

INTERNATIONAL PHD PROGRAM IN ADVANCED LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

School of Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University

WELCOME TO BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1902, Beijing Normal University (BNU) has a distinguished legacy of academic excellence, research, and educational training. Since its inception, BNU has been at the forefront of educational reform and innovation in China and continues to lead in this new era of rapid development. As a globally recognized institution, BNU places strong emphasis on national and international exchange and cooperation, building a first-class reputation in scholarship, research, and professional development.

Established in 2009, the Faculty of Education (FOE) at Beijing Normal University is a nationally renowned center dedicated to advancing knowledge and learning through teaching, research, and public service in education and related disciplines. FOE is committed to cultivating future academic leaders and boasts a distinguished team of faculty members. Currently, FOE has 214 professorial and teaching staff, 90% of whom hold doctoral degrees, including 83 full professors and 77 associate professors. Since its founding, FOE has played a leading role in China's educational landscape and serves as a prolific research center dedicated to academic excellence. It comprises 14 academic units, including the Institute of Education Theories, Institute of International and Comparative Education, Institute of Education History and Culture, and the School of Educational Technology, among others. FOE is also a high-level hub for international academic exchange, having established bilateral or multilateral agreements with more than 30 prestigious universities worldwide. Furthermore, it is a founding member of the International Network of Educational Institutions (INEI), alongside nine other top-tier education schools globally.

The School of Educational Technology (SET) was one of the pioneers in learning and technology research since the late 1970s. For over four decades, SET has been dedicated to theoretical and applied research in learning technologies and practical educational innovation. In addition to integrating advanced technologies into formal and informal learning environments, the School offers training courses, academic programs, and policy consultancy in the field of educational technology. It actively engages in international collaboration with institutions and organizations worldwide. Research at SET spans multiple disciplines, including education, philosophy, cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, and mathematics. It was ranked first in the National Discipline Assessment in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Among its 40 faculty members, 57% are professors. Each year, the School enrolls approximately 50 undergraduate students and over 60 graduate students pursuing master's and doctoral

degrees.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

The PhD Program in Advanced Learning Technologies is designed to cultivate talented individuals capable of conducting high-level educational research, driving practical innovation, and enhancing educational and cultural exchange between China and other countries.

We warmly welcome students from around the world to apply for this international program, contributing to a diverse and dynamic academic environment and jointly promoting the development of educational technology.

THE AIM OF THE PROGRAM

The PhD Program in Advanced Learning Technologies for International Students aims to equip global talents with a profound understanding of learning theories and the skills to apply advanced technologies in educational contexts. Specifically, PhD students will learn teaching and learning theories, apply technology to solve educational problems, design smart learning environments, and develop curricula. The program is tailored to meet international labor market demands by nurturing independent research capabilities, advanced cross-cultural communication skills, and educational leadership competencies. Graduates will be prepared for careers in international organizations, government agencies, research institutes, higher education institutions, and related sectors.

DURATION, PROGRAM CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS

Duration

The program spans three years, and students are expected to complete all requirements within this period. Extensions for graduation or scholarship durations are not permitted. Under exceptional circumstances, such as health issues, students may apply for a suspension of study (and scholarship) in accordance with university regulations, for a maximum of one year.

Program Curriculum

No.	Curriculum	Type	Minimum Credits	Semester
1	Chinese Culture and history (Chinese	Core	2	I

	Education System, Policy and Management)		(13 Credits)		
2	Chinese Language I			2	I
3	Research Methodology			3	I
4	Chinese Language II			2	II
5	Academic Writing and Publishing			2	II
6	Forefront Research of Education			2	II
7	Advanced Technologies for Learning		Elective (3 Credits)	2	I
8	Doctoral Research Seminar			2	I
9	The Theory of Informationization Teaching Innovation			2	II
10	Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning			2	I
11	Research and Practice Activities	Academic/Social Practice Activities	Required Tasks (6 credits)	2	II
		Instructional Practice			
12	Internationalization Experience			2	II
13	Mid-term Examination			2	III

Credits

PhD candidates must complete a minimum of 22 credits, including 13 core course credits, 3 elective credits, and 6 credits from required tasks. If students have previously completed relevant elective courses at the master's level, they may select alternative courses from other programs or departments to fulfill credit requirements.

Mid-Course Examination

By the end of the third semester, candidates must pass a mid-term assessment to proceed to the dissertation phase. They must complete all required courses and credits and submit a dissertation proposal for approval by their supervisors and an examination committee. Candidates who fail the initial proposal defense may, with support from their supervisor and the committee, apply for a second attempt. Failure to pass the second defense will result in dismissal from the program.

Phd Dissertation

Dissertation topics should be selected under the guidance of the supervisor, with encouragement to pursue areas aligned with the candidate's professional background and interests. The final dissertation must be submitted in March of the sixth semester,

written in English with a length of 160–200 pages (Times New Roman, font size 12, 1.5 line spacing). A public defense is required.

Degree Award

Candidates who complete all academic and research requirements, pass all examinations, and successfully defend their dissertation within the stipulated period will be eligible for graduation. The University's Degree Evaluation Committee will make the final decision on the conferral of degrees.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A recognized Master's degree or equivalent.
- Applicants should have an undergraduate background in a field such as educational technology, education, psychology, computer science, or electronics.
- Proof of English proficiency for non-native speakers: IELTS overall band score of 6.0 or above, or TOEFL score of 100 or above. A minimum score at the 80th percentile on both the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the GRE, along with a score of 4.5 or higher on the Analytical Writing section, is required. Applicants who have earned a degree from an accredited English-taught program may be exempt.
- Good health condition, certified by a local public hospital, without any diseases that prohibit entry into China according to Chinese laws and regulations; free from serious chronic illnesses (e.g., severe hypertension, cardiovascular/cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes), mental disorders, or infectious diseases that pose a public health risk; not in recovery from major surgery or acute disease; not seriously disabled or pregnant. Preference will be given to applicants with work experience in education.
- A summary of personal research accomplishments and/or professional experience should be provided, including a detailed description of one project you have led or participated in.
- Applicants should submit an abstract and full text of their master's thesis, along with the full text of one published academic paper.
- A research proposal is required from all applicants. The proposal must be at least 5,000 words for master's applicants and at least 10,000 words for doctoral applicants.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition: RMB 98,000 for three years (please verify with Office of International Students & Scholars Affairs)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information about the School of Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University, please visit: fe.bnu.edu.cn