



PARTNERS ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

Syllabus for Education

Subject Area

This syllabus is for PARTNERS applicants seeking to progress to the degrees of:

- X390 BA Hons Education
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Aims

To allow students to demonstrate their potential to succeed in specified degree programmes by showing a grasp of entry-level subject-specific knowledge, understanding, cognitive and subject-specific skills.

Learning Outcomes

A good knowledge and understanding of ...

- Fundamental historical, sociological, and psychological theories and methods in Education as a discipline within the social sciences more generally;
- Factors surrounding the social constructions of childhood and effects on education;
- The increasing use of AI in education and its associated benefits and challenges;
- The debates surrounding faith schools;
- The potential for visual methods research in education to extend participation and inclusivity;
- Psychological perspectives on what is meant by 'intelligence' and its impact on approaches to teaching and learning.

The ability to apply this knowledge and critical understanding to...

- Demonstrate critical awareness of the multifaceted and contested nature of education as an individual or social phenomenon;
- Develop educational arguments in oral discussions and written output;
- Understand how educational research is carried out;
- Recognise different theoretical approaches to education as a social, political, technological, and psychological phenomenon.

Competence in...

- Literature searches of relevant educational topics online or in the library;
 - Evaluating and synthesising the available literature
 - Presenting a coherent argument supported by an appropriate range of academic sources.
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Summer School Syllabus

Monday 29th June

9-10am | Welcome

Introduction to the Education Summer School, teaching staff and student introductions, advice on the structure of the summer school, the curriculum, referencing, and to the subject area of Education at Newcastle.

10-11am | Lecture: What is 'intelligence'?

This lecture will explain how Educational Psychologists have different perspectives on 'intelligence' and the impact of this on education policy and practice. This session will enable students to critically analyse learning and teaching approaches in relation to views on intelligence.

11-12am | Seminar preparation and reading: What is 'intelligence'?

This preparation session will enable students to engage with the material to be discussed in the seminar.

1-2pm | Seminar: What is 'intelligence'?

This seminar will encourage students to evaluate their own preferred approaches to learning and how this relates to discussions on intelligence.

2-3pm | Independent study

3-4pm | Lecture: Visual methods in education research

Good research in education must maximise both inclusivity (nobody prevented from taking part) and engagement (nobody too bored to participate). This lecture will explore how visual research methods using photographs can help. You will have the opportunity to try out some commonly used approaches and to reflect critically on the extent to which they support inclusivity and engagement

4-5pm | Seminar preparation and reading: Visual methods in education research

This preparation session will enable students to engage with the material discussed in the seminar on visual methods in education research.

Tuesday 30th June

9-10am | Seminar: Visual methods in education research

This seminar will encourage students to engage with and apply visual research methods when tackling educational topics.

10-11am | Lecture: The increasing use of AI in education

This lecture will explore how technology can support learning as well as the potential challenges of using technology in educational settings.

11-12am | Seminar preparation and reading: The increasing use of AI in education

This preparation session will enable students to engage with the material to be discussed in the seminar.

1-2pm | Seminar: The increasing use of AI in education

This seminar will consider case studies of technology and learning and encourage students to reflect on their experiences of AI.

2-3pm | Lecture: The faith schools debate

This lecture will introduce the historical context of faith schools in Britain and outline some key arguments in the debates over their existence, regulation and continued receipt of state-funding. The session will provide students with a foundation from which to evaluate a range of perspectives on these questions.

3-4pm | Seminar preparation and reading: The faith schools debate

This preparation session will enable students to engage with the material to be discussed in the seminar.

Wednesday 1st July

1-2pm | Seminar: The faith schools debate

This seminar will encourage students to evaluate the arguments surrounding faith schools in Britain and to consider their own views on this issue.

2-3pm | Lecture: Social constructions of childhood

This lecture will explain how childhood is mediated by a range of social and cultural factors and how this in part influences the education of young people.

3-4pm | Email office hour

4-5pm | Assessment guidance workshop

Focusing on the formative assessment essay title: 'Describe and evaluate the different ways in which 'education' can be understood' - this workshop will discuss essay structure, referencing, academic writing and essay assessment criteria.

Thursday 2nd July

9-10am | Seminar preparation and reading: Social constructions of childhood

This preparation session will enable students to engage with the material to be discussed in the seminar.

10-11am | Seminar: History of higher education

This seminar will encourage students to question, challenge and discuss notions of childhood

11-12am | Email office hour

Friday 3rd July

9-10am | Email office hour

10-11am | Assessment Q&A and "Goodbye"

Chance to ask questions on assessment and goodbye activity.

11-12am | Assessment completion independent study

Activities for Personal Study

Students will be supplied with readings and questions to be considered in preparation for the taught sessions. Canvas will be employed as the main vehicle for the sharing of such materials though hard copies of articles will also be shared. Knowledge of the extended writing question will help to guide some planning and thinking to be completed as the week unfolds.

See also:

- <https://www.bera.ac.uk/blog>
- <https://infed.org/dir/welcome/ideas/>
- <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/>
- Matheson, D. (Ed) (2015) An Introduction to the Study of Education, Ebook: Routledge.

On-Campus Teaching:

Sunday 28th (PM), Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th June

Online Teaching:

Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd (AM only) July

Formative Assessment Details

A 1500-word essay

More details will be given during the event by your Academic Strand Lead.

Hand-in Method

Digital

Assessment deadline

Wednesday 8th July, 12pm