



Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from
The University of Sheffield

1	Programme Title	Applied Professional Studies in Education
2	Programme Code	EDUT201
3	JACS Code	X300
4	Level of Study	Postgraduate
5	Final Qualification	MA
6	Intermediate Qualification(s)	Not applicable
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Social Sciences
9	Home Department	School of Education
10	Other Department(s) involved in teaching the programme	None
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Distance Learning
12	Duration of the Programme	1 year
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
14	Date of production/revision	June 2003. revised March 2017

15. Background to the programme and subject area

The School of Education is internationally renowned for the excellence of its teaching and the high quality of its research and offers a range of courses for educational professionals which provide continuing professional development. The field of education is changing rapidly and there have been numerous initiatives in recent years which have had direct impact on teachers' professional concerns. This course enables students to respond flexibly to these developments by building on the School of Education's PGDE Programme, enabling students to follow a masters' programme of applied professional studies in which the focus of study can be selected in response to specific initiatives and policy changes.

16. Programme aims

The aims of the programme are to enable students to:

Pursue a course of study in education which will enable them to relate relevant research and advanced scholarship to current developments in their own professional contexts.

Have a critical focus on those educational issues which are pertinent to their professional needs and interests.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:

On completion of the MA in Applied Professional Studies in Education, a student will be able to demonstrate:

K1	A critical understanding of educational issues relevant to their chosen area of study within the subject field.
K2	A critical understanding of further educational issues relevant to their professional contexts, needs and interests.
K3	A critical understanding of current problems and/or new insights relevant to their chosen area of study within the subject field.
K4	Advanced knowledge and understanding in their chosen area of study within the subject field.

K5	A critical understanding of research methodologies, methods and techniques relevant to their field of study.
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Skills and other attributes:	
S1	An ability to evaluate critically research and advanced scholarship relevant to their chosen area of study within the subject field.
S2	An ability to write sustained, critical arguments.
S3	Originality in the application of knowledge.
S4	The ability to utilise a range of research skills in the completion of an independent, sustained study (including research design, use of appropriate methodology and data analysis).

18. Teaching, learning and assessment

Development of the programme learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

The teaching and learning methods used will include distance learning study materials and some face-to-face contact at weekend study schools. The following provides a full account of the possible teaching and learning modes students on this programme could encounter:

Distance Learning Study Materials: Material written for distance-learning programmes embodies questions and activities to promote critical reflection in the context of students' professional experience. Materials include multi-media resources. Materials also used to develop key transferable skills e.g. management of own learning.

Lectures: Used to develop students' engagement with key information, develop subject-specific knowledge and understanding, cognitive and analytical skills and stimulate critical reflection.

Student presentations: Used to develop a range of key transferable skills e.g. presentation skills. To develop other students' engagement with key information and subject-specific knowledge and understanding.

Tutorials: Used to respond to students' enquiries and provide feedback on coursework. To promote further reflection and analysis through discussion and questioning. To develop students' ability to reason effectively and communicate arguments and points of view clearly. Students may also arrange to come to Sheffield for tutorials when necessary. Students have one-to-one supervision throughout the course through the use of face-to-face tutorials, email and telephone contact.

The following table demonstrates how these methods relate to the learning outcomes:

	Distance-learning study materials	Lectures		Student presentations		Tutorials
K1	✓	✓		✓		✓
K2	✓	✓		✓		✓
K3	✓	✓		✓		✓
K4	✓	✓		✓		✓
K5	✓	✓		✓		✓
S1	✓	✓		✓		✓
S2						✓
S3				✓		✓
S4				✓		✓

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods related to the learning outcomes:

	Portfolio	Essays	Reports	Dissertation
K1				✓
K2				✓
K3				✓
K4				✓
K5				✓
S1				✓
S2				✓

S3				✓	
S4				✓	

19. Reference points

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

Subject Benchmark Statements

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2008)

http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2718#.WL_cY_LmPYA

University Strategic Plan

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/strategicplan>

Learning and Teaching Strategy (2016-21) <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/als/strategy>

School of Education Learning and Teaching Strategy

20. Programme structure and regulations

All students registered for the Masters programme EDUT201 will bring 120 Masters-Level credits from the University of Sheffield PGDE. As part of the MA APSE, they will undertake a research proposal (4000 words +/- 10%) and dissertation, (12,000-16,000 words) enabling them to research an area of interest in their own context, and to reflect critically on their work. Students will be allocated a personal tutor who will provide them with guidance on the focus of their study in order to ensure that professional development is relevant to their own professional context. Students exit with Masters on completion of 180 credits (including the 120 credits brought to the programme).

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/>

21. Student development over the course of study

In working towards the research proposal and dissertation, by attending Saturday schools and engaging in student presentations, by engaging in empirical educational research and by working both one-on-one with their supervisors and independently, the students are supported in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding which promote independent learning. In addition to the development of discipline-based knowledge and understanding, the course is also designed to develop a range of intellectual and transferable skills. The development of key skills builds on those developed during the PGDE and includes critical reading and writing skills, how to reflect critically, how to conduct a literature search and how to write assignments. These skills are extended to include research skills and a focus on writing a dissertation.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

Candidates should normally hold an Honours degree (or equivalent) and a University of Sheffield PGDE with 120 credits at Masters Level.

For students whose first language is not English, the School of Education requires an IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

Detailed information regarding admission to the programme is available in the University's On-Line Prospectus at www.shef.ac.uk/prospective/prospectus.html

23. Additional information

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at www.shef.ac.uk/ssid.