



Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies

PhD Degree in Educational Psychology

ADMISSIONS GUIDE

September 2022

PHD CONCENTRATION OPTIONS

Learning, Development & Instructional Sciences
Special Education



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Doctoral Studies in Educational Psychology 2021

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Why Study Educational Psychology at the University of Victoria?

1. Small, intensive programs with close faculty contact.
2. An individually planned program culminating in a dissertation.
3. Excellent record of post-graduation employment.
4. Fellowships and scholarships are available.
5. Research and teaching assistantships are available.

Program Description

The doctoral program in educational psychology permits concentrations in both Special Education and in Learning and Development. Normally students are admitted every year depending on the quality of applications received and faculty availability.

Each student's program of studies is individually planned. It is expected that there will be considerable variation among students as a result of differences in academic background and experience, research interests and future professional goals. The program of studies requires that a broad knowledge of the field or fields of study be demonstrated through the successful completion of candidacy examinations. A major portion of the doctoral program is devoted to a research project culminating in a dissertation, which satisfies the requirements and standards of the Department of Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Typically, the doctoral program only takes applications to be considered for a September entry point. If you are interested in applying for a January entry point please contact the graduate program assistant at eplsgrad@uvic.ca or 250-721-7883, to obtain permission before you apply.

Program Requirements

The minimum total number of units required for the PhD program is 46.5 units. The program requires a minimum of 13.5 units of coursework, a candidacy examination (3.0 units), and a dissertation (minimum 30.0 units). Of the 13.5 units of coursework required, all students must take ED-D 660 (Doctoral Seminar in Contemporary Issues in Educational Psychology), and a minimum of 4.5 units of advanced statistics/research methodology.

A student may transfer a maximum of 3.0 units of graduate credits to his/her doctoral program if the course(s) was completed before entering the doctoral program and not used to obtain any degrees. Courses eligible for transfer must be relevant to the program of study and completed within five years of the date of application. The transfer must be approved by the student's supervisory committee and the graduate advisor for the program area.

A minimum residency of one year is required. During the residency year, students are expected to be committed **full time** to their studies. Normally, a student proceeding toward a doctoral degree will be required to complete all the requirements within seven years from the date of first registration in the program.

PhD students write candidacy examinations in research methodology and in their area of specialization (for example, learning and development) within educational psychology. The format normally consists of two written papers followed by an oral examination. In the oral examination, the candidate will be examined on both research methodology and his/her area of specialization.

A degree will not be awarded in less than 24 consecutive months from the time of first registration. Students are required to register in every term from the time of admission until the requirements of the degree have been met, or formally withdraw in accordance with regulations set out in the University of Victoria's academic calendar.

Educational Psychology Faculty

Wanda Boyer, PhD (Southern Mississippi)

Early childhood: learning and development and elementary education, self-regulated learning, play therapy, special education, family development, research designs, research ethics.

Allyson Hadwin, PhD (Simon Fraser)

Instructional psychology, learning/educational technologies, self-regulated learning, computer-supported collaborative learning, learning strategies, learning sciences.

Gina Harrison, PhD (British Columbia) R.Psych.

Cognitive and linguistic processes involved in processing written language, specific learning difficulties (especially developmental dyslexia), assessment in special education, school psychology.

Joan M. Martin, PhD (Notre Dame)

Child and adolescent development, achievement motivation, emotion and cognition, developmental psychopathology.

Donna McGhie-Richmond, PhD (OISE, Tor)

Inclusive education, teacher beliefs and practices in inclusive classrooms, teacher education, teaching online, instructional and universal design for learning, assistive and learning technologies.

Jillian Roberts, PhD (Calgary) R. Psych.

Medically fragile school children, concepts of quality of life, psychology of the individual, program planning, ethics and qualitative research methodology.

John C. Walsh, PhD (Simon Fraser) R.Psych.

Cognition and motivation, quantitative methods, multivariate techniques; school psychology, assessment of children with learning problem.

Financial Assistance

Fellowships and scholarships

- The University of Victoria awards a limited number of Graduate Fellowships for full-time study. No duties are involved. The awards are competitive and are based on academic standing. All students admitted to the program and assessed with a 7.0 or higher GPA will be considered. As a PhD student you are eligible for 3 years of funding and may be considered for a fourth, depending on your progress in the program.
- A small number of donor scholarships and awards are available to EPLS students in late August/ early September. The graduate secretary will notify all students when and how to apply.
- Students with strong GPAs are encouraged to apply for SSHRC fellowships early in the fall semester. These awards are competitive and compare students on three main criteria: academic excellence, research potential, and communication skills. Students should consult with their supervisor to discuss application procedures. For more information about these awards see: www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
- Please visit the University of Victoria's Financial Aid page for information on bursaries, student loans, awards, etc: www.uvic.ca/registrar/safa
- International students can find additional funding opportunities on the UVic International website: www.uvic.ca/international/inbound-students/funding

Paid research assistantships

- Paid research assistantships are available with individual faculty in the department. These assistantships are usually supported through grant funding. They are available to a limited number of qualified students. Students interested in research assistantships should contact faculty members directly.

Paid teaching assistantships

- Paid teaching assistantships (TA) are available within the department of Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies to a limited number of qualified students. The number of teaching assistantships varies yearly. All available TA positions are emailed to student and posted on the departmental website. If you are interested in the TA position, you would apply as outlined.

Work study program

- The Work Study Program is funded by the University of Victoria Student Awards and Financial Aid department. The objective of the program is to provide additional financial assistance through on-campus part-time employment opportunities for students with documented financial need. The Work Study Program runs from September to April of each academic year. Students may only hold one work study position at one time. Additional information is available online at: www.uvic.ca/registrar/safa/work-study

Co-operative education and work placements

- It is possible for graduate students to combine their graduate studies with co-op education in which they apply knowledge and skills in paid work placements across Canada. This usually involves extending program completion by two semesters. For more information please contact: spaco@uvic.ca

Requirements for Admission

1. **Graduate Record Exam (GRE)***

Applicants must submit scores (no greater than 5 years old). No specific cut-off scores are used to determine entrance. **No application will be adjudicated until scores has been received.**

2. **Completion of a master's degree with thesis in a field related to educational psychology from a recognized university**

Applicants must submit a copy of the applicant's master's thesis.

3. **Required prerequisite courses**

Candidates must have completed graduate level courses in (1) statistical methods and (2) research methods.

4. **Statement of research experience and interests** (not to exceed 3 pages, double spaced, in length)

Applicants are asked to address the following issues/questions:

- (i) A description of previous research and work experience related to your area of doctoral study
- (ii) A description of past and present research interests in educational psychology
- (iii) A statement describing your intended research area during your doctoral studies
- (iv) Name two Faculty members with whom you might like to work. For each, provide a brief explanation about how your research interests connect with the faculty members.

5. **A letter of intent** (not to exceed 5 pages, double spaced, in length)

Applicants are asked to address the following issues/questions:

- (i) Discuss your reasons for pursuing doctoral studies in educational psychology.
- (ii) How might enrollment in an educational psychology doctoral program at the University of Victoria help you meet your immediate and long-term professional goals?
- (iii) What are your strengths and weaknesses as a learner? In addition, please provide any other relevant information that you think would help the admissions committee to know about you as a person and a potential educational psychologist.

6. **A current curriculum vitae**

7. **Assessment reports (3)**

Each applicant is required to submit three confidential assessment reports from persons who are in positions to comment on the candidate's abilities and performance. One must be from the student's Master's thesis supervisor and at least one other should be from a professor from whom you have taken a graduate-level course. It is not acceptable to have an assessment report completed by a coworker or friend. The names and email addresses of your chosen assessors are required when you submit your application. It is important that you contact your referees prior to providing them here in order to confirm their willingness to provide you with an assessment. A letter of reference may also be supplied as part of the assessment report. UVic will send assessment form information directly to your referees upon submission of your application.

Completed assessment reports will be collected electronically alongside your application information. For more information on these reports visit:

www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/admissions/admissions/beforeapplying/documents

8. **English language requirement** (for applicants whose first language is not English only)

Applicants whose first language is not English, and who have not resided in a designated English-speaking country for three years immediately prior to the entry-point applied for, must provide proof of English Language proficiency. Only TOEFL, IELTS or MELAB tests are accepted. Official test score reports must be sent directly to the University of Victoria by the testing agency. Scores older than two years are not acceptable. Applicants holding a recognized degree from a designated English-speaking country are exempted from the Language proficiency requirements. Visit the following website for details and required scores: www.uvic.ca/education/psychology/student-resources/english-proficiency

Application Deadline

February 1st, 2022

Application Assistance

- **Applicants are encouraged to begin the application process early**, as there is often a delay in obtaining the necessary supporting documents (e.g., references, GRE scores). Graduate Admissions is particularly busy and it is advisable to have all supporting documents in as early as possible to avoid a processing delay.
- **Make sure you are aware of all the program requirements.**
- **All required documents should be uploaded with your application.** Please see the submission instructions and supporting documents here: www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/admissions/admissions/beforeapplying/documents
- **Submit your application online:** www.uvic.ca/application. Fill out the application clearly and completely. You must include information for all post-secondary institutions at which you registered for courses. Failure to disclose may result in having your admission and registration cancelled.
- **Include the application fee with your application** - you must pay online with a credit card.
- **Use the Application Checklist** below to ensure the proper documents are sent to the proper place. Failure to do so may result in an incomplete application and may jeopardize the application.
- Your file will not be evaluated until all required documents are received.

For assistance with the department admissions policy and procedure contact:
Graduate Program Assistant, eplsgrad@uvic.ca or 250-721-7883

For assistance with the Graduate Admissions policy and procedures contact:
GARO Adviser, grad7@uvic.ca or 250-721-7974

Application Checklist for PhD Program

Apply and upload required documents (PDF format) online at: www.uvic.ca/application by the deadline indicated above for term of entry

- Submit an online application and pay the application fee
- Upload the following documents with your application**
- Personal Statement
- Research Statement
- Curriculum Vitae
- Thesis
- Unofficial transcripts
- Unofficial GRE Scores
- Unofficial English Language Scores
- For applicants who are re-applying: A letter stating actions taken to strengthen the new application

Due 2 weeks after application deadline: Results must be received directly from testing body.

- Official GRE Scores
- For International Applicants only: Official English Language Proficiency

Due 2 weeks after application deadline: Submitted directly to UVic by your referees.

- Assessment Report #1
- Assessment Report #2
- Assessment Report #3

If offered admission to the program, mail final transcript(s) to Graduate Admissions and Records:

Graduate Admissions and Records
University of Victoria
PO Box 3025 STN CSC
Victoria BC V8W 3P2 Canada

- Copy of your official transcript(s)

NOTE: You do not need to mail in official transcripts for courses taken at UVic

Graduate Program Contacts

Graduate Advisor: Dr. Donna McGhie-Richmond	Email: edpsadv@uvic.ca Office: MacLaurin A427 Phone: 250-721-7817
Graduate Program Assistant: Kerstin Burnett	Email: eplsgrad@uvic.ca Office: MacLaurin A439 Phone: 250- 721-7883 Fax: 250 -721-6190 Website: www.uvic.ca/education/psychology
Department Address:	Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies University of Victoria PO Box 100 STN CSC Victoria, BC V8W 3N4 Canada
Department Courier Address:	Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies University of Victoria MacLaurin Building, Room A439 3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria BC V8P 5C2 Canada
Graduate Admissions & Records Advisor: Maria Soriano or Jeremy Bubiak	Email: grad7@uvic.ca Phone: 250-721-7974 Fax: 250-472-5420 Website: web.uvic.ca/gradstudies
Graduate Admissions & Records Address:	Graduate Admission and Records University of Victoria PO Box 3025 STN CSC Victoria, BC V8W 3P2 Canada
Graduate Admissions & Records Courier Address:	Graduate Admissions and Records University of Victoria University Centre A206 3800 Finnerty Road (Ring Road) Victoria, BC V8P 5C2 Canada