

**Doctor of Education (DCE49)**

**Pre-Application Form 2025-2026**

**Applicants should please note the following:**

* Before completing this form it is ***strongly advised*** to speak with the leader of the Area of Professional Focus (APF) you are applying for or the Chair or Deputy Chair of the programme.
* Complete all items on the Application Form including the **1,500-word** piece of academic writing (Section E) outlining your **draft research ideas or topic** you would like to focus on during your doctoral studies.
* Please save the signed form including the academic writing piece / research ideas as a PDF document and submit the PDF to [ioe-research-office@dcu.ie](mailto:ioe-research-office@dcu.ie) by **17 April 2025.**
* Successful applicants will be called for an **interview** to explore their suitability for a place on the programme. These will be organised at the Area of Professional Focus level.
* Applicants satisfying the interview panel will then be invited to make a **formal application** using **DCU’s Student Application Portal (SAP)**. Please note:
  + Copies of official transcripts of results, references and an application fee will be required at this point only.
  + Applicants should note that they must meet all SAP requirements before securing a place on the programme.
* **General information** for prospective Doctor of Education research students of DCU can be found at the following web page: <https://www.dcu.ie/courses/postgraduate/institute-education/doctor-education>
* *The data submitted to this form will only be accessible to staff involved in the selection process. This data will be deleted at the end of your studies.*

| **SECTION A. Applicant Personal Information** | | | | | | |
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| **Applicant Name:** |  | | | | | |
| **Applicant Address:** |  | | | | | |
| **Applicant Phone (mobile/ home):** |  | | | | | |
| **Applicant Email:** |  | | | | | |
| **Country of Birth:** |  | | | | | |
| **English Language Competency**  *If non-native English speaker, please tick to indicate whether you have/ have not the minimum competence in English Language, as specified in DCU regulations for non-native English speakers.*  [**https://www.dcu.ie/registry/english.shtml**](https://www.dcu.ie/registry/english.shtml) | *Please tick:*   * **YES** * **NO** | | | | | |
| **Date of Application Submission:** |  | | | | | |
| **Re-submission of Application:** | *Please tick:*   * **YES** * **NO** | | | | | |
| **SECTION B. Detail of Third Level Qualifications and Relevant Professional Experience** | | | | | | |
|  | **Undergraduate Degree** | | **Postgraduate Degree** | | **Other** | |
| **Title of Degree Award:** |  | |  | |  | |
| **Level/Class of Award (H1, H2.1, H2.2, H3, Pass):** |  | |  | |  | |
| **Name of Awarding Body & Institution Attended:** |  | |  | |  | |
| **Taught or Research programme:** |  | |  | |  | |
| **Period of Attendance:** |  | |  | |  | |
| **Date of Award:** |  | |  | |  | |
| **Main Subjects Studied:** |  | |  | |  | |
| **Details of Relevant Professional**  **Experience / position of responsibility related to your chosen Area of Professional Focus:** |  | | | | | |
| **Details of Research Training:**  *e.g. 35 hour module on qualitative and quantitative approaches and methods at level 9 for M. Ed or MSc. Thesis* |  | | | | | |
| **Details of research conducted to date:**  *e.g. a qualitative study on the impact of professional learning on teachers attitudes, beliefs and practices related to inclusion as part of M.Ed thesis requirement* |  | | | | | |
| **SECTION C. Area of Professional Focus (select up to three in order of preference)** | | | | | | |
| *Put an X in the relevant cell* | **Rank 1** | | | **Rank 2** | | **Rank 3** |
| **AI and Emerging Technologies in Education** |  | | |  | |  |
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| **Education for Sustainable Futures** |  | | |  | |  |
| **Inclusive and Special Education** |  | | |  | |  |
| **Leadership and Evaluation** |  | | |  | |  |
| **Professional Learning and Teacher Education** |  | | |  | |  |
| *Please note APFs require a minimum of* ***SIX*** *students to register for the option to be offered.* ***It is strongly advised you speak to the APF Lead(s) or Programme Chair*** [***alan.gorman@dcu.ie***](mailto:alan.gorman@dcu.ie) ***before ranking your choices here.*** | | | | | | |
| **SECTION D. Referees** | | | | | | |
| *Please provide the name and contact details of at least two people who can provide academic references* | | | | | | |
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| **SECTION E. Academic Writing / Research Ideas** |
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| **Please take this opportunity to share with us your current thinking in relation to your proposed research idea(s). This would typically include the following:**   * Title and brief description of the proposed research area including any relevant professional experience/ position held related to this area. * Given that the EdD focuses on research and practice with the aim of investigating a particular professional topic or existing problem, please outline the issue/question to be explored, a rationale for choosing this and the likely benefits that might accrue from it. You may want to draw on prior research of your own and the literature /policy context which has informed your thinking about this issue. * Proposed Research Methodology: Outline how you intend to explore the identified issue / question. This might include a research approach (e.g. case study, phenomenological study, action research), research methods (e.g. surveys, interviews, arts-based methods), participants (your sample), location or context (in which you will undertake the study) and ethical implications (consent, assent, confidentiality…). If your study is linked to your place of work do you have/ will you get permission to do it? * Reason for your choice(s) of Area of Professional Focus * Preliminary Bibliography * Maximum 1500 words in total excluding Bibliography. |
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| **SECTION F. Declaration** | |
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| **I certify that the information given in this document is correct.****Please submit the completed and signed application form to:** [**ioe-research-office@dcu.ie**](mailto:ioe-research-office@dcu.ie) | |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Applicant Signature** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Date** |