

Doctor of Education (EdD)

Information Sheet

Overview

Turn your practice into a doctorate. AUT's Doctor of Education (format three) lets you lead original research by creating a substantial creative or practice-based artefact with a companion exegesis that makes your thinking and methods explicit. This pathway recognises that powerful knowledge in education is made in studios, classrooms and communities. Your artefact can embody insight, spark reflection and open new ways of understanding practice. The degree is of equivalent standard to a PhD.

Delivery and structure

Delivered part-time in a cohort model, the first two years provide structured preparation for independent work. In this phase you will undertake coursework in research methodologies and ethics, complete a small-scale practice-led study and submit a full application for admission to the remainder of the degree.

What this involves

Students select a research topic of educational significance and develop it through two interlinked components:

- Creative/practice-oriented artefact – a substantial, original work that is central to the research. The artefact must be a rigorous expression of creative inquiry, informed by theory, research literature and a clear methodological framework. It should be of a standard suitable for professional or public presentation.
- Exegesis – a critical, contextualised written work (typically 40,000–50,000 words) that explains the research process, situates the artefact within relevant educational literature, articulates the conceptual and theoretical foundations, and discusses the contribution to knowledge and practice. The exegesis demonstrates how the creative work embodies and advances the research.

The artefact and exegesis together are examined as an integrated whole, with each component demonstrating originality, coherence and intellectual significance.

Examples of creative artefacts in education

Innovative curriculum or pedagogical design – e.g. a new curriculum, teaching programme or digital learning environment piloted and evaluated.

Multimedia educational resource – film, documentary or interactive media created to support or communicate learning.

Performance-based project – theatre, dance or music exploring learning processes, identity or social issues.

Culturally situated creative practice – a project developed with and for a specific community, such as bilingual storytelling, participatory art or dance, or a digital archive, embodying cultural knowledge and educational insights.

Creative writing for education – children’s stories, scripts or a novel addressing literacy, culture or inclusion.

Professional development toolkit – a structured programme, workshop series or online course for educators.

Mobile or digital learning app – co-designed with learners to address a specific educational challenge.

Performance-based project – theatre, dance, music, or movement works created to investigate learning processes, teacher identity, or social and cultural issues in education.

Virtual or augmented reality environment – immersive experience teaching history, science, or cultural understanding.

Community-based exhibition or installation – collaborative project with learners or communities embodying research insights.

Graphic novel, comic or illustrated resource – presenting complex educational themes in accessible ways.

Podcast or oral history series – amplifying diverse voices on education, identity or reform.

Suitability

The programme welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds — educators, leaders, curators, artists, and practitioners across schools, communities, health, the arts and public life — who are engaged in education and pedagogy in its broadest sense. It is especially suited to those interested in exploring arts-based, innovative, Indigenous or other culture-based approaches to knowledge creation. Applicants are expected to have an established background in the practice they wish to develop as research.

If you are interested in the Doctor of Education degree

Initially, please contact Associate Professor Neil Boland (neil.boland@aut.ac.nz) to discuss your proposed area of research interest.