Overall Project: Multidisciplinary approaches to learner development and social inclusion

Brief Description:
Relying on strong collaborative partnerships with a wide range of education settings, research in the Department of Education is interested in supporting educational agencies, from school to families, in addressing children’s development and wellbeing needs.

Integrating different perspectives (Arts Education, Early Childhood Education, Sociology of Education, Teacher Education, Religious Studies, Interpreting and Translation) the theme of children’s development and well-being is explored in its many different dimensions.

The studentships are intended for candidates who will pursue active Ph.D. research that falls within the following research areas (this list is not exclusive and applications in other research areas are also welcomed):

1. ‘Inclusion, Participation and Community Engagement’, investigating innovative ways of providing children and young people with the means to think about, interact with and question their life experiences critically and independently, including the fields of religion, translation and interpretation.

2. ‘Equality & Diversity in education’ working with teachers and children in action research projects to look at ways of supporting Special Educational Needs and multi-lingual children, with a view to developing more dynamic, inclusive approaches to education within a diverse society. The theme of ‘equality’ includes research on inclusive education and working with schools to research pedagogical approaches to support children with special educational needs.

3. ‘Critical theories in Education’ challenging new and old forms of inequality and defining new forms of agency. Critical readings of educational practices and theories draw on philosophy, history, social sciences and pedagogy.

4. ‘Primary Mathematics’ working with children, practitioners and academics in projects that critique and challenge traditional and current pedagogies in mathematics. We aim to challenge Mathematics as a discipline of learnt rules and procedures through a focus on practice development and whole school ethos.