Learn to Change the World
As a doctoral student at HGSE, you’ll become part of an exceptional community of scholars and education leaders.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION
DEAR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT:

The doctoral experience at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) is truly remarkable. The two interdisciplinary doctoral programs — the research-based Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.) and the practice-based Doctor of Education Leadership (Ed.L.D.) — propel our students into high-impact careers in research, practice, and policy.

At HGSE, you will have supportive classmates who become trusted colleagues and work with outstanding faculty members who become invaluable mentors. You will join a collaborative community of people who are diverse in background, philosophy, and focus, but united in tackling the most pressing challenges in the field — from early childhood through higher education — with passion and purpose.

We hope you will join us.

BRIDGET TERRY LONG
Dean
Saris Professor of Education and Economics
Harvard Graduate School of Education
WORLD-CLASS FACULTY. SCHOLARLY RESEARCH. INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY.

A doctoral degree from HGSE enables you to change the world through education — whether you seek to become a system-level leader or a transformative researcher who generates knowledge to drive policy and practice. We offer two distinct programs — a Doctor of Education Leadership (Ed.L.D.) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.) — so you can select the program that best fits your professional aspirations.

Our next doctoral enrollment cycle is for Fall 2022. Learn more at gse.harvard.edu/doctorate.
DISCOVERING REAL SOLUTIONS TO URGENT CHALLENGES

From leadership positions that cultivate real-world success to education research that generates policy reform, HGSE’s doctoral programs allow you to make a lasting impact on the field.

Bringing together the interdisciplinary strength of Harvard University, our degree offerings equip you with firsthand knowledge of learning and development, public policy, and organizational management, as well as a broad array of academic disciplines — empowering you to address today’s complex education challenges.
Through groundbreaking research and advancements in education practice, HGSE faculty and alumni continue to look for ways to generate better outcomes for all students.

Our faculty members have worked across the country and around the globe to create initiatives and research studies that impact school programs, education policy, and classroom performance. HGSE alumni bring this same sense of dedication and innovation to their post-graduation endeavors as they advance the field through leadership positions at nonprofits, school systems, and education departments, as well as through careers as researchers, academics, and policymakers.
As a student in one of our two doctoral programs, you’ll work with faculty to explore the connections between research, policy, and practice — seeing firsthand how they lead to development of solutions to address the challenges faced by our education system.

You’ll also become part of HGSE’s dynamic and influential intellectual community — lending your voice and vision to our century-long tradition of innovation. HGSE was the first school to offer a doctorate in education, the first to create a doctorate in education leadership, and the first Harvard professional school to admit women.
TWO DEGREES, TWO DISTINCT PROGRAMS

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP (ED.L.D)

- Three-year, full-time, practice-based degree
- Designed to nurture transformative, system-level leaders in the following sectors: preK–12 public education, state and federal policy, nonprofit, social entrepreneurship, and philanthropy and foundations

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION (PH.D.)

- Five- to seven-year, full-time, research-based degree
- Designed to train cutting-edge researchers who generate knowledge to drive policy and practice
- Offered jointly with the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP (ED.L.D.)

Our **Ed.L.D. Program** is designed to create transformative system-level leaders who have the capacity to lead complex organizations, navigate political environments, and create systemic change in the field of education. The Ed.L.D. offers you a deep understanding of teaching and learning and prepares you to work across the sector to improve outcomes in American preK–12 education.
CULTIVATING LEADERS,  
CREATING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Core Curriculum + Tailored Electives + Paid Residency

YEAR 1

Our highly integrated core curriculum focuses on the following four areas:

• Learning and Teaching
• Leadership and Organizational Change
• Politics and Policy
• Personal Mastery

YEAR 2

In addition to a second-year seminar that will deepen your understanding of the core curriculum, you will have an opportunity to create a tailored learning experience with elective courses drawn from any of Harvard’s professional schools, including:

• Harvard Graduate School of Education
• Harvard Business School
• Harvard Kennedy School
• Harvard Law School

YEAR 3

During your third year, you will take part in a 10-month paid residency at one of our partner organizations — an experience that is unique among doctoral programs. There, you will work on a high-priority strategic project before developing a capstone — a reflective, analytical account of your project contributions and leadership. Our program prepares graduates to work in five distinct sectors, and we organize our residency sites around these areas. We have included these sectors, along with recent residency examples, here:

• PreK–12: New York City Department of Education, Los Angeles Unified School District, Chicago Public Schools, Boston Public Schools, New Mexico Public Education Department
• Nonprofits: Big Picture Learning, Leadership Academy
• Foundations/Philanthropy: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, New Profit
• Policy: Education Trust, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Texas Education Agency
• Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation: IDEO, The Teachers Guild, The Learning Accelerator
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION (PH.D.)

Our Ph.D. Program trains cutting-edge researchers who work across disciplines, generate knowledge, and translate discoveries into transformative policy and practice. The program provides you with full access to the extraordinary resources of Harvard University and prepares you for a high-impact career as a researcher, academic, policymaker, or educational leader.

Curriculum
As a Ph.D. student, you’ll complete two years of coursework and design original research in close consultation with your HGSE faculty adviser and dissertation committee. Additional curriculum components include a Ph.D. proseminar, doctoral colloquia, apprenticeships and fellowships, comprehensive exams, and an oral defense.
WHERE CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH MEETS EDUCATION PRACTICE

Concentrations + Coursework + Research

Concentrations — Within the Ph.D. Program, you will align with one of three primary concentrations, which will act as a lens as you explore your research topic.

CULTURE, INSTITUTIONS, AND SOCIETY (CIS)
In CIS, you’ll study how these structures and contexts shape educational processes and outcomes across the lifespan.

- Sample elective courses
  — Institutional Change in School Organizations, Systems, and Sectors
  — Education in Armed Conflict

EDUCATION POLICY AND PROGRAM EVALUATION (EPPE)
The EPPE concentration enables you to research the design, implementation, and evaluation of education policy in the United States and internationally at the local level and large-scale, using incisive research methods.

- Sample elective courses
  — Politics and Education Policy in the United States
  — Methods of Educational Measurement

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, LEARNING AND TEACHING (HDLT)
As you explore HDLT, you’ll examine how biological, cognitive, and social processes influence learning and development.

- Sample elective courses
  — Applying Cognitive Science to Learning and Teaching
  — Topics in Educational Psychology
DOCTORAL FACULTY MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE FIELD

Meredith Rowe
Saul Zaentz Professor of Early Learning and Development

As the head of a research program at HGSE, Meredith Rowe concentrates on understanding the role of parent and family factors in children’s early language and literacy development. Her work examines how different early communicative environments contribute to language development in children, which she translates into intervention strategies for low-income families. Her research findings are published in leading education and psychology journals.

Fernando Reimers
Ford Foundation Professor of Practice in International Education

Recognized for his expertise in global education, Fernando Reimers concentrates his research and teaching around educating children and youth so that they are prepared to live and work in the 21st century. He is the director of the Global Education Innovation Initiative — a research, policy, and practice collaborative based at HGSE that supports public education improvement and advancement of 21st-century competencies.
Deborah Jewell-Sherman
Gregory R. Anrig Professor of Practice in Educational Leadership

Deborah Jewell-Sherman is the first woman professor of practice at HGSE, serving as the director of the Urban Superintendents Program and core faculty for the Doctor of Education Leadership Program (Ed.L.D). Formerly the superintendent of the Richmond, Virginia public school system, she was named as Virginia’s Superintendent of the Year in 2009 and received HGSE’s Morningstar Family Teaching Award in recognition of teaching excellence in 2015.

Jal Mehta
Professor of Education

Jal Mehta’s research examines how different forms of knowledge impact major social and political problems, with a focus on problems related to human improvement. He recently co-authored *In Search of Deeper Learning: The Quest to Remake the American High School*, a six-year study of 30 high schools that identified examples of powerful learning. He received HGSE’s Morningstar Family Teaching Award in 2014.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

As a doctoral student at HGSE, you’ll gain critical insights and perspective through classroom discussions, small-group sessions, and research projects. Yet we also recognize the importance of learning that occurs outside of lecture halls — learning that takes place within your cohort, via alumni networks, and through co-curricular experiences on the broader Harvard University campus and in the Boston/Cambridge community.

COHORT CONNECTIONS
Peer-to-peer learning plays a significant role at HGSE, and you will have the opportunity to engage with members of your cohort during in-class discussion opportunities and through co-curricular experiences.

ALUMNI NETWORKS
Our global alumni base of 28,000+ professionals will serve you throughout your career by providing connections, collaborations, and mentoring opportunities.
Learning continues far beyond your in-class academic experience, and HGSE offers an array of programming, including:

**BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**
Events, collaborative learning experiences, and professional development opportunities

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION LEADERSHIP**
Fellowship programs, advisory committees, and funding opportunities

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**
Events that highlight and promote innovative teaching and learning strategies

**HARVARD ADVANTAGE**
As an HGSE student, you’ll also experience a range of benefits, resources, and opportunities available across the overall Harvard University campus, including cross-registration options with other graduate schools and open access to the world’s largest library system.

**BOSTON/CAMBRIDGE**
During your graduate study, you can experience all the Boston/Cambridge area has to offer — from history to innovation to culture. You’ll find renowned institutions, championship sports teams, performances and lectures, bookstores, restaurants, and more.
RESEARCH MENTORS, CAREER ADVISERS

Our outstanding faculty members represent a key strength of our Ed.L.D. and Ph.D. programs. These world-renowned scholars and education leaders will play a critical role in your career development — as research colleagues, system-level leaders, mentors, and career advisers.

As you pursue your Ph.D., members of your faculty committee will help ensure that your dissertation not only makes a valuable contribution to the field but also meets the career criteria necessary to secure a position in academia, or in the nonprofit or private sectors. Upon completion of your Ed.L.D., HGSE’s Career Services Office can provide job-search assistance as you prepare to make a deeper impact as a policymaker, school system leader, or nonprofit administrator.
ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Whether you seek a research- or practice-based career, our HGSE doctoral programs are designed to position you for success and ensure you reach your career objectives. Sample positions secured by alumni from both programs include:

**ED.L.D. GRADUATES:**
- Executive director, Big Picture Learning, Providence, Rhode Island
- Secretary of Education, New Mexico Public Education Department
- CEO, Leadership Academy
- Superintendent, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, California
- Director of national education strategy, Raikes Foundation, Washington
- CEO, High Tech High

**PH.D. GRADUATES:**
- Founding faculty, London Interdisciplinary School
- Assistant professor of education policy, Boston University, Wheelock College of Education
- Researcher, Mathematica
- Postdoctoral fellow, UCLA
DOCTORAL ALUMNI MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE FIELD

Ventura Rodriguez, Ed.L.D.’15
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

When Ventura Rodriguez looks back on his days at HGSE, he remembers that the Ed.L.D. Program helped him “develop the confidence to lead.” He works as the senior associate commissioner for strategic initiatives at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He began working for the department during his Ed.L.D. residency, where he helped create a turnaround program for under-performing middle schools.

Miho Kubagawa, Ed.L.D.’19
Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund

“The Ed.L.D. Program changed my life,” says Miho Kubagawa, who credits the program for providing her personal and professional growth, a trusted community of advisers, and motivation to continue her quest for educational equity. She’s currently a partner at NewSchools Venture Fund, where she leads the process to select high-quality, diverse teams who are designing and launching new, innovative public schools.
Clint Smith, Ph.D.’20  
Author and staff writer, The Atlantic

Clint Smith’s work with adults sentenced to life in prison embodies his deeply held belief that “education is a human right deserved by all.” Through his research and dissertation on the purpose of prison education, he also explores larger issues around racism and inequality. In addition to The Atlantic, his work has appeared in The New Yorker, and his recent book, How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America, was published in June 2021.

Catherine Asher, Ph.D.’21  
Asst. research scientist, Youth Policy Lab, University of Michigan

As a Ph.D. student, Catherine Asher’s research centered on treatment effect heterogeneity, which explores how the effectiveness of a policy can be impacted by different contexts and student populations. Her goal has been to encourage researchers to think about this factor when designing research studies to help increase the effectiveness of programs and interventions. Catherine currently works at the University of Michigan’s Youth Policy Lab.
READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION?

HGSE brings together people who are committed to making a transformative impact through education — people who demonstrate leadership, dedication, curiosity, a sense of mission, and an entrepreneurial spirit.
The steps below will help you learn more about our doctoral programs, application process, and funding, as well as prepare you for Fall 2022 enrollment.

ADMISSIONS

Step One
Introduce yourself by filling out an online form at hgse.me/hgse-intro

Step Two
Explore and connect with us via upcoming events and digital recordings at gse.harvard.edu/admissions/events

Step Three
Apply online beginning August 2021
Ed.L.D.: Begin your application to HGSE at hgse.me/application
Ph.D.: Candidates will submit your application through the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at gsas.harvard.edu/apply

Deadline
Submit your online application and materials by
Ed.L.D.: December 15, 2021
Ph.D.: December 1, 2021
International students can find additional admissions information at hgse.me/hgse-intl

DOCTORAL PROGRAM FUNDING

All Ed.L.D. students receive:
- A full-tuition package for three years, including student health fee funding
- A combination of stipend and/or campus-based work opportunities for years one and two
- A paid residency with a partner organization in the third year

All Ph.D. students receive:
- Tuition and fees, paid in full for years 1 through 4 plus the dissertation completion year
- Living stipend during years 1 and 2
- Paid teaching fellowships and/or research assistantships during years 3 and 4
- Summer research funding after each of the first four years
- Living stipend during the dissertation completion year

For more information, visit gse.harvard.edu/doctorate.

MORE TO EXPLORE:
MASTER’S PROGRAMS AT HGSE
As you consider the degree that will best serve you professionally, you also may want to explore our master’s (Ed.M.) programs, which will help you establish a long-term, impactful career in education. The following programs will prepare you to create transformative learning at every level and in every role.

- Education Leadership, Organizations, and Entrepreneurship
- Education Policy and Analysis
- Human Development and Education
- Learning Design, Innovation, and Technology
- Teaching and Teacher Leadership
- Online Master’s in Education Leadership

Learn more at hgse.me/hgse-masters.