodic internal and external programme review
- Staff Development programmes
- Research Degrees Group and School sub-group meetings
- Doctoral Researcher Group meetings
- National External Advisor/Examiner (Hybrid role)

12. Assessment regulations

The 60 credit taught module (DEW8XXX) must be passed. Assessment will be classified as a 'Fail' (i.e., below 50%) or a 'Pass' (i.e., 50% and above), no numerical marks will be offered for the assessment.

Candidates will have a maximum of two re-assessment attempts. It is expected that the candidates will undergo formative assessment procedures with the supervision team (against the assessment criteria) prior to assessment submission.

In order to be eligible for the award of Doctor of Education (Wales), the candidates must pass the Thesis via a *viva voce examination*, which will be examined by an examination team comprising two external examiners (if it's a member of university staff) or one internal and one external examiner (if it's a student). The National EdD (Wales) will follow the criteria specified for an award at a doctoral level.

13. Indicator of quality and standards

- Successful QAA review
- Professional Doctorate Viva Outcomes
- Professional Doctorate Completions
- Annual Graduate Studies Review
- Annual Research Degrees Report
- Annual Postgraduate Researcher Experience Survey (PRES) Report
- Continued Professional Development of Supervisors
- National External Advisor/Examiner

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student is expected to achieve and demonstrate if they are to gain an award. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, teaching and learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the programme handbook and module guide. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education