

PhD in Virtual Education with a Concentration in Leadership

Program Overview:

The PhD program in Virtual Education, under the administrative leadership of the School of Education, is committed to preparing individuals who want to deepen their understanding of today's key issues in virtual education and to turn that knowledge into practical application for professional practice, with an emphasis on responsible social engagement and the integration of multicultural awareness of human diversity. The overarching goal is to examine the theory and practice of virtual education and its application for the new century.

Program Objective

The doctorate aims to build strengths in leadership, change management, and data-driven decision-making, equipping professionals to drive digital transformation in education.

Program Description

One of the most striking features of this century is the rapid acceleration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). This ICT revolution is recognized by modern societies as an enduring force that is continually reshaping their ways of life. All forecasts suggest that this pace of change will not slow down, but instead will expand to include most of the nations of the world. Education overall, including virtual education, has been profoundly affected by this transformation, which at the same time offers an exciting opportunity to extend its geographic reach.

The University recognizes the ongoing need in society for experts in the field of virtual education. Our doctoral program in virtual education provides a solid understanding of the theoretical foundations of online educational practice and strengthens students' ability to apply that knowledge in specific educational settings. Theory, research, and relevant field experiences are integrated to develop capable, ethical professionals who respect individual and cultural differences in delivering educational services. Our Doctoral Program Orientation Seminar will introduce the program and the University's virtual learning platform.

Doctorate in Virtual Education with a Concentration in Leadership

This program is designed to prepare researchers and education leaders who can help transform institutions into digital environments by advancing strategic leadership, sustainability, and innovation in virtual teaching and learning.

Throughout the program, students will build advanced skills in change management, transformational leadership, and data-driven decision-making in digital learning environments for

uncertainty, with a focus on integrating emerging technologies and sustainable teaching practices. Through applied research and real-world case analysis, participants will gain the tools to design innovative learning models that promote equity, inclusion, and social responsibility in digital learning environments.

This doctorate equips professionals to lead the evolution of the education sector—driving sustainable development strategies and fostering an organizational culture grounded in ethics, emotional intelligence, and academic excellence. Join us on this journey toward educational transformation and leadership with global impact!

Course Methodology

BIU's Doctorate in Virtual Education and Leadership is delivered in a fully online format that's flexible and interdisciplinary, blending strong theoretical foundations with hands-on application in real educational settings.

The learning process is grounded in applied research, real-world case analysis, and the use of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. Students build key competencies through critical analysis, addressing educational challenges, conducting research, and applying strategies in leadership, change management, and innovation.

In addition, the program integrates emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, and learning analytics as tools to strengthen decision-making and transform educational processes. The training also encourages interaction and collaboration among students, faculty, and professionals from diverse settings, supporting a global perspective.

	Nombre del curso	Código	Créditos
1º Período Académico	Doctoral Program Orientation Seminar	VED7011	0
	Educational Leadership and Organizational Design for Sustainability	VLO7012	3
	Leadership in the Age of Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence	VLO7013	3
2º Período Académico	Research Methodology I	VED7021	3
	Challenges and Trends for Teachers: Professor or Coach?	VED7022	3
3º Período Académico	Research Methodology II	VED7031	3
	Digital Literacy and Online Learning	VED7012	3
4º Período Académico	Leadership Management and Emotional Intelligence in Virtual Learning Institutions	VLO7041	3
	Personal Development and Culture of Responsibility	VLO7042	3
5º Período Académico	Doctoral Research Seminar I	VED7051	6
6º Período Académico	Copyright and Ethics in Virtual Education	VED7061	3
	International Teams – Strategic Agreements between Institutions	VED7062	3
7º Período Académico	Doctoral Research Seminar II	VED7071	6
8º Período Académico	Evaluation in Virtual Education	VED7081	3
	Perspectives on Instructional Technology and Distance Education	VED7082	3
9º Período Académico	Doctoral Research Seminar III	VED7091	6
10º Período Académico	Dissertation	VED7101	6
11º Período Académico	Continuing Dissertation Services (for those students that need extra time to finish dissertation)	VED7190	1



VED7011 - Doctoral Program Orientation Seminar: This introductory course provides an overview of the doctoral program, giving students the chance to broaden their understanding of the academic process from a researcher's perspective, grounded in the scientific method.

VLO7012 - Educational Leadership and Organizational Design for Sustainability: This course examines the intersection of educational management, organizational innovation, and sustainability principles. It is based on the premise that educational institutions are key drivers of social transformation and, therefore, should be designed in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

VLO7013 – Leadership in the Age of Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence : this course explores the challenges and opportunities leaders face in a world reshaped by the technological revolution. Leadership in the digital age becomes a defining factor in helping organizations seize opportunities in digital innovation and artificial intelligence

VED7021 - Research Methodology I: This course builds the core knowledge and skills needed to design doctoral-level qualitative research, including data analysis.

VED7022 - Challenges and Trends for Teachers: Professor or Coach?: Online teaching comes with many challenges and emerging trends. Instructors need to incorporate the latest research on cognitive processing and learning outcomes. Bringing games, simulations, and virtual worlds into online learning can be a transformative experience for both teachers and students.

VED7031 - Research Methodology II: This research course equips students with the core knowledge and skills to design doctoral-level qualitative studies, including how to interpret data analysis. Students examine the nature of qualitative research; fieldwork strategies and the role of observation; theoretical approaches to qualitative inquiry; the importance of quality assurance; ethical and legal considerations; and the social change implications of conducting qualitative research and generating knowledge.

VED7012 - Digital Literacy and Online Learning: This course examines how leadership and strategic management—integrated with emotional intelligence—shape the effectiveness of virtual learning institutions. It highlights why developing emotional skills in educational leaders is essential to strengthen communication, boost motivation, and improve performance in digital environments.

VLO7041 - Leadership Management and Emotional Intelligence in Virtual Learning Institutions: Explores the connection between leadership, management, and emotional intelligence in virtual learning institutions, highlighting how these competencies help create digital learning environments that are more effective, collaborative, and people-centered.

VLO7042 – Personal Development and a Culture of Responsibility: This course examines how personal development strengthens the building of a culture of responsibility, promoting

values, independence, and commitment both in personal life and in professional and educational settings.

VED7051 – Doctoral Research Seminar I: This course has two goals: first, to provide students with a foundation in documentary research that has made a meaningful impact in academia; and second, to use the reading and discussion of these texts to spark ideas that help them develop a conceptual dissertation thesis draft. The selected readings serve as models of knowledge-building and argumentation. Students are expected to situate their work within the broad intellectual framework the course provides. The final deliverable for this seminar will be their doctoral thesis proposal.

VED7061 – Copyright and Ethics in Virtual Education: Explores why respecting copyright and ethical principles matters in virtual education, highlighting best practices for responsible use of digital content and for maintaining academic integrity in online settings.

VED7062 – International Teams – Strategic Agreements between Institutions: Explores the value of international teams and strategic agreements between institutions as ways to strengthen global collaboration, spark innovation, and expand opportunities for academic and organizational growth.

VED7071 – Doctoral Research Seminar II: This course supports students in advancing both quantitative and qualitative research methods, while also broadening their literature review. The seminar's final deliverable is an initial framework of research methodologies that will be further developed in the final dissertation.

VED7081 – Evaluation in Virtual Education: Analyzes assessment and evaluation processes in virtual education, highlighting methods, tools, and criteria that ensure effective measurement of learning, engagement, and performance in digital environments.

VED7082 – Perspectives on Instructional Technology and Distance Education: Examines current trends and approaches in instructional technology and distance education, highlighting their impact on teaching innovation, the design of learning experiences, and the transformation of digital learning environments.

VED7091 – Doctoral Research Seminar III: This course addresses both the theoretical and practical aspects of designing dissertation research and successfully defending that design before an evaluation panel. The course is intended to support students throughout the doctoral dissertation process. The dissertation is expected to be an original research project that demonstrates the student's ability to conceive, plan, and carry out independent research under the guidance of their advisor and dissertation committee.

VED7101 – Dissertation: All doctoral students are required to complete the doctoral dissertation. Three milestones are required: the concept paper, the dissertation proposal, and the final dissertation document, which will incorporate the full body of research and conclusions. In this way, each student is given the opportunity to become an expert in a selected area/subject through an original contribution to research.

VED7190 - Continuing Dissertation Services (for students who need additional time to complete their dissertation): Additional time for students who need an extended deadline to complete their dissertation.