



East Carolina University® (ECU) offers an online, three-year EdD in educational leadership program with two-week summer residencies in Bangkok, Thailand. Our program is designed for working educators.

We are currently recruiting for our next cohort, which begins in June 2026.

Program Highlights

- » Coursework and dissertation are completed in three years.
- » Students identify a focus of practice (FoP) and use participatory action research in their contexts.
- » Students work closely with a lead research advisor and a small research team to support project design and provide writing support.
- » The program features a required in-person learning exchange each June in Bangkok, Thailand.
- » Research advisors visit students in their contexts in year one and attend the summer sessions in Bangkok.
- » Instructors maintain a strong emphasis on effective leadership and facilitating engagement with faculty, students, families, and community members.
- » ECU faculty members co-teach courses with instructors who have school leadership experience.
- » Dissertation chapters are embedded in courses each semester.
- » No on-campus requirement.
- » The EdD experiences (courses, meetings, and the dissertation process) are based on community learning exchange principles focused on experiential learning and honoring place and the wisdom of people.

Contact and Faculty Information

- » **Matt Militello, Director**
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The ECU international EdD faculty are a blend of researchers and practitioners. All faculty previously worked or currently work as teachers, principals, or central office administrators, including superintendents. Some instructors have international school leadership experiences.

The staff focuses on job-embedded professional learning, collaboration, equity, and the use of multiple metrics.

East Carolina University is an established university, renowned for its College of Education and educational leadership programs. The EdD is authorized by the University of North Carolina General Administration and accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation.



Visit the program website at education.ecu.edu/intedd for more information and resources, including the following:

- » **Step-by-step application instructions**
- » **Informational videos**
(including student testimonials)
- » **Interest form**
(through which you can request information about our online information sessions)

East Carolina University prohibits unlawful discrimination based on the following protected classes: race/ethnicity, color, genetic information, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, political affiliation, and veteran status (including relationship or association with a protected veteran; or Active Duty or National Guard service).

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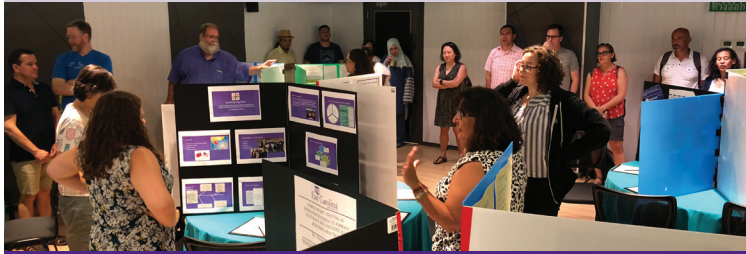


Doctor of Education (EdD) *in* Educational Leadership International Cohort

Three-Year EdD Program

 **ECU** COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Department of Educational Leadership

education.ecu.edu/intedd



Three-Year Program

Students take two courses (6 credits) each semester: a content course and a research design course. Dissertation chapters are embedded in the design courses each semester. In two semesters, students take three courses (9 credits) to complete 60 credits in three years.

Summer 2026 (June Bangkok Residency)

Self-as-Leader | Intro to Participatory Action Research

Fall 2026

Issues in Education | Research (Chapter 1)

Spring 2027

Leading Teaching and Learning | Research (Chapter 2)

Summer 2027 (June Bangkok Residency)

Leading for Change | Research (Chapter 3)

Dissertation Proposal Defense

Fall 2027

Educational History and Foundations | Research (Chapter 4)

Spring 2028

Organizational Theory and Culture | Research (Chapter 5)

Summer 2028 (June Bangkok Residency)

Leading With Others | Research

Fall 2028

Educational Policy | Research (Chapter 6)

Spring 2029

Professional Growth Plan | Research (Chapter 7)

Dissertation Defense

May 2029

Graduation

An Innovative EdD

ECU is a member institution of the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED). This group is focused on making the EdD a doctoral degree for practitioners. As such, the aim is to create an experience that honors the time and wisdom of full-time practitioners and is coupled with learning experiences that ultimately improve one's practice.

ECU successfully launched the EdD in educational leadership international cohort program in 2016. Five cohorts have completed the program.

Admissions Information

Applications for the next cohort are due **January 15, 2026.**



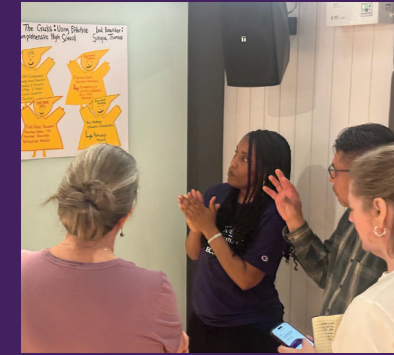
The following materials are required when applying.

- » A completed online application with a nonrefundable \$75 (USD) application fee:
gradschool.ecu.edu/apply
- » Current resume
- » Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate degrees and all courses taken in the past five years; provide evaluation of transcript if from a non-U.S. institution
- » Two letters of reference: one from a person who can attest to your ability to do graduate work and another from a supervisor who can attest to your ability to complete a research project in your school community
- » Writing sample describing a current challenge and how you responded as a leader (500-word maximum)
- » Attendance at the Virtual Candidate Assessment Day (February 2026)



\$1,050/credit

The 60-credit program cost: \$63,000



Graduate Testimonials

"I shifted from the traditional principal-as-boss model to the more collaborative co-learner. Seeking those closest to the issue allowed me to ascertain the needs and facilitate unique solutions to my context. The ECU EdD is a genuine improvement journey."

"The ECU EdD is affordable compared to other programs, doable for working educators, and transformative to my work as a leader."

