



Dear Applicant

I just wanted to say how pleased I am that you're joining us on the programme soon and to keep you updated on what's happening here. The Summer Term is a busy time at the Graduate School of Education (GSoE) – apart from programme related sessions (such as dissertation seminars) you will also be able to engage in a wide range of exciting events!

Programme Structure

For those of you studying full-time, during the Autumn and Spring term with us we will be working with you on the following units:

- [Introduction to Educational Inquiry](#) – This research methods unit is taught by various members of the School and acts as a core unit to the majority of our masters programmes.
- [International Development, Comparative Research and Education](#) – [Dr Julia Paulson](#) will lead this unit during Autumn 2017.
- [Education, Peace and Sustainable Development](#) – This unit is led by [Dr Angeline Mbogo Barrett](#) during Autumn 2017.
- [Education Policy in a Global Context](#) – Led by [Professor Roger Dale](#) in Summer 2018. This unit is also core to students on the MSc Education (Leadership & Policy) programme.



For those of you studying part-time, of course, we will be working with you on a selection of these units in the autumn term. These units (and those that follow in later terms) are designed to provide the foundation for you to conduct a dissertation research project.

Dissertation

The current MSc Education (Policy and International Development) students are busy working on their dissertations. Social justice, refugee education, teacher professional development and learner centred pedagogy are popular topics this year – with students conducting research in, for example, South Korea, China, Columbia and Norway. Other research topics include projects focused on peace and conflict resolution, curriculum reform in England and Wales and education in post-conflict contexts.

All are on their way to becoming independent researchers and furthering their careers. In short, when you come to the Graduate School of Education you will be joining a community of learners who are committed to learning about research and you will meet a range of people from across the world; some who will have similar experiences and views to your own, and some who will not. We believe the diversity of our academic community is a key

strength and we encourage you to find out as much as you can about other education cultures and other contexts from your peers throughout your time on the programme.

[Publishing and presenting](#)

As tutors, who mark assignments, we know that our students write some excellent thought-provoking assignments. In the last couple of years a number of students have shared their work with a wider audience. One student (Jo Carrington) had a poem that she wrote as part of an assignment accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed academic journal 'English in Education'. Another student (Martin Preston) presented a paper on Learner Centred Education in Ethiopia at the annual (2016) conference of Comparative Education Societies in Europe (CESE) held in Glasgow. He had financial support for his participation in the 5-day conference from the University of Bristol's [Alumni Foundation](#). In 2017 Betty Mercedes Martinez-Cardena also secured Alumni funding to present papers developed from her Education Policy and International Development (EPID) pathway units at conferences in Cambridge and Singapore.



[Getting started with reading](#)

We have already had some queries about preparatory reading. There is no requirement to read in advance of the programme but if you like to feel prepared, some suggested [preparatory reading](#) for core units is given in the reading list given in this link.

[Bringing documents from home](#)

These days, government departments put many policy documents online but this is not the case for all education departments, all countries and all documents. You cannot know in advance exactly what topics you will chose to study in depth in your assignments and dissertation. However, if there is an issue in your own country that very much interests you, and relevant documents or publications will not be easy access from UK, do consider bringing some key documents with you, e.g. national curriculum or syllabi, education development plans, academic books or journals published in your own country. It is not worth the effort of tracking down documents that are hard to source but do consider packing in your luggage relevant policy or academic documents that are to hand.

[Be a part of our research community](#)

The Graduate School of Education is a lively intellectual community. During term time, we run seminars on a weekly basis that bring together our staff, doctoral and masters students. Just recently on 15th June we held a very well attended book launch for the new biography of a former EPID colleague who came to Bristol from Eritrea as a refugee. The book is titled Long Way from Adi Ghehad. Journey of an Asylum Seeker. Dr Teame Mebrahtu



(Shepherd-Walwyn Publishers Ltd, 2017)

As a student on the Policy and International Development pathway you are automatically a member of the Centre for [Comparative and International Research in Education](#). You are also welcome to join in events organised by our four other [research centres](#). Many students continue to be associate members of a research centre after graduating from Bristol and if you stay in the area, you are always welcome to join our events.

Checklist of things to do before arriving

- **Apply for accommodation** - The Accommodation Office is accepting [applications](#) from offer-holders who are commencing study in September 2017. University accommodation is very popular and the deadline is TODAY. Please see their [website](#) for more information.
- **Accept your offer** - The earlier we know the more preparation we can do for your arrival. If you have not already done so please [respond](#) to your offer of study.
- **Apply for a visa (*International Students only*)** - If you are an international applicant now is the time to apply for your Tier 4 visa. Unconditional offer holders who have paid a [deposit](#) can request a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number. The University of Bristol has an excellent [International Office](#) and our colleagues there have vast experience in offering applicants advice and support. Contact details are available on the link above and we would recommend making use of their expertise.
- **Meet any conditions of offer** - We appreciate that conditional offer-holders will meet their conditions at different points throughout the application cycle. Please ensure that as soon as you have the documents to satisfy a condition of offer that you get in touch [with us](#). We will then update your application accordingly.

I hope this mailing has helped your preparations for arrival. I look forward to welcoming you into the Graduate School of Education community in September.

With best wishes,

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