

## **Applying for the EdD in the School of Education, University of Manchester – guidance notes**

We hope that these notes act as a useful guide for applying to the Doctorate in Education (EdD) programme in the School of Environment, Education and Development. Please note that they do not, however, form a comprehensive guide to what is required and the School accepts no responsibility for applications that are unsuccessful on the basis of this guidance. They should be read in conjunction with the more general information that is available on the University and School websites.

### *Initial contact*

The Programme Director is Dr Carlo Raffo [carlo.raffo@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:carlo.raffo@manchester.ac.uk)

### *How the application process works*

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Initial contact	Via Programme Director highlighted above
Application	<p>The University of Manchester now encourages all candidates to apply online by following the link from:</p> <p><a href="http://www.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply/">http://www.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply/</a></p> <p>This method gives the added advantage that you will be able to access your own application folder by means of a unique ID number and can attach documents as they become available to you.</p> <p>When you submit your application please include two references and documentary evidence of your qualifications. You will also need to provide a statement of support which outlines your reasons and motivation for undertaking an EdD (advice on what should be included is highlighted below)</p>
Selection	Your application will be sent to staff at the School of Environment, Education and Development who will consider documentary evidence and then invite you to interview, if appropriate.
Notification	Once a decision is made, the School of Environment, Education and Development will write to you to offer a place, or to decline your application.
Programme preparation and commencement	Once accepted, Dr Carlo Raffo will be the first port of call for day-to-day information about the programme.

### *How to apply*

The information in this section is to be read in conjunction with the more general guidance on the application form itself and on the website relating to applying for research degrees.

Application is carried out online using the <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply>

In general terms, the requirements for entry in the Programme Specification are as follows and you should ensure that your application makes clear how it matches these basic requirements.

Successful applicants will need to be able to demonstrate the following.

- The potential to study at Doctorate level. This would normally be indicated by successful completion of a Master degree, but in certain cases may be through successful completion of a task set by the admissions tutor(s).
- An ability to work collaboratively in exploring and developing experience and ideas.
- That they are working in a professional context where they are responsible for supporting learning. Candidates not currently working in a professional context, but with appropriate and sufficiently extensive experience, may be considered at the discretion of the admissions tutor(s). Similarly, those in professional practice but who, in the opinion of the admissions team do not yet have sufficient or appropriate experience to draw on, may be deemed ineligible.
- A strong commitment to educational enquiry and critical reflection on practice as a means of professional learning.

The following points will also be taken into account in selecting candidates interested in transferring their studies from another institution.

The student seeking to transfer to study an EdD in the School of Environment, Education and Development at University of Manchester should:

- (i) meet the usual criteria for admission;
- (ii) have the agreement of and a strong reference from their current institution of study (it is assumed their registration is 'current' at the time of application);
- (iii) have progressed in their studies as we would 'normally' expect for a student at their year of registration; and
- (iv) normally be in their first 3 years of pte (3 semesters of fte) study, i.e. seeking admission for at least 3 years pte of study..

The award of Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) may be made for assignments done in the previous institution if it is deemed to meet the doctoral criteria and other criteria for School of Education EdD assignments (e.g. length, and training requirements) which they seek APL for.

### *Completing the application form*

The application form is largely self explanatory. However you also need to include a supporting statement that includes information about the following:

- Why you are interested in the EdD and its focus on Professional Practice and, specifically, why you are interested in it over and above a PhD.
- What your professional situation is, and what it is about this situation that makes it mutually compatible with the EdD.
- Why, and how, you think you are capable of undertaking work at Doctorate level and, in particular, of undertaking a large piece of research for the thesis.
- What is your area of research interest. Note that we do not expect you to know this in detail, nor does this mean that you cannot alter the focus later under guidance, but candidates will only be accepted on the basis that we will be able to supervise their chosen topic effectively. *Please take time to look at the School of Environment, Education and Development Research web pages which will help to give you some idea of the areas we support* and tell us, in general terms, what your focus is likely to be.
- Provide a short critical account (no more than 1,000 words) of an issue that is relevant to your chosen research interests. This could be a professional issue and/or based on an article you have read.

Over and above these specific points, we are looking to take people who we consider are capable of working at the critical level that EdD demands, who will form an effective part of a cohort of mutually supportive professionals and who are able to commit themselves sufficiently to what is an exciting, but very demanding and time consuming, endeavour over an extended period of time.

### *And finally ...*

The EdD is a highly demanding programme both in intellectual terms, but also in terms of the commitment it needs to undertake what is required and to be successful. In no way should it be seen as an easy option in comparison to a PhD! Whilst it has the potential advantage of providing support for participants in a different way, and of created staging posts for success along the way, the intellectual and practical demands are at least equivalent to those of a PhD – perhaps more so in some ways. Clearly, we are looking for people who are eager – not just willing – to undertake further study and research.