

Doctorate in Education: A Personal Impact Study

Dr. Chris Wakeman BSc, BEd (Hons), MA (Ed), EdD, SFHEA (wakeman469@btinternet.com)



Background

Having worked for Rolls Royce as an aeronautical engineer for 11 years, I retrained as a school teacher, completing a 4 year BEd (Hons) at Wolverhampton Polytechnic between 1985 and 1989. While working as a full time school teacher I went on to complete the Open University MA in Education before progressing to undertake the Doctorate in Education (EdD) between 1997 and 2002. This included one year taking module E835 (Educational Research in Action), which was a compulsory pre-requisite for the programme and had not formed part of my MA studies.

Impact

The impact of attaining a doctoral qualification has revolved around three key areas; **personal, professional, academic**. A more detailed overview of significant factors is provided in graphical form opposite. In essence the benefits of gaining the Doctorate in Education were both stimulating and transformative.

Personal

In 2002 only around 1% of the UK population held a doctoral qualification. Being called 'Doctor' and being considered an 'academic', did much for my self esteem and both my social and self image



Professional

New career pathways began to emerge. Within 6 months of gaining my doctoral qualification (EdD) I had moved into a Senior Lecturer role in Higher Education. This brought fresh opportunities in research and enrolled me into a broad academic community. I became chair of the British Education Studies Association (BESA)



Academic

Fresh research opportunities resulted in published work and a distinct academic profile. I became Managing Editor of the Innovative Practice in Higher Education journal (ISSN 2044 – 3315)

Summary

Graduating with the Open University EdD in 2002 helped launch my academic career in UK Higher Education (HE). Having first entered HE as a Senior Lecturer in Education Studies, I have since worked full time in 3 different HE institutions. 4 years after entering HE as a Senior Lecturer, I gained a post as 'Curriculum Development Manager' at a neighbouring HE institution, and; 6 years on, I was on the move once more, when I was appointed 'Learning Experience Manager' at a third HE institution. I eventually moved back to my first HE institution as Principal Lecturer in charge of Education and Inclusion Studies prior to retirement in 2018. I have held professional roles at the Staff Educational Development Association (SEDA) and the British Education Studies Association (BESA) and I am a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. There is little doubt that the EdD has served me well in my personal, professional and academic life proving to be a transformative factor in my academic career