



PhD in Education with a Focus on Educational Sustainability (July start)

2026 Supplemental Application Instructions

The PhD in Education program will prepare students from a variety of fields including, but not limited to, education, health, social work, social justice, and administrative leadership for sustainable educational practices in the 21st century. Through a variety of courses, a comprehensive exam and a research dissertation, the PhD program in Education will allow you to assume an investigative stance in regard to teaching and learning. PhD experiential learning will enable you to develop a scholarship of teaching and learning through opportunities to conduct seminars and engage in research related to instructional practices in multiple fields.

This program starts in July of the intake year. PhD students must participate in a summer residency program at our North Bay campus (in-person only) over two years (4 weeks each July). Outside of the summer residency all other courses are offered online only. For international applicants only, please note that this program does not meet the requirements for a Study Permit. Make sure you check on the immigration requirements to attend the North Bay campus for the summer residency program.

For further information regarding the PhD in Education program, please visit www.nipissingu.ca/phd.

Program related questions can be directed to the Chair, Graduate Studies in Education at graded@nipissingu.ca.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 15, 2026* - for scholarship consideration.
SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION DEADLINE: January 22, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. EST

Applications received after the application deadline date will not be considered for scholarships/funding opportunities. For questions pertaining to scholarship/funding opportunities criteria, please contact sgs@nipissingu.ca.

Applications will continue to be accepted after January 15, 2026, and documentation after January 22, 2026. Late applications will be considered if room remains in the program; funding consideration is not available for late applications and late documentation. Please note that this program tends to fill up quickly, therefore it is strongly recommended you submit the application and documentation by their prospective deadline dates listed above. Contact admissions@nipissingu.ca or at 705-474-3450 ext. 4600 to verify if late applications are still being accepted.*

***Late applications, application fees and late documentation must be submitted no later than May 1, 2026. Please note that applications can close at any time once program is full and a waitlist has been established.*

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

The applicant must hold a Master's degree or equivalent, as recognized by Nipissing University, in an appropriate discipline, with a minimum A- standing. Preference will be given to applicants whose master's degree includes an independent research component such as a thesis or major research paper.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

(Due January 22, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. EST)

Please submit transcripts, letters of reference and other supporting documentation after you have submitted your online application. Nipissing University cannot verify receipt of transcripts and supporting documents if we have not received your application. You may paperclip your documents. No staples or folders please. Do not bind documents in any other manner.

1. Online application and fee

Online application can be accessed from our website: www.nipissingu.ca/registrarforms. The base application fee will be paid online through the application. Additional transcript fees may apply.

2. Transcripts

Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all institutions attended, including those attended on a Letter of Permission or exchange program. High School or College (diploma/certificate programs) transcripts are not required. A copy of the transcript from an exchange program can be sent directly by your host institution to Nipissing University if they are willing to do so, otherwise an official transcript must be sent directly from the university where the exchange program was held. See the Transcript section for further information.

3. Confidential Recommendations

Two (2) confidential academic recommendations from professors **OR** other appropriate professionals who can speak to the candidate's level of preparation and readiness for graduate studies. References must be from someone qualified to address the academic ability and competence of the applicant to undertake graduate studies. References cannot be completed by anyone who is personally related to the applicant. Recommendations are to be confidential; therefore, **they must be mailed in sealed envelopes with the referee's signature over the seal or emailed by the referee using their professional email address and sent directly to admissions@nipissingu.ca**. The Confidential Recommendation forms are included in this package. **Please indicate to your referee that a comprehensive letter included with the recommendation form will be most beneficial in determining your eligibility for admission.**

4. Proof of completion of a Thesis or Major Research Paper at the Master's level

You do not have to submit your actual thesis. Submitting a copy of the thesis signature page only or ensuring your thesis is referenced on your transcript is sufficient. If a Thesis or Major Research Paper was not completed for your Master's degree, a sample of evidence of scholarly writing (written in English, not translated) must be submitted.

5. Résumé

A comprehensive résumé detailing your educational and professional experience. Please include scholarships and awards, significant academic accomplishments, internships, research projects, involvement in student organizations, volunteer work and publications and presentations.

6. Statement of Interest

A typed Statement of Intent of between 1000 and 1500 words must be included. Statements should provide the following information:

- The value of undertaking a doctoral degree at this time and specifically at Nipissing University;
- The way in which your work might relate to educational sustainability;
- A description of your study and/or research interests (you might choose to identify four or five key words or phrases that relate to your proposed study);
- An explanation of how/why you became interested in this field of study;
- Awareness of peer reviewed research (minimum of 2-3 articles) in your intended field of study;
- Reasons for seeking admission into this particular program within the Schulich School of Education at Nipissing University; and
- **The names of two or three faculty members that you might be interested in working with. Please refer to the following link to review faculty members' research interests and methodologies:**
<https://www.nipissingu.ca/academics/school-graduate-studies/phd-education/research-supervisor>

7. Supervisors

The program admissions committee considers whether there is a faculty member who can supervise your research as part of their decision-making process. Prior to submitting your application, you should review the [list of the PhD faculty members](#). It is strongly encouraged that you contact your top choices for supervisor(s) in advance of submitting your application to inquire whether they are accepting new graduate students for the next academic year and to discuss your specific research interests. To submit an application with a stronger chance of being considered for admissions, please provide information in your statement of interest about what specific area or topic(s) you would like to focus on in your research and identify potential supervisor(s).

8. English Language Proficiency

Proof of Proficiency in English for internationally educated applicants whose first language is not English, also due by the application deadline. Nipissing University accepts the following tests as proof of proficiency in English:

English Proficiency Test	Minimum Scores
IELTS	6.5 – No bands less than 6.5
TOEFL iBT	93 with a minimum score of 20 in reading and listening and a minimum score of 22 in writing and speaking
PTE – Pearson Test of Academic English	63 with a minimum score of 60 in each section
CAE – Cambridge Assessment English	C1 minimum overall score of 176 with a minimum score of 169
CAEL/CAEL Online – Canadian Academic English Language	70 with no band less than 60

The required minimum scores must be submitted before the candidate can be considered for admission. Duolingo is not accepted.

9. Scholarship and Funding Opportunities

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

- Applications for the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) can be found at www.nipissingu.ca/ogs.
- The OGS application is due January 15, 2026, and is to be submitted electronically to the Graduate Studies Department at sgs@nipissingu.ca.
- The OGS application requires two Academic Assessment Reports with an academic reference for each. The reference forms in the OGS application are different than the references required for the admission application. Should you choose the same academic referees for both the OGS application and the admission application, your referees will be required to fill out both the admission reference form and the OGS academic reference and attach a separate letter to each form. Your referees should make note of what is to be addressed for each reference.
- For questions pertaining to scholarship criteria, please contact sgs@nipissingu.ca or 705-474-3450 ext. 4292.

Other Funding Opportunities

- Visit www.nipissingu.ca/gradfunding to learn more about internal and external funding opportunities, Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Graduate Research Assistantship, and other potential funding/award sources. Please note that some may have earlier deadlines.

10. Future Funding Opportunities

Schulich Scholarship

- Valued at \$7,500
- 5 scholarships available for PhD Education students entering year 3 or 4
- Must have a minimum 80% average and at least one of the following: volunteer work; community involvement; or financial need.
- Further information will be provided to all students during their second and/or third year

DOCUMENT SUBMISSION:

Transcripts and supporting documentation can be submitted in the following ways:

- **Email:** admissions@nipissingu.ca - All documentation can be sent to this email address. As for official transcripts, emailed transcripts will only be accepted when we can verify that they come directly from the issuing institution. Recommendations must be sent directly by the referees and not by the applicant.
- **Third-Party Companies (e.g., MyCreds, Parchment):** Please contact your institution directly for assistance with these platforms. Send to admissions@nipissingu.ca.
- **OUAC:** Official transcripts from Ontario universities and colleges should be ordered through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) as part of the application process. You must contact your institution directly for all transcripts from outside Ontario.
- **Mail:** Nipissing University
Office of the Registrar – Admissions
100 College Drive, Box 5002
North Bay ON P1B 8L7

TRANSCRIPTS:

Current and Former Nipissing Students

- Current Nipissing students and Nipissing former students and/or graduates do not need to order or send Nipissing transcripts. However, if you attended Nipissing prior to 1992, you are considered a Laurentian University student and must request that transcript.

Applicants with Canadian Credentials

- **Ontario:** The fastest and most effective way to send your official transcripts is by ordering them through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) when you apply. Otherwise, you will need to contact the institution(s) directly to request your transcript(s) and have them sent to Nipissing University by one of the methods listed in the Document Submission section above.
- **All Other Provinces:** You will need to contact the institution(s) directly to request your transcript(s) and have them sent directly to Nipissing University by one of the methods listed in the Document Submission section above.

Applicants with International Credentials

- If you have completed post-secondary courses at the undergraduate or graduate level outside of Canada or the U.S. (apart from Exchange studies), you **MUST** have all your foreign transcripts evaluated by World Education Service (WES): www.wes.org/ca. A WES Credential Evaluation Report, including a Course-By-Course Analysis, must be sent directly to Nipissing University by the required supplemental documentation deadline as listed on the supplemental forms. This requirement cannot be waived. No exceptions.

Applicant: Please complete this section before presenting to referee

Name of Applicant:

Surname	First	Middle	Student # or OUAC Ref. #
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Referee: We would appreciate your appraisal of the above applicant for a PhD degree in the field of Education. The information in the report will be considered confidential.

- How long have you known the applicant? (MM/YY) From: _____ to _____
- In what capacity? _____
- Indicate with an 'X' your evaluation of this applicant with respect to their ability to complete a PhD program in the field of Education:

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Basis for Comment
Intellectual Capacity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scholarly Potential	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Originality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Critical Judgment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oral Expression	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Written Expression	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Initiative	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Work Habits	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Perseverance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

- In comparison with other students at the applicant's level, indicate where you would place this applicant.
 Among the top ☐ 5% ☐ 10% ☐ 25% ☐ 50% ☐ lower than 50%

- Please attach a current letter of reference which speaks to the candidate's strengths, or any concerns you may have with their ability to succeed at the doctoral level. This letter will be used for admission purposes and scholarship consideration. A comprehensive letter will be most beneficial in determining the applicant's eligibility.

To the Referee:

This Recommendation is confidential. Please enclose this form and supporting letter in a sealed envelope and write your signature over the seal. You can either return the envelope to the applicant to submit with their application or email the documents directly to the Admissions Office, sent from your professional email account to admissions@nipissingu.ca.

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Faculty: _____

Address: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Protection of Privacy

Information requested from students and applicants is collected under the authority of the Nipissing University Act, 1992. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act you are hereby notified that: "By applying for admission to Nipissing University and by registering in programs or courses at the University, you are accepting the University's right to collect pertinent personal information. The information is needed to assess qualifications for entry, establish a record of performance in programs and courses, provide the basis for awards and government funding, and to assist the University in the academic and financial administration of its affairs". Additionally, personal information may be used by University staff in many offices on a "need to know" basis to identify and contact students who require their services.

Applicant: Please complete this section before presenting to referee

Name of Applicant:

Surname	First	Middle	Student # or OUAC Ref. #
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Referee: We would appreciate your appraisal of the above applicant for a PhD degree in the field of Education. The information in the report will be considered confidential.

- Professional Relationship to applicant _____
- Period of relationship upon which assessment is based
 From: _____ to _____
- Indicate with an 'X' your evaluation of this applicant in comparison with others performing similar duties.

		Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Basis for Comment
Professional Knowledge and Ability		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Leadership Qualities		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Teaching Ability		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Professional Relationships with...	Colleagues	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Public	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oral Expression		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Written Expression		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reliability of Performance		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Familiarity with Current Theory & Practice		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

- In comparison with others performing similar professional duties, how would you rank this applicant.
 Among the top ☐ 5% ☐ 10% ☐ 25% ☐ 50% ☐ lower than 50%

- Please attach a current letter of reference which speaks to the candidate's strengths, or any concerns you may have with their ability to succeed at the doctoral level. This letter will be used for admission purposes and scholarship consideration. A comprehensive letter will be most beneficial in determining the applicant's eligibility.

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Name: _____	Company/School/ Organization: _____
Position: _____	Address: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____
Telephone Number: _____	Email address: _____

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