



**COMPLETING
YOUR EdD**

**THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE
TO THE DOCTOR OF
EDUCATION**

Edited by

IONA BURNELL

JODI ROFFEY-BARENTSEN

COMPLETING YOUR EdD

Praise for ‘Completing your EdD’

Completing Your EdD: The Essential Guide to the Doctor of Education is designed to support anyone undertaking, or thinking about undertaking, a Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD). This book focusses on supporting EdD students at each stage of their study, from understanding the structure of EdDs to providing helpful information and guidance relating to the requirements of the thesis and preparing for the viva voce examination and beyond.

A particular strength of this book is that it starts from the perspective that the student is a complete beginner, making it accessible to those new to doctoral study. *Completing Your EdD: The Essential Guide to the Doctor of Education* addresses issues relating to several aspects of the EdD with which students frequently struggle including, for example, issues relating to understanding the essential components of the literature review, understanding what developing a theoretical framework really means and developing insights into the requirements of the final EdD thesis. This book covers important ground relating to the different chapters which traditionally make up an EdD thesis, as well as information about the supervisory support that can be expected. It also suggests ways in which students can share their research and develop a research profile following the successful completion of their EdD. Each chapter poses reflective questions to help the reader reflect critically on different aspects of their doctoral work. Case studies and real-life examples of EdD student experiences are also included, providing valuable insights into some of the situations doctoral students are likely to encounter and the factors that need to be considered at different stages of the doctorate.

The authors bring a wealth of experience in leading Professional Doctorate programmes and doctoral supervision and examining. This book provides essential reading to help students understand what an EdD entails. Through providing helpful guidance which addresses many of the issues and concerns frequently raised by EdD students, this book is also a valuable resource for EdD programme leaders and supervisors.

Carol Robinson, Professor of Children’s Rights, Edge Hill University, UK.

We often use the metaphor of journeys in education, and doctoral study has been likened to a spiritual quest or voyage of discovery. For many, this will be a journey into the unknown, a journey without maps, and whilst there may be fellow travellers along the way, it is essentially a solo sojourn. Written by experienced supervisors of professional doctorate programmes in education (EdD), this edited collection is an essential guide for not only for those about to embark on a EdD but also those who have begun their studies.

This edited guide opens with a chapter designed to enable the reader to understand the distinctive nature of an EdD and how to select a programme to meet their individual needs. Subsequent chapters consider the essential components of a doctorate, such as writing the literature review; developing a theoretical framework; research design, methodological approaches and data collection methods; and data analysis. The guide also usefully includes chapters on research ethics, managing the supervisory relationship and how best to prepare for and perform at the viva. The final chapter, which focuses on what to do, and how you might feel post qualification, draws on the experiences of some of the authors. The chapter I return to most frequently is: 'Getting over the finish line' which provides constructive advice on bringing the various elements – chapters and sections – of the thesis together as a cohesive whole with the metaphorical 'golden thread'.

Each of the 10 chapters is written in an accessible style, with judicious use of call-out boxes and bulleted lists which break up the text; in some instances, posing reflective questions and exercises; and providing short case studies and suggested further reading. When research becomes 'curiouser and curiouser' and you become lost in a sea of texts, caught up in theoretical paradigm wars, dipping back into the guide will help you regain your focus and get you over the finish line.

Anthony Hudson, Doctoral Student, University of East London, UK.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Dr Sue Taylor is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and an Associate Professor of Doctoral Education at University

College London. As Director of the EdD programme in the Centre for Doctoral Education, she has facilitated a number of changes to the EdD and was involved in restructuring the programme to enhance both student experience and progression. She has been instrumental in removing barriers to postgraduate research as part of the widening participation agenda. She designed and developed a pre-doctoral training programme that paved the way for mature professionals to access the EdD.

Professor Mike Watts is Professor of Education at Brunel University London, conducting ‘naturalistic’ people-orientated research principally in science education and in scholarship in higher education. He enjoys exploring new technologies for learning and writing about creative pedagogical approaches to learning and teaching. He is the Director of Internationalisation for the Department of Education at Brunel, teaches at all levels and currently supervises 14 PhD students.

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FOREWORD

Gina Wisker

*Professor of Contemporary Literature and
Higher Education at the University of Brighton and
Director of Brighton's Centre for Learning and Teaching.*

Many books and articles guide us with the doctorate. However, few offer insights on the doctorate based in professional practice. One of the strengths of this book on Education Doctorates, as professional doctorates, is its accessibility of structure and direct address. Another is its insider knowledge, which is turned in each chapter to clarify the shape, expectations and practice of the EdD, demystifying its structures and taking readers step by step through the expectations and the ways of working with the literature review, theories, ethics, research design, data analysis and writing for completion and the examination. It also tackles the practices of working effectively with your supervisor and directions after the doctorate, a contribution Sue Taylor notes, of the supervision relationship, that 'As mature professionals in demanding professional roles, you need particular support and guidance along your EdD journey'. The time pressures and demands, the relationship between that professional practice and the demands of researching it, often as insiders, to make effective research-based change, all of this lies behind the book as a whole. This is an accessible, well considered, well structured, essential insider guide.