

EDUCATION STUDIES

BA Single Honours
BA/BSc Combined Honours





Caroline Snookes recently graduated in Education Studies with Early Childhood Studies.

“I did a module mentoring a child within the care system in Oxford. It was brilliant – the practical link, actually working with the child and not just basing everything on theory – I think that’s fantastic! I got support from an Educational Psychologist from Oxfordshire who also has links to social services and the teachers at the schools. This module was really exciting for me because it felt like I was making a bit of a difference already. It was the highlight of my degree.

Brookes has got very good links with local schools and other organisations, and there are a lot of placement-based modules that you can choose to do. Brookes also has links to the local community and we have a module about professional roles where every week somebody from the local community comes to talk to us about what their role involves and about their career progression. It’s really useful as it helps us to understand how things relate to the real world. To actually talk to the people that are out there doing it, who are in that situation that you might be facing in a couple of years, is really valuable.”

For more student profiles visit www.education.brookes.ac.uk

WHY STUDY EDUCATION STUDIES?



In today's fast-changing world, education plays a pivotal role. This degree has been designed to address contemporary issues in the field of education. It aims to provide you with a broad and balanced knowledge and understanding of the principal features of education in a wide range of contexts. It will also encourage you to engage with fundamental questions concerning the aims and values of education and its relationship to societies.

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WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?



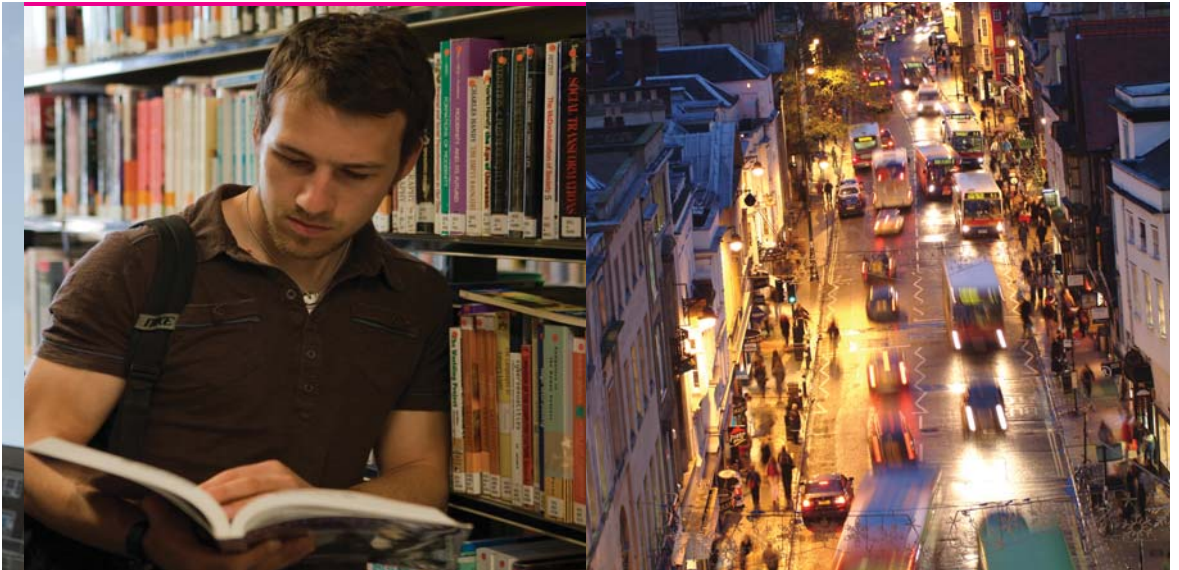
Oxford Brookes is one of the largest and most successful providers of education degrees in the country located in one of the world's premier academic communities.

Distinctive features

- You will participate in current debates relevant to education
- The chance to develop your knowledge further in areas of particular interest
- Choice of single or combined honours
- Staff with considerable experience of teaching in diverse educational institutions
- Cross-national perspectives on education
- Explore education for sustainability and e-pedagogy.

Established reputation

Based on Harcourt Hill Campus, the School of Education at Oxford Brookes University is one of the country's largest and most successful schools of education, in one of the world's premier academic communities. Over 70% of our research activity in education was judged to be internationally recognised in the recent Research Assessment Exercise, reflecting the international excellence of staff research.



Support

Throughout your time at Brookes you will receive excellent support from our dedicated staff, both academically and personally. From academic advisors and student support co-ordinators to specialist subject librarians and other learning support staff, we will support you to ensure that you get the best out of your studies.

Resources

With over 100,000 books, DVDs, CDs and children's resources, a vast range of databases, e-journals and reference materials (plus quiet study space, areas for group work and a group study room with interactive whiteboard), Harcourt Hill Library provides all the resources you need for your study of Education Studies. We have two dedicated Education Librarians who are on hand to answer Education Studies enquiries, teach you information skills and guide you around the electronic resources on offer. The Library also offers regular training sessions on accessing and making the best use of key resources in your specific subject area.



Brookes has enriched my life in many ways. I shall be leaving with some great friends who have been studying alongside me since day one. We have supported each other through group work, late deadlines and very late nights!

Jodie Brown, Education Studies and Early Childhood Studies

TEACHING AND LEARNING



You will be taught on the Harcourt Hill Campus by staff who are experienced practitioners as well as published researchers.

As you might expect, tutors in Education Studies are well-versed in what constitutes good practice in teaching and learning, and seek to apply a range of styles and approaches in their lectures and classes. You will benefit from this reflective and personal approach not only in classes, but through contact with the members of the team who act as Academic Advisers, guiding your study, and also in the relationship you will build with tutors supervising dissertations and the optional independent study module.

Structure

This course follows a modular programme. In your first year you will study core modules that give you a solid grounding in the subject. In your second and third years you will develop your own interests and begin researching particular topics.

This system enables students to study full-time or part-time, giving mature students the flexibility they need to combine work or family commitments.

The education modules focus on issues such as language acquisition, international education, eco-education, e-pedagogy, education and the media, concepts of ability and differences, specifically looking at issues of diversity and inclusion.



The modular nature of the programme has allowed me to tailor the course towards my own personal interests.

Dawn Yardley, Education Studies with English Language and Communications



Placement learning

It is important that you have the opportunity to experience different learning contexts so the course provides you with several opportunities to undertake visits or short placements.

In **Year 1** (Level Four) you will have the opportunity to carry out observations of children in an early years or primary setting in the compulsory module, Introduction to Child Development.

In **Year 2** (Level Five) you have two options for short placements or visits: Classroom Cultures involves study of a school/bilingual learning context, and Community Resources for Learning involves comparing, contrasting and evaluating the aims and approaches taken in two different contexts such as a museum, non-institutional learning centre, or community/arts/cultural project.

In your **final year** (Level Six) Inclusion:

Diverse Perspectives will provide you with an opportunity to explore the ways in which various groups that have traditionally been excluded from education can be included. You will undertake a case study during a placement to develop a critical awareness of inclusion issues and how a particular school is addressing those issues.

Study abroad

There are opportunities for students to go on international exchanges through the Oxford Brookes Scheme Study Abroad and Exchange Schemes. In addition the School of Education is developing links with The University of Stavanger in Norway and has a well established link with schools and settings in The Gambia.



Samantha Winter, Education Studies combined with Religion and Theology

“I chose to study the Education Studies course because I am interested in how the education system works and I have a desire to work in the community and for organisations that run alongside schools. I chose the Religion and Theology course because being a Christian, I wanted to understand God, Christianity and other religions at a deeper level.

I like the freedom that is given in assessment for many of the modules – we are able to research and discuss the things we are passionate about, the things which interest us. In addition, I like the variety of modules offered and the range of teaching given in each module. Since starting the course I have already begun to notice that I am much more willing to go and find information about topics that interest me.

I love the closeness and community at the School of Education and how easy it is to get on with everyone; the lecturers are very friendly and approachable. I have also fallen in love with the Harcourt Hill campus, when I came here on an open day I knew I didn't want to go anywhere else.”

For more student profiles visit www.education.brookes.ac.uk

RESEARCH AND EXPERTISE



In the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), over 70% of research activity in education was judged to be internationally excellent, so you'll be learning from leading experts in the field.

Research and in-house expertise

Over 70% of our research activity in education was judged to be internationally recognised in the recent Research Assessment Exercise, reflecting the international excellence of staff research. Research by Education Studies tutors is wide-ranging, from looking at how secondary schools have responded, to student protest through historical approaches to the teaching of Citizenship, to how professionals work together to support vulnerable children and children with special educational needs. The course team also have considerable experience of teaching in a diverse range of educational institutions.

Will I be involved?

We value research highly and actively encourage you to become a researcher in your own right across a range of modules and leading up to your own dissertation in your final year. There are regular seminars where you can join local professionals and practitioners in sharing examples of current educational initiative and research. By designing and undertaking your own research you will develop excellent analytical and independent study skills, adding weight to your CV.

70%
of our research
is internationally
recognised

RAE 2008

A CAREER IN EDUCATION STUDIES



An Education Studies degree at Oxford Brookes will develop the critical thinking and analytical skills that employers demand, and offers excellent preparation for careers in the public or private sector.

While we are not training you to be a teacher, many students will consider entering teaching after university, and we ensure that there is appropriate guidance on routes into teaching and other education-focused work.

The programme also prepares you for a variety of jobs in the public sector, and in private and voluntary sector employment, by working with you on the key attributes we know employers look for: clear thinking, good communication and IT skills, an understanding of your strengths and how you can contribute positively to society. Professions within a specialist education sector now include advertising, marketing, the arts, journalism, law, publishing and the media, together with the charity and leisure industries.

Previous graduates from the course have gone on to have successful careers in many different fields including childcare, social work, community education, adult education, educational psychology, recruitment, retail and management.

Further study

Your undergraduate degree can also lead to further study of Education, at master's and research degree level and may also provide the basis to progress to professional courses in other areas such as educational psychology, social work, librarianship or human resources.

MODULES



YEAR 1

Constructions of Childhood introduces the ideas of childhood as a contested terrain of differing social and cultural conceptions and the way in which these have changed over time and place. It focuses on the contexts within which childhood is experienced and draws on sociological, historical and cross-cultural perspectives to examine both the impact of these contexts on childhood and the role of children as active agents in society.

Education in a World of Change:

Policy and Provision introduces you to the central aspects of educational policy in England. This will include how education has been altered due to its links to the economy, culture, technology and politics. You will study just how different an education in the 21st century is, when compared to one in the late 19th century.

Introduction to Child Development

examines understandings of notions of development and the ways in which developmental issues both underpin and impact upon children's learning.

Exploring Learning investigates the ways in which human beings learn. You will explore different learning approaches, strategies and styles. You will then examine these frameworks against yourself and discover how you learn.

Other modules include:

- [Understanding Language](#)
- [Understanding Media](#)
- [Early Years: the UK Context](#)
- [Families, Culture and Context.](#)

YEAR 2

Classroom Cultures deconstructs the notion of 'multicultural' in the context of global and mobile communities of the 21st century. It specifically focuses on 'multicultural' within educational contexts: how this term is understood by schools, teachers, and policymakers, and what it means in practice for the child and the teacher. The challenges that face bilingual learners and their teachers are deconstructed and explored, as well as the interface between language and culture, and the differing languages/cultures of school, home and community.



Community Resources for Learning seeks to explore questions about the nature of knowledge and how this is represented in learning and curriculum. This will be explored through the wider context of the community – as an expansion of the more formal learning environments of early years settings, schools, colleges and universities.


Cross-National Perspectives on Education will explore to what extent previously separate educational traditions and systems are becoming comparable in an increasingly interdependent world. Generic themes will be considered cross-nationally, such as approaches to citizenship, learner autonomy and curriculum. You will be encouraged to explore the social, cultural and historical influences that shape these approaches, and to examine assumptions about your own and other educational systems.

Education for Sustainability offers the opportunity to develop your understanding and appreciation of the national and global promotion of education for sustainability in schooling and higher education, as well as through non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Educational Inequalities: Schooling and Youth investigates the relationship between formal education processes and outcomes and wider social processes and structures. It considers contesting visions of equality in educational debates, and how these are manifested in policy. It will examine the relationships among identity, school and wider cultures, the subjectivities of learners, and consequent experiences of education.

From Education to Work looks at the 14-19 curriculum and higher education, focusing on the transition from school to work. It explores the intended and unintended consequences of past and current policies.

Inclusion: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities explores the issues and challenges around inclusive provision for children and young people with special educational needs/disabilities. It analyses notions of discrimination and challenges you to think about your own attitudes and beliefs.



Psychology of Learning explores how people learn and why they often fail to learn. Perspectives from social, cognitive and developmental psychology will be examined to explore learning across the lifespan in both formal and informal learning contexts. The impact on the learning process of individual factors and contextual factors will be evaluated.

Research Methods in Childhood and Education introduces you to various research tools (interviewing, observation, questionnaires, etc) and appropriate data analysis. It equips you with the skills necessary to undertake a final year dissertation.

The Social World of Childhood involves a consideration of the implications of different models of socialisation and an examination of structural, cultural and experiential factors in the development of child identity. A strong feature of the module is its use of life and oral history approaches to the study of childhood.

Children and the Media explores the way in which children interact with different forms of media, such as television, video games, computers, mobile and imaging technology. Literature for Young Children aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of the range of texts available for young children. You will develop skills in selecting texts which support language development with particular focus on phonological awareness and reading development.

New Media and Youth Identities investigates issues in digital media use and identity among young people in a range of individual, social and institutional contexts. You will consider how new forms and practices such as mobile phones and SMS, gaming and social networking sites offer new ways of expressing and communicating selfhood, and are shifting perceptions of private and public identity.

Outdoor Learning will explore how young children use play to learn and how adults plan for exploration and play in the outdoors environment.

Writing Technologies examines the impact of the technology of writing on individuals and society. Over the course of the module you will consider the philosophical, historical, cultural and political importance of different writing technologies and modes of written communication, such as handwriting, print, type, text and hypertext.

Spirituality and Children explores the phenomenon of children's spiritual development in its practical, historical and comparative dimensions, looking at major world religions, new age and secular developments.

YEAR 3

Controversial Issues in Education will follow up key issues introduced in previous modules and enable you to explore and debate these in some depth, through group discussion and extended individual research.

Critical Discourse in Education studies the public policy context of education by examining the debates surrounding education policy and practice in the UK and internationally from a discourse perspective.

Education in International Development studies the place of education in international development programmes, and explores the impact of economic development, foreign aid and international relations on educational opportunity. Development education policy and practice is located within this discussion through the examination of educational case studies from actual development projects around the world.



e-Pedagogy for the Future investigates the variety of uses of information and communication technology (ICT) in the learning process and enables students critically to evaluate different approaches to e-learning. It examines the part that ICT can play in creating powerful learning environments to enable distributed cognition, engagement in learning, communication and the development of community, and knowledge building.

Inclusion: Diverse Perspectives outlines a range of perspectives on inclusive education and provides you with an opportunity to explore the ways in which various groups traditionally excluded from education can be included. We will look at the experiences of children who are marginalised or excluded and focus on the impact on the child. We will also explore and critique a range of national and international models and practice relating to inclusion.

Learning through Social Interaction

will examine the social and intellectual outcomes of learning in groups. It examines the importance of group-based learning across the educational spectrum and offers a fresh perspective on a topic that has gained increasing interest worldwide. It links the theories that underpin the study of group dynamics to their practical application in the classroom and explores whether group-based learning experiences can promote socialisation and friendships while facilitating learning.

Dissertation: an in-depth study (under the supervision of an academic tutor) of a chosen problem related to education.

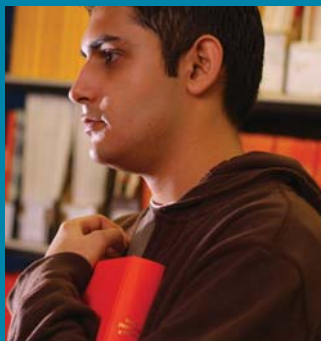
KEY FACTS

TEACHING LOCATION

Harcourt Hill Campus

ACADEMIC FACULTY

Faculty of Humanities
and Social Sciences



DURATION

Full-time:

3 years

Part-time:

Up to 6 years

HOW TO APPLY

Application is
through UCAS.
See our website for
course codes:
[www.education.brookes.ac.uk/
undergraduate](http://www.education.brookes.ac.uk/undergraduate)

TYPICAL OFFERS

A level: BBC or equivalent

IB Diploma: 30 points

OTHER TYPICAL OFFERS INCLUDE:

- BTEC Diploma in a relevant field of study at DMM
- CACHE Diploma at B
- Access to Higher Education qualifications in a relevant field of study.



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