COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Education Studies (DL)

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	MA Education Studies
Final Award	MA
Exit Awards	PGCert, PGDip
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2587FTD
Mode of study	Full Time
Mode of delivery	Distance Learning
Normal length of course	1-year FT
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	from September 2026 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Education, Languages and Linguistics
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	SELL
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ma-education-studies*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*None*
Office for Students Conditions of Registration	*https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/registering-with-the-ofs/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/conditions-of-registration/*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*Level 7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.
This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- This programme aims to develop students so that they are able to enhance and develop their understanding and where applicable, their own practice in relation to education and childhood studies. Additionally, it will enable students if they are employed to contribute substantially to improving practice and raising achievement.
  Specifically, it aims to:
- Develop and improve individual knowledge and understanding of professional practice for practitioners and others working with or having an interest in children and young people following on from initial training opportunities or equivalent.
- Offer an opportunity for reflection, enquiry and evaluation of pedagogy so that individual understanding, perception and ways of dealing with issues about learning and teaching in the relevant educational strand are developed and changed constructively.
- Enhance the experience of the learners being taught.
- Demonstrate a current awareness and understanding of a range of issues and challenges facing the education sector at local, national and global level and be able to provide coherent and constructive responses at an organisational and/or subject level to such issues.
- Use both systematic and in-depth enquiry and critical analysis to identify, justify and advocate changes in education studies.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

Office for Students Conditions of Registration

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
A1	Current theories in education studies relating to enabling learning, teaching and assessment generically and in the relevant subject area taking into account level of study and characteristics of the course member group. (ES 5.1 - 3)	*lectures, seminars, group work, use of directed resources on VLE.*	*Written artefacts such as essays and oral Presentations,*
A2	Pedagogical considerations across the specific strand. (ES 5.1 - 3)	*lectures, seminars, group work, use of directed resources on VLE.*	*Written artefacts such as essays*
A3	Up to date learning technologies appropriate to the context. (ES 5.4)	*Use of VLE*	*Online submission and feedback*
A4	A full range of methods of educational enquiry and methods for reflecting upon, enquiring into and evaluating personal understanding. (ES 5.4).	*Seminar and online discussions, use of reflective journals.*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposals*
A5	The local, national and global context of education including curricula issues, funding, widening participation and inclusion, and quality assurance. (ES 5.3)	*lectures, seminars, group work, use of directed resources on VLE.*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposals*

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
B1	Analyse and explain with reference to models above complex and uncertain situations.	*lectures, seminars, group work, use of directed resources on VLE.*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposals*
B2	Synthesise, analyse and interpret information from a variety of sources.	*lectures, seminars, group work, use of directed resources on VLE.*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposals*
B3	Retrieve information, including the ability to gather, integrate and organise material critically and evaluate its significance within appropriate intellectual frameworks	*lectures, seminars, group work, use of directed resources on VLE.*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposals*
B4	Make recommendations based on evidence for improved practice and justify and advocate improved practice and change based on in-depth enquiry.	*lectures, seminars, group work, use of directed resources on VLE.*	*Dissertation*
B5	Apply professional ethics to their own practice and research.	*lectures, seminars, group work, use of directed resources on VLE.*	*Research proposal, dissertation*

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	Reflect on the impact of individual professional practice against the requirements of the organisation in which course members work and the relevant professional body. (ES 5.6)	*Group activities, 1:1 tutorial*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposal*
C2	Demonstrate adherence to a range of professional values. (ES 5.6)	*Group activities, 1:1 tutorial*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposals*
C3	Generate coherent research proposals which take into account the current issues in social science research. (ES 5.6)	*Lectures, seminars*	*Research proposal*
C4	Provide coherent and constructive responses to a range of issues and challenges facing the Education sector at a local and national level. (ES 5.6)	*Lectures, seminars, use of VLE*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposals*
C5	Demonstrate academic leadership in subject specific pedagogy. (ES 5.6)	*Dissertation supervision*	*Dissertation*

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
D1	Select and effectively use a range of strategies and resources to explore problems. Research different options and formulate viable proposals for managing the work and resolving problems.	*Tutorials, seminars.*	*Written artefacts such as essays, oral presentations, article critiques, research proposals*
D2	Interpret results and identify evidence to support conclusions.	*Lectures, seminars, discussions.*	*Research proposal*
D3	Assess effectiveness of strategy, including factors that had an impact on outcomes.	*Lectures, seminars, Dissertation supervision*	*Article critique, dissertation*
D4	Take a leading role in managing an activity in ways that help self and others to be effective and efficient in meeting responsibilities.	*Lectures, seminars, Dissertation supervision*	*Article critique, dissertation*
D5	Negotiate and develop effective ways of presenting outcomes from work, agreeing refinement with others involved.	*Seminar activities*	*Dissertation*

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course. Approved course exemptions can be found here.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides Academic skills sessions linked to core modules for students new to HE /International students.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum
- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement: Education Studies
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

Copyright

The contents of this Course Specification are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

Document Details	
CSD Template date	*July 2025*
Author	*Ann Emerson*
Date of production and version number	*January 2025 V1*
Date of update and version number	*03/11/2025 v1.1*
Minimum student registration numbers	