



# **Audit Issues for the Professional Doctorate**

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**UKCGE Residential Workshop**

**13 November 2008**

## 1. Is the Professional Doctorate a Research Programme?

# What is the Prof D?

<b>PhD</b>	<b>Prof D</b>
Professional researchers	Researching professionals
Gold standard route to academia	Entry from selected professionals
Individual study	Cohort based
Focused study that tends not to change practice. Emphasis more on academic knowledge.	Study directly related to professional practice with emphasis on constructive change.
Starting to include a taught element	Taught element. Credit rated
Employment related skills may be part of study but are not a prerequisite.	Employment related skills are a key element.
Focuses upon more discrete methodology	Offers broader scholarship



# History of Prof D's

- § Limitation of the PhD to change practice
- § Established in Education, Business, psychology, Engineering & more recently Allied Health Professions and Nursing.
- § Survey of Prof D awards in the UK (Powell and Long, 2005)





# Named Awards for Prof D

§ Prof D in a specified subject  
- eg EdD, DClin, Deng

§ Prof D

## Standard of Prof D

– Research Programme or not?





# Purpose of the Prof D

- § To enhance professional practice
- § To carry out a research project based on professional practice
- § To improve clinical/public services
- § To contribute to the professional knowledge base

Is this research? Yes, if it is evidence-based and work is carried out at Doctoral level.

**Definition of Doctoral Work – SCQF level 12 – (SHE level 6, PG 2, PhD – Doctorate)**



# Key components of the Prof D

- § Professional Development
- § relevant skills to underpin evidence-based practice
- § research design and planning
- § data analysis
- § generic training



## 2. Audit and Development/Validation Issues

- § Accredited Award
- § Demand
- § Admissions
- § Structure
- § Assessment
- § Supervision
- § Programme quality assurance
- § Student experience
- § Validation process



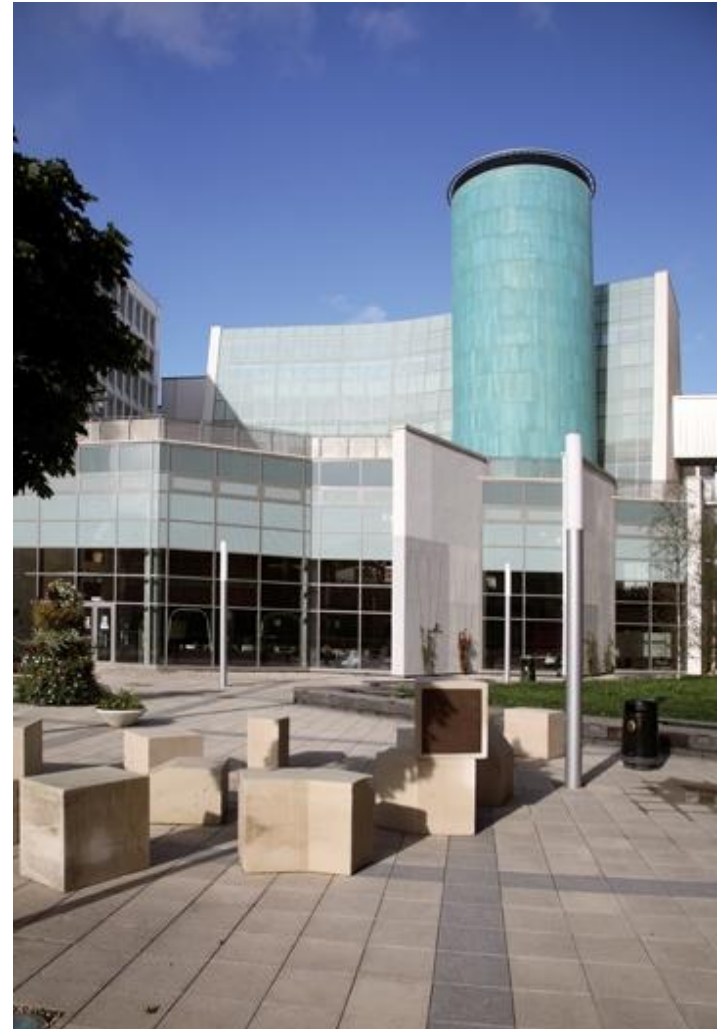
### 3. Examples of Good Practice – GCU Experience

## Glasgow Caledonian University

- § Origins date back to 1875
- § One of UK's largest modern universities
- § 1500 academic/research staff
- § 17000 students - 400 PGR's
- § 2500 international students from over 100 countries

### **International Student Barometer 2008**

- § 1st in UK for international student experience
- § 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world (80 universities)



# *The Graduate Centre*

Working together  
to develop a vibrant research  
community



# *GCU's new Professional Doctorate*

- Recruiting 18 students/yr
- 92% retention rate
- Strong cohort and community
- Over 45 staff teach/supervise on it from all Schools



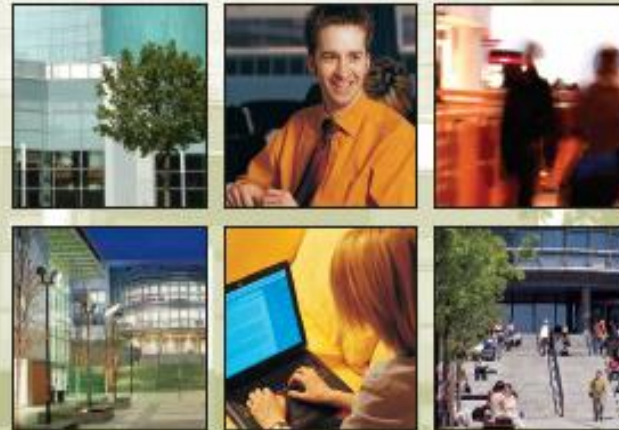
# Key features of Prof D at GCU

## PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR PROFESSIONALS

PLEASE CONTACT: THE SCHOOL OFFICE  
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A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERTAKE AN ADVANCED RESEARCH AND PRACTICE  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THAT IS PROFESSIONALLY RELEVANT.

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# Admissions

- § 3 years work experience
- § Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> class honours
- § Clear rationale for application to Prof D
- § Evidence of support from employer



# Motivation for doing a Prof D

- § To make a difference in professional practice that will help people
- § To contribute new knowledge based on rigorous research
- § To learn with a cohort of like-minded professionals
- § To engage in life-long learning/CPD
- § To gain additional skills and qualifications
- § To further professional career

# Degree Structure

§ 4 years part-time

Stage 1 (2 yrs) modules:

§ Research Methods RM (70 M-level)

§ Professional Development PD (50 M-level)

§ Project Development, Design and Management (60 D-level)

Stage 2 (2 yrs)

§ Research project and thesis (360 D-level)





# Programme Quality Assurance

## Stage 1

- § Programme Board + annual programme reports and module reports
- § External examiner
- § Assessment Board + External examiner reports





# Programme Quality Assurance

## Stage 2

- § Supervisory team
- § Registration of research proposal
- § Annual reports and presentations
- § School Research Committees
- § University Higher Degrees Committee
- § External and internal examiners at viva





# Programme Quality Assurance

Both stage 1 & 2

- § Programme team review after every unit teaching block
- § Steering group = Deans, Graduate Centre and programme team leaders.
- § Student-staff consultative group
- § Supervisor training and support specifically for Prof D – given by Graduate Centre and Visiting Honourary Professor for Prof D (expert in EdD)

# Student Experience

