

FACILITIES

The course is based at Launceston and students are able to study the first two years of the program on the Burnie Campus. Special facilities include computer laboratories, a science-technology centre, art, music and drama studios, and several curriculum teaching rooms. These facilities are complemented by a range of teaching resources.

The Faculty of Education enjoys a high level of co-operation with the Tasmanian Department of Education and the Catholic and Independent School Systems. This enables students to participate in a range of valuable experiences, including teaching and observation of children, throughout their course.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The BEd (Early Childhood/Primary) is recognised throughout Australia and indeed throughout the world. The predictions indicate that job prospects will be good both within Tasmania and other Australian states in the following years. In addition to teaching, the course provides opportunities in other careers, particularly those which require interpersonal skills such as childcare.

There are also opportunities to study beyond an initial BEd (Early Childhood/Primary) degree by completing Graduate Certificate programs in a range of areas, Masters and Doctoral Degrees in education.

COURSE

The BEd (Early Childhood/Primary) prepares teachers to work with children from either first entry into schooling up to the end of the Tasmanian Grade Two or the equivalent; or Grade Three to Grade Six in Tasmanian Schools or equivalent grades in other systems. Students graduate with the BEd specialising in either Early Childhood or Primary. The course has responded to government initiatives including, for example, all facets of the National Curriculum. This enables graduates to gain skills in teaching all the subjects for which an early childhood or primary teacher is responsible, and to have familiarity with Tasmanian and Australian curriculum documents and initiatives.

There are no specific pre-requisite TCE subjects but success in subjects such as English, Mathematics and Computing is certainly an advantage.

Previous experience and qualifications, such as TAFE associate diplomas in the childcare area may provide exemptions from aspects of the course.

DEGREE STRUCTURE

The BEd (Early Childhood/Primary) is a four year course. It is made up of liberal studies, core education units, curriculum studies and school experience. Liberal studies provide the opportunity for students to undertake academic studies for two years in two subjects of their own choice. These studies can be regarded as a continuation of TCE subjects. Most liberal studies are provided by faculties other than Education and classes usually consist of students from several degree courses. Core education units are included in each year of the program. These units provide the various theoretical ideas needed to understand teaching and education. Curriculum units are a major focus throughout each of the four years of the course and enable students to understand and develop skills for teaching all early childhood or primary subjects. School experience features in each year of the program and provides opportunities for teaching as well as observing children and teachers at work. The third and fourth years of the course provide opportunities for longer periods of teaching and students are progressively given increased responsibility for teaching assigned classes. The first two years of the course are the same for all students. However, in the final two years it is necessary to select curriculum units for either the early childhood or primary specialisations. Successful completion of the course enables students to graduate with the BEd specialising in either Early Childhood or Primary. There is provision for outstanding students to undertake the final year of the course at honours level.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To gain entry to the Bachelor of Education course candidates must normally meet the University's basic entry requirements set out in the Admission Guide. The University requires applicants for admission to the degree of Bachelor to have a minimum of four pre-tertiary (3 at year 12 level) subjects at a level equivalent to the Tasmanian Certificate of Education. Interstate applicants may also satisfy entrance requirements on the basis of comparable Year 12 qualifications completed in other states of Australia. Applicants with post-secondary study (tertiary or TAFE), mature age applicants, special entry applicants or those with work experience or professional qualifications should apply for alternative entry. (See the University's Undergraduate Admission Guide for details).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Faculty encourages international student enrolment in both undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses. Staff within the Faculty have gained considerable experience in teaching and supervising students from many international countries including Malaysia, China, Thailand and Indonesia. Small class sizes allow greater staff/student contact and permit greater individual student supervision.

