

Guidance on Outline Research Proposals for Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) PGRs
(maximum of 2,000 words excluding references)

General

Outline research proposals submitted to should be approximately 2,000 words long. However, it is acceptable for the reference section to go beyond this. It is likely that you will complete the outline proposal with some guidance from a member of the department's academic staff with an interest in the area of research in question. To be put in touch with a relevant member of staff, please contact the EdD leader, Professor Carol Robinson at carol.robinson@edgehill.a.uk

The brief proposal should then outline your proposed research, it may differ from the structure below but should include all of the following components.

The project title and applicant's name should appear at the top of Page 1.

Abstract

No more than 200 words – to provide an overview of the research proposal.

Introduction (background for research and your positioning)

Why do you want to do this research? Why is it important in your chosen setting(s) at this time? How does it relate to your professional practice? What is the background to the issue of your proposed research (i.e. what problem are you addressing?). Is the proposed research part of any larger issues?

Aims and Research Questions

To include aim(s) of the research. Why is this research important? What do you hope to achieve? What are the key question(s) to be addressed by the research? You may want to comment on the limitations relating to your aims.

Literature Review

This should contain brief coverage of the relevant literature, such as would be found in a standard journal article i.e., what research has already been conducted in the area? How is it relevant to the proposed project? This section should demonstrate an awareness of the breadth of literature in relation to your research question, the major lines of argument in the field, and an awareness of relevant policy documents.

Theoretical Framework:

Outline any key theoretical approaches or theorists that you intend to draw on and explain their relevance for your study.

Research Design and Methodology:

This section should comprise sub-sections on how the research will be conducted, with whom, why your chosen approach, and an outline of possible ethical considerations.

Overview and design. Include brief details of: how the research will be conducted. Will it be empirical, quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods? Why are you going to adopt this approach?

Application proposal guidance

How does your chosen approach fit your aims and research questions?

Participants. If relevant, provide of who the participants will be, how many will be recruited, how they will be recruited and why.

Resources/Materials/Apparatus needed. The type and level of detail reported here should be consistent with that which would be reported in journal articles.

Analytic Strategy. For qualitative studies, appropriate details of the procedures for analysis should be given. For quantitative studies, some coverage of statistical power considerations in relation to the target sample size should be given. Other details should include the plans to use such procedures as ANOVA, regression analysis, etc.

Ethical Considerations. All research within the Faculty of Education must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Ethics of Edge Hill University and BERA guidelines should also be consulted. Any particular issues likely to arise from the proposed research should be mentioned at this point.

Contribution to knowledge within your professional field.

If you have not already done so, you should sum up by explaining how the work will make an original contribution to knowledge within your professional field practice, as is required for the award of an EdD.

Overall length should not exceed 2,000 words

References

A reference list (not a bibliography) should be provided in Harvard format for all citations made within the outline proposal in question.