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 tradition of academic excellence in education, research, and professional training. Since its founding, BNU has been at the forefront of educational reform and innovation in China and continues to play a leading role in the country's rapidly evolving educational landscape. As a globally recognized institution, BNU places strong emphasis on domestic and international exchange and collaboration and has established a strong reputation for 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 through teaching, research, and public service in education and related fields. FOE is committed to developing future academic leaders and is supported by a distinguished faculty. It currently has 214 academic staff members, 90% of whom hold doctoral degrees, including 83 full professors and 77 associate professors. Since its establishment, FOE has played a leading role in China's educational landscape and has become a major center for high-quality educational research. It comprises 14 academic units, including the Institute of Education Theories, the Institute of International and Comparative Education, the Institute of Education History and Culture, and the School of Educational Technology. FOE is also an important hub for international academic exchange, with bilateral or multilateral agreements with more than 30 prestigious universities worldwide. In addition, it is a founding member of the International Network of Educational Institutions (INEI), together with nine other leading schools of education worldwide.

The School of Educational Technology (SET) has been a pioneer in learning and technology research since the late 1970s. For more than four decades, SET has conducted both theoretical and applied research in learning technologies and educational innovation. In addition to integrating advanced technologies into formal and informal learning environments, the School offers training courses, academic programs, and policy consulting in educational technology. It also maintains active international collaborations with institutions and organizations worldwide. Research at SET spans multiple disciplines, including education, philosophy, cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, and mathematics. The School ranked first in the National Discipline Assessment in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Of its 40 faculty members, 57% are professors. Each year, SET enrolls approximately 50 undergraduate students and more than 60 master's and doctoral students.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

The PhD Program in Advanced Learning Technologies is designed to prepare highly qualified scholars capable of conducting advanced educational research, fostering practical innovation, and promoting educational and cultural exchange between China and other countries.

We warmly welcome students from around the world to apply to this international program, join a diverse and dynamic academic community, and contribute to the advancement of educational technology.

THE AIM OF THE PROGRAM

The PhD Program in Advanced Learning Technologies for International Students aims to provide international scholars with a strong grounding in learning theories and the expertise needed to apply advanced technologies in educational contexts. Doctoral students will study theories of teaching and learning, use technology to address educational challenges, design smart learning environments, and develop curricula. The program also develops independent research capability, cross-cultural communication skills, and educational leadership in response to the needs of an international academic and professional environment. Graduates will be prepared for careers in international organizations, government agencies, research institutes, higher education institutions, and related sectors.

DURATION, CURRICULUM, AND REQUIREMENTS

Duration

The program normally spans three years, and students are expected to complete all requirements within this period. Extensions of the study period or scholarship duration are not permitted. Under exceptional circumstances, such as health-related reasons, students may apply for a suspension of study and, where applicable, scholarship support in accordance with University regulations, for a maximum of one year.

Program Curriculum

No.	Curriculum	Type	Minimum Credits	Semester
1	**Chinese History and Culture (Education Systems, Policy and Management in China)**	Core (13 Credits)	2	I

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, comprising 13 credits from core courses, 3 credits from elective courses, and 6 credits from required tasks. Students who have already completed relevant elective courses at the master's level may select alternative courses from other programs or departments to meet the credit requirements.

Mid-Term Examination

By the end of the third semester, candidates must pass the Mid-Term Examination before proceeding to the dissertation phase. Candidates must complete all required courses and credits and submit a dissertation proposal for approval by their supervisor and the examination committee. Candidates who do not pass the initial proposal defense may, with the approval of 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 candidates encouraged to pursue topics aligned with their professional background and research interests. The final dissertation must be submitted in March of the sixth semester. It must be written in English and be 160–200 pages in length (Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1.5-line spacing). A public defense is required.

Degree Award

Candidates who complete all academic and research requirements, pass all required examinations, and successfully defend their dissertation within the prescribed study period will be eligible for graduation. The University's Degree Evaluation Committee makes the final decision on degree conferral.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A recognized master's degree or equivalent.
- Applicants should have an undergraduate academic background in a relevant field such as educational technology, education, psychology, computer science, or electronics.
- Applicants must provide proof of English proficiency through one of the following: an IELTS Academic overall band score of 6.0 or above; a TOEFL iBT score of 100 or above; or completion of a previous degree at an accredited institution in a program taught entirely in English (relevant supporting documents is required, e.g. a certificate issued by the graduating institution to prove that you were taught fully in English).
- Applicants must be in good health, as certified by a local public hospital, and must not have any condition that would prohibit entry into China under applicable Chinese laws and regulations. Applicants should be free from serious chronic illnesses (e.g., severe hypertension, cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease, or diabetes), mental disorders, or infectious diseases that pose a public health risk; should not be recovering from major surgery or an acute illness; and should not be seriously disabled or pregnant. Preference will be given to applicants with work experience in education.
- Applicants should provide a summary of their research achievements and/or professional experience, including a detailed description of one project they have led or participated in.
- Applicants should submit the abstract and full text of their master's thesis, together with the full text of one published academic paper.
- All applicants must submit a research proposal. Doctoral applicants should submit a proposal of at least 10,000 words.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition: RMB 98,000 for the three-year program (please confirm with the Office of International Students & Scholars Affairs).

CONTACT INFORMATION

For administrative inquiries, please contact:
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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.