# **Manchester Metropolitan University**

# PhD Education Research – Critical Reflection

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| **About Your** |
| **Surname:** |  | **First Name:** |  |
| **School/Department:** |  | **Faculty:** |  |
| **Have you spoken to any MMU staff members about your research? Please give their name(s).** |  |
| **How will your studies be funded?** | 1. Self-funded
2. Staff development/departmental funding (MMU staff only)
3. Other (please state)
 |
| **Have you previously registered for a postgraduate research degree?****If yes, please give the name of the institution, dates, title of programme (PhD/professional doctorate etc.) and project title (if applicable)** |  |
| **Have you previously applied to MMU for a research degree?** **If yes, please give details of the date and the outcome.** |  |
| **Are you applying to transfer study from another university?****If yes, please contact the Graduate School** **gsresearchdegrees@mmu.ac.uk** |
| **Details of previous research experience**Examples of this include research undertaken as part of an undergraduate or master’s qualification, or research projects as part of employment. Please provide evidence of how your past research activity provides a useful grounding for a PhD in Education Research. Please also include any publications or other types of output produced or connected to previous work experience (if applicable). |
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| **Details of professional or work experience which are relevant to education research.** |
|  |
| **Please include a CV including your qualifications and work history along with this form.**  |

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| **Critical reflection** |
| We would like you to critically reflect on an aspect of your professional practice which you might be interested in exploring further through doctoral study (see below for additional guidance). |

**Critical reflection – additional guidance**

We would like you to critically reflect on an aspect of your professional practice which you might be interested in exploring further through doctoral study. We would like you to tell us why you are interested in this particular issue, making connections with relevant academic literature. Tell us how your academic reading has challenged or developed your thinking around this issue, and how the ideas from this reading might be used to reshape your professional practice in the future.

If you have limited access to academic articles, you might want to browse e-space at <https://e-space.mmu.ac.uk/>, MMU’s open access research repository, where you will find lots of open access articles relevant to education.

We would like you to write in an analytical, academic style, but please do not worry about getting this ‘right’. We are interested in hearing your honest critical reflections on an area of educational/professional interest and getting a sense of how you approach academic reading and writing tasks.

We would like your reflections to be around 1000 words.

After we have reviewed your critical reflection, if we feel that it could be improved, we might contact you to provide guidance on how to develop it further. You would then be given the opportunity to resubmit it to us.

**Assessment criteria**

When reviewing your critical reflection, we will use the assessment criteria below. Next to each point we have included an explanation of what this might look like in practice.

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| **We will be looking for evidence that you are able to:** | **What might this look like within your writing?** |
| Undertake critical analysis of your own professional practice | *Talk us through an aspect of your practice. What interests you and/or troubles you about this?* |
| Synthesise theoretical concepts from academic reading with your own ideas and observations around educational practices | *How do ideas from the academic literature connect with your thinking around this issue? How has your awareness changed?* |
| Develop critical responses to practices in education and suggest new approaches | *Consider alternative approaches to practice. How might you do things/think differently within education?* |
| Communicate complex ideas coherently in an academic style  | *Make sure that each idea follows on logically from the one before and that your work is set out in paragraphs with a clear topic for each. Proof read your work carefully.* |

**Don’t forget** to include your CV including your qualifications and work history along with your application.

Please return your completed form to **gsresearchdegrees@mmu.ac.uk**

If you have any questions about the programme, please contact Dr Steph Ainsworth on s.ainsworth@mmu.ac.uk