

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK

# Education PhD

US

UNIVERSITY  
OF SUSSEX

## EDUCATION

# Education at Sussex

The Department of Education at the University of Sussex is a warm and caring community of scholars that prides itself on its commitment to - and depth of involvement with - our researchers, policy-makers and professionals.

## EDUCATION

The Department of Education is justifiably proud of its research profile and wide-ranging research activity which informs practice and policy. Our researchers engage with a wealth of current and cutting edge issues, both nationally and internationally. We warmly welcome doctoral researchers to a vibrant research community where research informs teaching, as well as research debates.

The PhD in Education gives you the opportunity to develop specialist knowledge in an area of interest and to hone advanced research skills. You'll work with faculty who are global in their outlook and experts in their fields.

Our researchers come from a wide variety of countries, educational settings and backgrounds. For many, the PhD is an important step in advancing a professional career. They bring a real passion for their area of research interest and a high level of commitment.

*“My decision to study a PhD in Education at the University of Sussex arose from a desire to work with a truly diverse group of scholars, intersecting varied international contexts and multifaceted methodological approaches, yet sharing a similar goal to produce critically engaged research.”*

**Fawzia Haeri Mazanderani**  
(Current Education PhD researcher: 2017)

## RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The Department of Education is interdisciplinary in its approach. It hosts four research centres that provide an opportunity for PhD researchers and faculty to meet and share details of their ongoing research:

- Centre for International Education
- Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research
- Centre for Teaching and Learning Research
- Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (jointly hosted with the Department of Social Work and Social Care)

Doctoral researchers are encouraged to affiliate themselves to one or more centre, and to be active participants in our research community.



## EDUCATION

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If you'd like to join us as a researcher, there are two main routes (see back page for details), either of which can be taken full- or part time.

The **+3 route** is suited to those with an academic background at Masters level in an appropriate discipline. To join the +3 route you will need to demonstrate sufficient prior research training and/or relevant professional/research experience.

Whichever route you opt for, you are required to submit an initial research proposal outlining your area of research interest and what makes the proposed study a worthwhile and feasible one.

You can find details of the research interests and expertise of our doctoral supervisors, as well as what is required from your initial proposal, and how to apply at [www.sussex.ac.uk/education/pgstudy/guidelines](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/pgstudy/guidelines)

*NOTE: Self-funded PhD researchers that are also UK nationals may be eligible for a loan of up to £25,000. See*

*<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/fees-and-scholarships/funding>*

If English is not your first language, you will need to meet our English Language requirements. See details at [www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/apply/international-qualifications/english-language-research](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/apply/international-qualifications/english-language-research)

### ASSESSMENT

The research proposal developed in the first year of the PhD will be reviewed by academic staff before permission to undertake fieldwork is granted.

Annual reviews of your progress and training needs are conducted.

Final assessment is through submission of an 80,000 word thesis which is judged by an internal and an external examiner. The examination process includes a viva voce in which you will give an oral defence of your work.

#### **For the 1+3 route**

A grade of B+ or higher in the dissertation of the MSc in Social Research Methods is required for progression to the PhD course.

*"When I finished my practitioner work I did not know what to do with my field experiences and data. The PhD journey has helped me immensely to turn those experiences into a meaningful piece of work. It is challenging, but also fulfilling and rewarding. And the PhD cohort at Sussex is such a diverse, dynamic and vibrant group that it helps me unlearn and learn each day!"*

**Gunjan Wadhwa (Current Education PhD researcher: 2017)**





## EDUCATION

# Example timeline for doctoral study

### + 3 Route

The +3 PhD route is for applicants who can demonstrate sufficient relevant professional experience, or previous significant research methods training.

Researchers are encouraged to fulfill specific training needs through the undertaking of selected modules from the MSc in Social Research Methods.

### 1 + 3 Route

#### YEAR 0: MSc in Social Research Methods

##### AUTUMN TERM CORE MODULES

- Introduction to Qualitative Methods
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods
- Philosophy of Science
- Social Scientific Research Practice

##### SPRING TERM CORE MODULES

- Research Design and Ethics
- 3 x advanced research workshops
- 3 optional modules selected in discussion with your Supervisor

##### SUMMER TERM

- Dissertation (often takes the form of a pilot study or a research outline for the intended doctoral research project)

#### YEAR 1: PhD

- Induction
- Refinement of Research Proposal
- Formal presentation of Research Proposal
- Submission of Research Proposal + mini viva
- Application for Ethical Approval
- Permission to Begin Fieldwork
- Progression to Fieldwork

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- Formal presentation of Research Proposal
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- Application for Ethical Approval
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#### YEAR 2: PhD

- Fieldwork / Data Collection
- Ongoing reflection and preliminary stages of analysis

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#### YEAR 3: PhD

- Data Analysis
- Writing Up Thesis
- Completion and Submission of Thesis
- Viva Preparation

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*Exact timelines may vary. The above is a guide only of how a full-time PhD researcher might advance through their doctoral studies.*

**Please note:** So that we can keep our curriculum fresh and driven by the most current research, we review it every year. The MSc modules shown here are based on subjects studied in 2017. The University may run different modules for 2018 entry. For a full list of optional modules offered in 2018 and beyond, visit [sussex.ac.uk/education](https://sussex.ac.uk/education)