

## Transcript

### What is a Professional Doctorate?

*Learn about the characteristics of Professional Doctorates and find out whether they are relevant to you.*

#### **Dr Mark Wareing:**

I left school at 16 with some rather poor GCSEs it has to be said went to college did a pre nursing course and decided to go into nursing.

The main pool for me about doing the professional doctorate was that it was an opportunity to undertake research, that was very much strongly aligned with my role, and my practice as an educationalist.

#### **Dr Anne Mulligan:**

University was where I was always going to go when I was at school I just thought you know, I wanted to go one step further.

During my Master's I had to do a research project I did it in maths, how my pupils were learning in Maths. Once I finished the Master's then it was a perfect research proposal to put forward

#### **Dr Victoria Cooper:**

Students who studied at masters level will have a particular area that they're interested in and the EdD allows you to take that forward, to become an expert in your field.

What The Open University is good at, and what the EdD is particularly good at is providing structure and flexibility, so it's very much guided by the needs of the student, how they're going to combine study and work.

#### **Dr Anne Mulligan:**

The fact that I could actually do it online and I could study in the evenings and you know I had a full-time job and a family so it meant I didn't have a lot of time

#### **Dr Mark Wareing:**

I think the ethos of The Open University and its ability to support people in employment and to support mature people, and to provide distance learning open approaches to learning, particularly for people from non-traditional backgrounds. Fitted very snugly with my research approach.

#### **Dr Victoria Cooper:**

It's very important that the student learns for themselves and explores and discovers their own way through because EdD study and doctoral study is all about making your own original contribution to knowledge and developing your own research interests, and developing your own area of academic expertise.

#### **Dr Mark Wareing:**

We had our first residential weekend, and that was an excellent opportunity to visit The Open University campus, and to meet very wide range of different students from all sorts of different professional and educational backgrounds.

#### **Dr Anne Mulligan:**

Because I thought initially EdD Doctor of Education, it was education schools, but I met people who were nurses, I met people who were healthcare workers, as well as lecturers.

**Dr Victoria Cooper:**

We have students who studied in Portugal, Cyprus, Switzerland, East Africa.

**Dr Mark Wareing:**

You've got an excellent opportunity to be with people who are as enthusiastic about your research as you are.

The supervision I received from the Open University was excellent. It was rigorous but incredibly enabling, I always felt, despite the many challenges and the difficulties that I experienced as a student, that my supervisors were absolutely behind me all the way.

**Dr Victoria Cooper:**

There's a package of support that the student will engage with, there's online support through forums, discussion forums, the website which hosts a variety of different resources and materials and links, and our library which is key to doctoral study.

**Dr Anne Mulligan:**

Well it was very good to get regular progress reports, and feedback from my supervisor, because that kind of kept me going along the right track

**Dr Victoria Cooper:**

It's very much about your experience, and it's you are the leader, you are the expert and whilst your supervisors there to support you, it's very much down to you.

**Dr Anne Mulligan:**

I absolutely love doing it I've found it the best thing and I don't regret a minute of it

**Dr Mark Wareing:**

oh I felt 10 feet tall as you would imagine.

**Dr Victoria Cooper:**

I think he gives students a certain level of confidence, while she'll be called a doctor, to recognize yourself as an expert in your field.

**Dr Mark Wareing:**

When after a couple of years, you read an article that's similar to the one that you've had published, and you look down the reference list, and you're there and you've been cited as well and such, well that's a tremendous experience.

**Dr Anne Mulligan:**

I immediately go to and I love my thinking, I'm a doctor, you don't know, but I'm a doctor I know about this stuff.