

International Studies in Education

AdCert, BPhil, PGCert, PGDip, MEd, MA Full and part time

Is this programme for you?

This programme is for people who are interested in taking an international and comparative perspective on educational issues. This includes teachers, headteachers/principals, education administrators, and those working with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international agencies that play a role in formal and non-formal education. It also includes those who would like to develop a career in these directions.



Programme aims

This programme will enable you to:

- Have a critical understanding of key debates surrounding education as an international issue
- Make analytical comparisons between educational issues in different contexts, including your own

Global social justice is a theme of all strands of this programme.

What does the programme offer?

Compulsory module

In order to gain a qualification in International Studies in Education, students take the following compulsory module in the autumn term:

Education as an International Issue encourages analysis of your own and other national contexts from an international and comparative perspective.

Participants develop an understanding of important theories and debates, such as: the relationship between education and national development; effects of globalisation; how ideology and culture influence education provision; models of education management. (Autumn term)

Optional modules

Additionally, they must choose a minimum of two modules from the following:

School Observation, Evaluation and Supervision develops comparative insights into the educational system in England through a series of visits to schools and colleges linked to related seminars and, in particular, how teaching and managing can be assessed, inspected and improved. (Autumn term)

Human Rights, Citizenship and the

Environment explores the nature and purposes of education for citizenship internationally. It looks at education as a human right and the teaching of human rights in schools as well as a range of key issues associated with education for democracy and education for sustainable development in institutions and classrooms. (Spring term)

Leadership for School Improvement focuses on the qualities and skills that will enable education professionals to play a more effective part – as members of management teams – in the leadership of their school or area of responsibility, and also examines the needs, demands and aspirations of the various stakeholders in schools; the culture in schools; the vision for the future development of schools; and planning and managing change. (Spring term)

Personal and Professional Skills for Education Management encourages the development of skills which all education professionals need, including time and stress management, assertiveness, and managing relationships with colleagues.

These are explored through personal reflection, and critiqued from comparative and gender perspectives. (Spring term)

Curriculum Design in Global Contexts

develops innovative ways to understand and design curriculum in response to changing circumstances in a globalising world, including the arts, internet, and media. Student assignments reflect personal experience and interests, for example health education, street children, prison education, SEN, environment, TEFL, and early childhood education. (Spring term)

Study and Awards

AdCert	3 Modules (Honours Level)
BPhil	4 Modules plus dissertation
PGCert	3 Modules (Masters Level)
PGDip	6 Modules
MEd/MA	6 Modules plus dissertation

How do you study?

Each module is taught in either term one or term two of the academic year. Teaching takes place during three-hour sessions, once per week per module. Teaching methods include seminars, small group discussions, and presentations by participants. Assessment is through written assignments (normally one major essay per module) and other means, and can be based on your interests. Dissertation topics are negotiated with supervisors and the research and writing process takes place over the whole year, but mainly during the summer months.

What are the entry requirements?

Standard University entry requirements apply.

How do you apply?

If you require an application form please contact the School of Education on 0121 414 4866 or at education@bham.ac.uk giving your name and address. An early application is advised as places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Learn more

For more information please contact:
Dr Michele Schweisfurth on 0121 414 4809
or email m.schweisfurth@bham.ac.uk