

CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



From **Dr Anthony Edwards:**

This second edition of the newsletter follows on fairly quickly from the first but it nevertheless contains articles that celebrates the achievements and diverse activity of our community. I am particularly delighted that it has contributions from some students who are graduating but not able to attend the December ceremony in Liverpool.

Whilst it's great to have the opportunity meet in person it's also important to hear the stories of those who for whatever reason are not able to be here at this momentous time. In future edition we are hoping to have articles on what graduates have done since finishing their EdD as well the things we already include.

If you have any suggestions about content please contact Ilona with your ideas at docedd@liverpool.ac.uk.

Kimberlee Moore (above centre, with Dr Anthony Edwards and Dr Martin Gough) attended the 11th December 2023 graduation ceremony at the Philharmonic Hall.

Her thesis was titled 'Moving Beyond Accountability Toward a More Socially Conscious Guardianship of Higher Education Quality: An Examination of Quality Assurance/Accreditation Frameworks and Social Justice'.

The following students graduated in absentia:

Ceridwen Coulby: An exploration of online EdD students' experiences of personal transformation during their studies.

Lisa Cross: A Case Study of How Belief Systems, Race and Gender Influence the Development of Critical Thinking in Japanese Students of English.

Chi Keung (Michael) Kam: Teaching Theories of Nursing Teachers Working in Self-financed Higher Education Institutions in Hong Kong.

Natalya Smernitskaya: Exploring academic autonomy from the perspective of faculty.

Victoria Whiteside: An Exploratory Study of Graduate Employability in the Kurdistan Region – Iraq (KRI).

Congratulations to all the EdD graduates!

The ceremony can be watched here:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/graduation/the-ceremony/watch-graduation/catch-up/school-of-histories-languages-and-cultures/11-december-2023-ceremony-230pm/>

CENTRE NEWS

Graduating in absentia: how did you celebrate?

From **Dr Victoria Whiteside**

Having to graduate in absentia meant that I was not able to celebrate our collective achievement with my EdD peers. My achievement has not gone unmarked, however. Friends have joined me in celebrating the occasion over the past few weeks and next year, when I visit my family in the UK, we will raise a glass or two in belated celebration!

On graduation day itself, I was working but after work, I marked the day with my two dogs, Bella and William, who had patiently sat and watched me write my thesis over the past few years. We went for a long walk as they

certainly had missed a few of those while they watched me write and re-write my thesis!

To my EdD peers who were in attendance on the 11th, I hope you collected your degrees with happiness and pride in your achievements! Happy Belated Graduation Day!



advanced research design methods, data analysis, and qualitative and quantitative methods. There were moments when I felt like the end was nowhere in sight, but I kept going with the help of my supervisors, tutors, and advisors.

Embarking on graduate studies was always a dream of mine, but I never thought it would come true. After many sleepless nights during a long programme, graduation day has finally arrived. Graduation ceremonies are special because they allow you to reflect on and celebrate your achievements with family, friends, teachers, and other students.

From **Dr Michael Chi Keung Kam**

Graduation day is special for everyone receiving not just a thesis certificate; it represents a tremendous achievement. It is filled with the joy and sweat that each doctoral graduate encounters in their doctoral journey. I recall feeling bewildered for countless days and nights trying to clarify concepts, methods to use, and interpretations of findings. The moments for which I am most thankful are the unfailing support from supervisors and encouragement from the Centre's administrative staff.

I hoped to receive the certificate in person, though I opted to graduate in absentia. It should be an excellent time to celebrate the achievement with peers who have been working collaboratively. An EdD signifies entry to a community researching high-level leading professional practices. I treasure my achievement of receiving the degree award and the congratulations from my faculty colleagues. My joy is no less than that of my peers receiving the diploma in person.

I am not attending this ceremony, but will celebrate my achievement. The achievement of my degree being conferred is my highlight. This will allow me to advance in unimaginable ways in my field of education. I am excited about this prospect.



From **Dr Lisa Cross**

As I reflected on my time in the Doctor of Education (EdD) programme, making it to the end feels surreal because it took me a while to get here. I thought the two experiences of doing a masters and doctoral degrees would be similar, but I was wrong. As I realised, a doctoral degree prepares you to utilise the most

FACULTY NEWS

2,500 Pakistani doctors have taken our teaching qualification

From Dr Ian Willis

Dr Janet Strivens and I, both in the EdD start-up team, were asked by Pakistani doctors with Liverpool connections to go to Pakistan to set up a practical teacher training programme for doctors in Pakistan. We both said yes and we did then check it out! There were no practical programmes at that time.

We've been going for 12 years; a mix of doing something useful and enjoying ourselves (not paid). We worked with enthusiastic Pakistani medics to develop a programme based on our Liverpool experience and suited to Pakistani needs. The phrase 'Local solutions for Local problems – with International expertise' captures the idea. The guiding principle

was active and student-centred learning with a requirement for evidence of real change to the doctors' teaching practice.

Well over 2,500 medics have taken our International Certificate in Medical Education. 15 trained Pakistani facilitators do most of the teaching as it mustn't be dependent on foreigners. 20 mentors provide day to day support for participants: a unique feature of our approach. We run programmes in cities across Pakistan. Janet and I remain highly involved with a strong focus on quality, facilitator and mentor training and negotiations with local agencies.

Although it's a tough country our reality has been one of complete welcome and hospitality. Motivation is using our skills for wider benefit, learning about another culture and learning about ourselves! It can be hard work but the pleasure of it all is the winner.



Congratulations to **Dr Deb Outhwaite** who has been appointed as a **Visiting Senior Fellow** in the **Department of Social Policy** at the **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)** to contribute to their educational research, for a period of two years, starting from 1 December 2023.



Publications

van Melle, J., & Ferreira, M. M. (2023). An Essay about Intercultural Sensitivity and Competence in Higher Education. *European Journal of Education and Pedagogy*, 4(2), 149–155. <https://doi.org/10.24018/ejedu.2023.4.2.624>

Rasheed, Z., & Mimirinis, M. (2023). Integrating Blockchain Technology into a University Graduation System. *Trends in Higher Education*, 2(3), 514–525. MDPI AG. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/higheredu2030031>

Mimirinis, M., Ventouris, A. & Wright, E. (2023). Variation in Black students' conceptions of academic support. *British Educational Research Journal*, 00, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1002/berj.3921>

Whitfield MM, Mimirinis M, Macdonald D, Klein T, Wilson R. Phenomenographic Approaches in Research About Nursing. *Global Qualitative Nursing Research*. 2023;10. doi:10.1177/23333936231212281

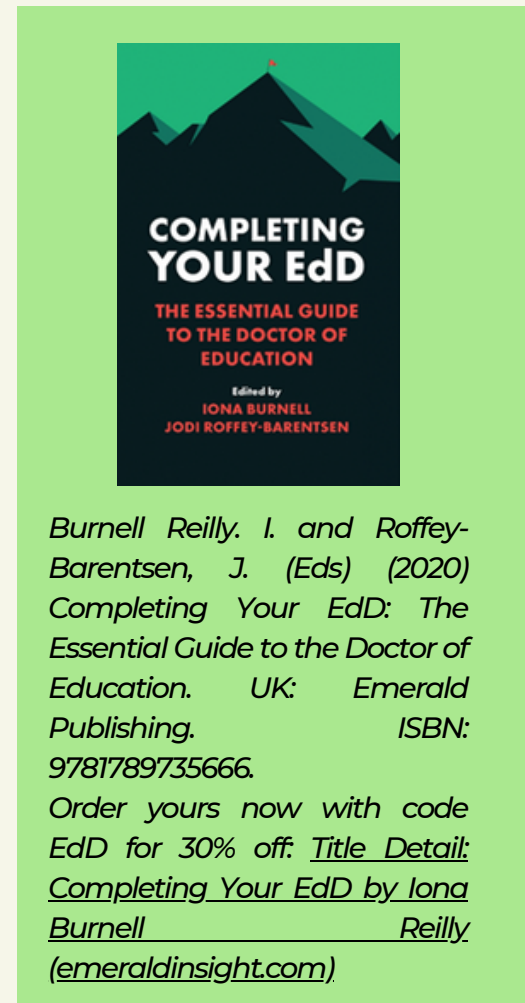
FACULTY NEWS CONTINUED

Completing your EdD

From Dr Iona Burnell

Undertaking a Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) can be a daunting yet career-defining task. Through engaging with research, increasing your networks, and conducting your own research project, you will advance your professional practice and understanding of your field. Completing your EdD is the essential text to guide you through your doctorate. It provides a thorough and comprehensive guide intended to accompany you as you successfully progress through your EdD. It is packed with critical information covering key topics from both the taught modules you will undertake and advice for conducting your own research project.

Coverage includes writing at doctoral level, conducting a literature review, theoretical frameworks, research ethics, the relationship with your supervisor, and more. Bridging theory and practice, chapters include practical, real-life examples taken from EdD students' experiences and work, as well as extracts offered by practitioners. Written by current EdD teachers, programme leaders and supervisors, and featuring feedback from recently completed EdD students, this vital resource is a must-read for any EdD candidate and will remain a go-to guide for qualified professionals working in education and beyond.



STUDENT NEWS

From **Bratati Bhattacharyya**

I was invited as a speaker on the 5th October 2023 to speak on the topic **'Forging the future of education in today's digital era'** for an education summit. This event was organised by Education and You.

I was also invited as the opening speaker on 30th September 2023 to speak on **'Sports as an essential element of education'** in a sports seminar, organised by Accolade Edusport and T2.

Tips from EdD graduates on completing your EdD

Make sure to check out the recorded advice on how to complete the EdD from Liverpool EdD graduates, including Jonathan van Melle, whose recent publication is noted above.

Five graduates provide tips on timekeeping, productivity, and staying focussed.

To access the link, search your inbox for 'EdD graduate advice' or email docedd@liverpool.ac.uk.



Dr Jonathan Van Melle;
Dr Lynette Lewis

STUDENT NEWS CONTINUED

Balancing an EdD with Work and Life Commitments

From Shereena Aruldason

The journey of completing an EdD thesis requires ongoing personal commitment, sacrifice, and dedication. As a student myself who works full-time, managing doctoral studies with personal and professional commitments has been challenging.

To ensure that I didn't fall behind with my thesis work, I formulated some strategies that I found really helped me to stay on track.

1. Allocate a set amount of time for thesis work each day. Whether it is time in the morning or evening, setting a specific amount of time

to work on the thesis each day helps to keep the project moving in small amounts. By the end of a work week, this will have helped you to put in a significant amount of time and work into your project.

2. Avoid multi-tasking. Focusing on your thesis work for the duration of time you have set for yourself. Avoid checking your phone, emails, or messages. This helps to make the time that you set aside for thesis work more productive and efficient.

3. Break big tasks into smaller chunks. Focusing on the magnitude of work needed to

complete data analysis or chapter writing can be daunting. Breaking big tasks into smaller chunks helps to make the task less overwhelming. For example, when writing a chapter, start with an outline, followed by writing each section part by part. Over time, the complete chapter will come together, and the big task can be accomplished.

I hope these tips will also be helpful for you as you continue with your EdD journey. Good luck!

Viva Endeavours: A New Milestone

From Ibrahim Garba

Last month I mentioned something about reading from your journeys. Well, that space has now been overshadowed by the incredible news of me passing my viva exam in October 2023. It's hard to put into words the overwhelming sense of achievement I felt when the examiners informed me of my success. This feedback was the validation and affirmation I needed to reflect on the past six years of my life dedicated to pursuing my EdD.

The impact of passing this milestone extends beyond just the academic realm. In my

workplace, my colleagues now view me in a different light. I've been entrusted with greater responsibility than ever before. It seems that by sharing the news of my success, my professional standing has been elevated, and my commitment to my work is being taken even more seriously.

Investing in myself throughout this journey has been truly worthwhile. To those who have already undergone or are preparing to take their exams, I urge you to listen to your supervisors and seek guidance from editors or research services. In my case, working with my supervisors proved invaluable.

Passing an exam of this magnitude should never be seen as an accident. It requires careful planning and preparation. It's a testament to the dedication, hard work, and perseverance exhibited throughout the entire journey.

As I reflect on this extraordinary experience, I am filled with gratitude and a sense of accomplishment. It's a reminder to all those embarking on this path that success is within reach with the right support, dedication, and belief in oneself. Keep pushing forward and envision the possibilities that await you in your scholarly endeavours.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

QS Survey: Call for EdD students to have your say!

We recently launched our new strategy, [Liverpool 2031](#) which sets out our strategic ambition ahead of our 150th Anniversary. One of our ambitions is to improve on our global rankings and reputation by becoming a Top 100 University.

We have already made positive steps towards this having achieved [TEF Gold](#), one of only 32 UK Institutions to have been awarded this year and rising 14 places in the [QS World Rankings](#). [QS](#), an independent international university rankings organisation, sends out surveys to more than 144,000 academics and 98,000 employers worldwide to gather this feedback.

The Academic Reputation Index is the centrepiece of the QS World University Rankings® carrying a weighting of 30%. It is an approach to international university evaluation that QS pioneered in 2004 and is the component that attracts the greatest interest and scrutiny. In concert with the Employer Reputation Index it is the aspect which sets this ranking most clearly apart from any other. It seeks to answer the powerful question of which universities are performing world-class research, providing world-class education and high-quality employees. The answers to these questions not only illuminates the attributes, but also the strength of the university in communicating these qualities, as well as the impact the university has around the world.

One key feature of University of Liverpool online EdD students is their drive and aspiration to be creative, visionary and effective leaders within their organisations with a truly global perspective of Higher Education. And more than just personal satisfaction and career benefits, our students are motivated by the desire to implement change, and make a difference in their organisations and wider community.

As an important stakeholder in the University, we are writing to ask if you would be willing to take part in this survey and share your opinions with QS.

Please opt-in here: QS Survey Academic - <https://s.liv.ac.uk/864>

The QS survey* will take no more than 10 minutes to complete and will launch in Spring 2024.

Thank you in advance for your support!

**The resulting data will be used in aggregate form only, QS will not contact you for any other reason, or for more than two editions of their annual survey, without supplementary or separate consent. Your responses will be combined with those of many others around the world to form employer reputation indicators used in the QS World University Rankings at global, regional, subject and program levels where relevant.*