



# FAQ: Applying for Liverpool Hope's Professional Doctorates

(Doctor of Education; Doctor of Social Work; Doctor of Health and Social Care)

## Working and Commitment

### Can I take the course whilst working full-time?

Yes – virtually all our students are working, often full-time. This is why the taught phase of the course is offered part-time over intensive study weekends. You will need to devote a lot of time to independent study outside these weekends, but can decide your own arrangements for that. In the research phase, you will need to conduct your thesis project. At the heart of a Professional Doctorate is an interest in researching professional practice, which should help you to align your research with your everyday work.

### What is the time commitment?

There are five taught weekends per year, plus a day for our annual Conference. The weekends typically run from Friday lunchtimes through to the early evening, and then a full day on Saturday, finishing around 5pm. However, the Professional Doctorate is a very significant undertaking and you will be expected to do a lot of independent reading, thinking and writing outside of these scheduled sessions.

A more technical answer is that the modules in the taught phase add up to 180 M-Level credits. 1 credit equates to 10 hours of effort on the part of the student so there is an expectation that you will put in at least 1800 hours across the duration of the taught phase. This may be accrued via time in class on campus, individual tutorials, wider reading and work on your assessments. In the research phase, you will have monthly meetings with your supervisory team to support you in undertaking your independent thesis project. The thesis contributes 360 credits.

## Credit for Prior Learning

### Can credits I earned through another degree count towards my doctorate?

The University calls this Accredited Prior Certified Learning (APCL). It may be possible use previously earned credits, provided the course you studied before is very similar to ours, and you studied it recently. Please see our separate PRD APCL helpsheet for more about this.

## Writing the Application

### How should I write my Research Proposal?

A key element of your full application will be a 500-word outline of your proposed research. Your topic should align with research expertise in [The School of Education](#) or [The School of Social Sciences](#). This alignment will help us identify a potential supervisory team for you. As well as a topic you may wish to discuss your motivation for undertaking this research and a potential methodology. You should aim to include a short reference list with your research proposal that lists research sources which you have informed your proposal. If you do not submit a research proposal we will be unable to consider your application.

### How should I write my Personal Statement?

Another key element is your Personal Statement. This should also be 500 words. This should give a sense of why you want to study the EdD at Liverpool Hope, the attributes you would bring to the course, and what you hope your research might ultimately achieve. It is a good idea to align this statement with the skills, attributes and values mentioned in the Course Overview.

### What should my references contain?

You need to supply contact details for two referees, who should be able to provide a statement confirming your suitability for advanced academic study.

## Fees and Costs

### What fees and other costs are there?

Tuition fees are charged annually until you submit your thesis, using the University's [PRD rates](#). Liverpool Hope's are very competitive compared to similar programmes at other UK institutions. Our Library has very extensive collections and acquires new resources every year, but if you can afford it, it would be wise to anticipate investing in some books to support you in your studies.