

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD)

(See also General Regulations)

Ed256 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the programme leading to the degree of Doctor of Education, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) hold either
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree at second class honours and a taught Master's degree or other qualifications of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; *or*
 - (ii) a Bachelor's degree with first class honours from this University or another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (c) demonstrate a record of at least 4 years of professional experience in an educational institution or services in the education sector or services in other relevant sectors as judged appropriate by the Faculty; and
 - (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
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Ed257 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test candidates' ability to pursue the research project proposed. A qualifying examination shall consist of one or more invigilated written examination papers; additionally, the invigilated written paper(s) may be supplemented by other forms of examinations.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to sit a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until all examination requirements are satisfied.
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Ed258 Registration

- (a) Successful candidates shall in the first instance be granted provisional registration for the EdD degree, with such registration to be confirmed only when the requirements set out in regulation Ed265 below are satisfied.
 - (b) A student may register as a *full-time* candidate when he or she holds
 - (i) no employment; or
 - (ii) part-time employment (whether inside or outside the University), provided that the employment entails not more than 150 hours of work per annum; or
 - (iii) a University research assistantship, provided that the work undertaken in this capacity is focused on the topic of the holder's research degree study; or
 - (iv) employment but leave of absence has been granted by the employer.
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Ed259 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
- (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

Ed260 Period of study

- (a) The programme shall begin in September or January. The period of study shall normally be as follows:

Mode of study	Minimum period	Maximum period
Part-time	48 months	72 months
Full-time	36 months	60 months

- (b) If a candidate is not able to submit the thesis (as specified in regulation Ed267 below) by the end of the maximum period, the candidature shall be deemed to have lapsed and the candidate shall no longer be registered on the programme, unless prior approval for extension of candidature has been granted by the Faculty.
- (c) A full-time candidate shall spend the whole period of study in Hong Kong, unless leave of absence, provided for under Regulation Ed261 below, has been granted.
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Ed261 Leave of absence

- (a) A candidate who wishes to be absent from Hong Kong and/or the approved course of study and research, or who proposes to take vacation, shall be required to submit a written application for leave of absence. There are three types of discretionary leave, namely, vacation leave, study leave and non-study leave (*See Note*).

Vacation leave (for full-time candidates only)

- (b) A candidate may be granted up to 30 calendar days of vacation in each twelve months of the period of study. This is however not an entitlement. Whether approval will be granted to a candidate will depend on the progress of the candidate. Leave of absence granted for vacation shall be counted towards the period of study.

Study Leave (for full-time candidates only)

- (c) A candidate may be granted study leave for the purposes of study or research outside Hong Kong. Any period of study leave granted shall be counted towards the period of study.

Non-study leave

- (d) A candidate may be granted non-study leave when he/she is best advised for personal, health, or other reasons to have time completely away from his/her academic responsibilities. Non-study leave shall only be granted on a semester basis. Under no circumstances shall non-study leave be granted cumulatively for a period of more than twelve months (i.e. 3 semesters) for the entire period of study. A candidate shall apply for vacation leave to cover leave of a non-study nature not covering a full semester. Any period of non-study leave granted shall result in the extension of the period of study by the period of absence.
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Ed262 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall

- (a) follow instructions on the syllabuses prescribed and complete all specified work as required;
- (b) satisfy the examiners in the coursework requirements for the degree as set out in the syllabuses;
- (c) complete, to the satisfaction of the examiners, a thesis as specified in regulation Ed267 below; and
- (d) satisfy the examiners at the oral examination.

Ed263 Coursework requirements

Candidates shall be required to take courses and satisfy the coursework requirements as prescribed by the examiners. The objective of the coursework component is to aid research work and to prepare candidates for thesis writing.

Ed264 Supervision and progress

- (a) Candidates shall be required to submit a progress report at six-monthly intervals, and may be required to give one or more seminars on any part of their course of study and research;
 - (b) Candidates may be discontinued if satisfactory progress is not being made.
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Ed265 Probation and confirmation of candidature

- (a) Candidates whose applications are accepted shall be subject to a probationary period, which shall not normally exceed 24 months for part-time candidates and 18 months for full-time candidates. By the end of the probationary period, candidates must have
 - (i) satisfactorily completed the 4 core courses;
 - (ii) satisfactorily completed the course on research ethics offered by the Graduate School;
 - (iii) completed the first three chapters of the thesis to the satisfaction of the Supervisory Panel; and
 - (iv) presented a confirmation seminar.
 - (b) Before the end of the probationary period, a decision shall be made on whether the candidature shall be confirmed or terminated.
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Ed266 Discontinuation

A candidature may be discontinued

- (a) if academic progress is not satisfactory; *or*
 - (b) if the student has failed to meet the requirements as stipulated in this set of Regulations.
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Ed267 The thesis

- (a) The thesis should normally be between 50,000 and 60,000 words long (exclusive of tables, bibliographies, and appendices). The thesis must represent an original contribution to knowledge and/or the understanding of educational practice, and contain material worthy of publication.
 - (b) Candidates shall serve written notice of intention to submit a thesis for examination at least 3 months prior to the expected date of submission. The notice shall be accompanied by a provisional thesis title.
 - (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to submit a thesis until the candidature has been confirmed and all coursework requirements have been satisfied.
 - (d) Candidates shall be examined by examiners appointed for this purpose both on the thesis itself, and at an oral examination on the subject of the thesis and/or the approved course of study and research. Candidates may also be examined by other means.
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Ed268 Thesis examination results

- (a) Candidates who have satisfied the examiners shall be recommended for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Education.

- (b) Candidates who have not satisfied the examiners in the thesis component:
 - (i) may be required to resubmit the thesis after making corrections and amendments as required by the Board of Examiners, without a new examination; *or*
 - (ii) may be required to revise and resubmit the thesis for a new examination within a specified period, and may also be required to satisfy the examiners at a new oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate, on the subject of the revised thesis and/or the approved course of study and research; *or*
 - (iii) may be required to attend a new oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate; *or*
 - (iv) may be deemed to have failed, without the option of resubmission.
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Ed269 Coursework examinations results

- (a) Coursework shall be assessed on a pass/fail basis.
 - (b) Candidates who have not satisfied the examiners in respect of the coursework requirements at the first attempt shall normally be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the same course. Candidates who do not satisfy the examiners in such re-examination may be required to discontinue their studies.
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Ed270 Publication based on thesis

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Note: For the purpose of this Regulation, a candidate who resides near the vicinity of Hong Kong which allows him/her to return to the University campus for his/her studies in the same manner as other students is not regarded as being absent from Hong Kong.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD)

Candidates shall be required to satisfactorily complete 4 core courses, 1 Graduate School course on research ethics and 3 to 4 elective courses with a total of at least 72 hours. The core courses and the Graduate School course on research ethics must be completed by the end of the probationary period. The elective courses should be completed before the submission of thesis and should consist of one of the following: (i) 3 “Courses on Primary Disciplines”, (ii) 2 “Courses on Primary Disciplines” plus 2 “Courses on Research Methods”, (iii) 2 “Courses on Primary Disciplines” plus 1 course from the Faculty’s Taught Master’s Degree programmes or (iv) 1 “Course on Primary Disciplines” plus 2 “Courses on Research Methods” plus 1 course from the Faculty’s Taught Master’s Degree programmes.

CORE COURSES

Candidates specializing in Research in Chinese Language Education should complete EEDD7701, EEDD7702, EEDD7800 and EEDD7900. Other candidates should complete EEDD6701, EEDD6702, EEDD6800 and EEDD6900.

EEDD6701 Research methods I

This course provides an overview of quantitative research methods in education. Topics include locating and reviewing research literature, formulating research questions, understanding common statistical methods, and issues in quantitative research design. Students will also be provided opportunities for hands-on practice with standard statistical packages.

EEDD6702 Research methods II

This course focuses on doing research in education, including interviewing, observations, transcription, coding, and other procedures, as well as issues of ethics, research integrity, and validity, and generalizability.

EEDD6800 Thesis writing workshop

The aim of this course is to help students to become more aware of important aspects of writing that contribute to overall communicative success of their thesis, so that they can approach the writing of their theses more systematically and confidently. Topics to be covered include: the structure of different types of theses; the discourse features and language used in reviewing research literature, making explicit the research gap, stating hypotheses or research questions, reporting and discussing results as well as findings; the writing of abstracts, introductions and conclusions; the use of verbal signposts and verb tenses across the thesis; and issues of academic language and delicacy.

EEDD6900 Issues in education

This course is structured as a forum consisting of multiple sessions for students to explore various generic educational issues. Each session may comprise a combination of a guest lecture, discussions, group/individual work, presentations, and debate.

**EEDD7701 Methods of Conducting Research in Chinese Language Education I (中國語文教育
研究法一)**

Medium of Instruction: Chinese

This course aims at helping students systematically and professionally to master skilled approaches to conducting research in the field of Chinese Language Education. The course presents an overview of research methods and approaches and the criteria for determining whether and how these should be applied. As with other frameworks of research, the course helps students to clarify and define research topics and to isolate problems and formulate questions; to locate and review pertinent background literature; to formulate specific research questions; to select appropriate methods of gathering significant evidence; to reliably and validly gather qualitative and quantitative information, to analyze the data; to check the relevance of the data and to examine the implications of the findings for personnel in the immediate and wider environment; and to present the research outcomes in a balanced and professional way.

**EEDD7702 Methods of Conducting Research in Chinese Language Education II (中國語文教育
研究法二)**

Medium of Instruction: Chinese

The course is a continuation of Methods of Conducting Research in Chinese Language Education I, the focuses now being on carrying out research into Chinese Language Education. Students will consider the relevance of research approaches and approaches studied earlier and the strengths and limitations of the research strategies for the field of Chinese Language Education. Special attention will be directed towards appropriately using approaches such as interviewing subjects, conducting classroom observations, gathering and summarizing pertinent evidence ethically and reliably, considering ways of analyzing types of data, identifying areas still to be explored, and formulating appropriate research proposals.

(Pre-requisite: Methods of Conducting Research in Chinese Language Education I)

EEDD7800 Thesis Writing Workshop in Chinese (論文寫作工作坊)

Medium of Instruction: Chinese

The course offers practical information on how to write academic accounts, reports and theses on the subject of what has been discovered. The course helps students to select and focus on pertinent background information and published literature; to use their own reading and experience to determine the pertinence of previous research; to decide which techniques are appropriate for gathering necessary further evidence; to recognize key features in the evidence assembled; to specify areas still to be researched; and to report all of the above succinctly and professionally so that the intended audience is able to profit from reading the research articles. Topics covered include: strategies for writing and revising research articles; the formulation and construction of different types of research articles; the types of language to be used when reporting and presenting research outcomes; how to select appropriate research methods and statistical procedures (if necessary); and how to present findings in tables and charts. Also covered will be the writing of abstracts; ways of presenting to the reader a concise outline of the topic to be discussed; summarizing the research methodology utilized; reporting and discussing results and findings; identifying weaknesses in the research and areas for further study; and how to present a thoughtful analysis of the implications of the findings for the target educational body and wider society.

EEDD7900 Issues in the Field of Education in South-East Asia (東南亞地區教育議題)

Medium of Instruction: Chinese

This course adopts an issue-based approach to deciding which research strategies are most appropriate and relevant for the target audience. In order to educate course members in how to recognize issues worthy of further exploration, course content will as often as possible focus on contentious issues currently appearing in South-East Asian educational circles and academic institutions. To assist students to isolate and specify issues and problems, course tutors will engage course members in open discussions about challenging educational issues relating to Chinese Language education in Hong Kong, in neighbouring countries and in wider reaches of South-East Asia. Wherever feasible, each session will consist of input from a combination of a guest lecturer, discussions, group/individual work, presentations and debate, the hope being that students will have a broad overview of (a) educational issues in Chinese Language Education, (b) an awareness of how others have addressed issues; and (c) confidence in organising their own research and responding critically to what has been discovered and reported elsewhere.

GRADUATE SCHOOL COURSE

GRSC6029 Research Ethics for Graduate Students

In this course, students will learn essential vocabulary, principles, and practices conducive to the promotion of research integrity in general and in their relevant disciplines. Students will encounter terminology, texts, and tenets that relate to good conduct in teaching and research professions. The course covers the international standards associated with the conduct of human-subject research. Topics that will also be covered include issues of authorship, mentorship and professional ethics for academics in the university. To complete the course, students must pass the web-based learning modules and an examination, and attend at least 2/3 of the classes.
