Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)

There has never been a better time to study to become an early childhood teacher. The most recent Queensland Early Childhood Education and Care census identified a significant shortfall in the number of specialist early childhood teachers needed to lead approved kindergarten programs in long day care and kindergarten services.

Nationally, the expected growth in the number of early childhood teachers required in these settings is expected to grow by 22% between 2018 and 2023, according to the Australian Government’s Job Outlook.

This puts you, as an early childhood graduate teacher, in the box seat for leadership in the early childhood education and care sector.

Why choose this course?
The early years are a time of rapid growth and development. Early relationships, interactions and experiences provide the foundation for everything that follows - school, work, life. Early childhood teachers make a significant and lasting contribution to a child’s education and lifelong learning. You will be supported by specialist early childhood academics and will experience unique, real-world opportunities that prepare you to teach in early childhood.

We will ensure you can step into your career with confidence and continue to adapt to ongoing workforce changes and future opportunities. Some key inclusions in the course are:

- a deep understanding of early childhood learning and development
- curriculum and pedagogy knowledge and practices
- creating positive learning environments for young learners
- inclusion and diversity
- building positive relationships with parents, carers, communities and education stakeholders
- digital technologies
- entrepreneurial thinking and leadership
- innovation and creativity
- evaluation, research and assessment
- developing your professional identity
- global perspectives
- resilience.

Candice Johnston
Follow your passion

'I decided to study early childhood at QUT as I have always had a passion for helping children learn and making a positive difference in their lives. My degree furthered my understanding and knowledge of early learning and opened the door to a range of career options.'
Flexible delivery
At QUT we understand life is busy so our courses are flexible and responsive to your needs. If you have suitable early childhood qualifications and work experience, you may be eligible for generous credit, and choose to study part-time and externally to fit your study around work, family and other commitments.

You can study on campus or online, depending on your preferred learning style.

Part-time on-campus students should note that daytime attendance is required. Some lectures and tutorials may have evening sessions.

If you enter the course with advanced standing you should seek advice on your course progression and the availability of online units.

Real-world learning
Professional experience
We have extensive partnerships and industry connections within the early childhood education and care field. These partnerships benefit you by connecting you with professionals working across early childhood contexts. We organise professional experience placements to give you the opportunity to experience a diverse range of placements including school classrooms, kindergartens and early childhood settings, supervised by practising professional educators.

These experiences allow you to develop your capabilities as you progress through the course. You can complete your professional experiences in a variety of locations including South-East Queensland, rural and remote locations, and overseas. You will be required to undertake the majority of your supervised professional experience in Australian settings.

More real-world experience
QUT offers a range of opportunities to apply or volunteer for programs and experiences related to your course.

We also offer opportunities to gain valuable experience overseas. These diverse cultural experiences can enhance your personal development and cultural competence, and show employers that you can deal with change and have initiative, commitment, flexibility, and compassion. You can apply for opportunities to travel overseas for semester exchange or short-term international programs offered in conjunction with our global partners. Your overseas experience may contribute towards a unit in your course. You may also be eligible to receive funding for travel.

Learn from the best
You’ll learn from inspiring and innovative lecturers who are committed to providing a quality experience for the early childhood teachers of the future. Our lecturers have real-world experience in early childhood settings and schools and have a wealth of knowledge and advice to set you on the right path.

We’ve been recognised among the nation’s most outstanding teaching and learning programs. In the past nine years, QUT’s Faculty of Education has received eight Australian awards or citations for university teaching.

Entry requirements
Prerequisites
You must have completed four semesters at high school level (Years 11 and 12) with sound achievement (4, SA) in:
- English;
- at least one of Maths A, B or C; and
- at least one of Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Marine Science, Marine Studies, Physics or Science.

Haven’t completed the prerequisite subjects?
You may be able to meet the prerequisite requirements if you’ve completed equivalent subjects or by completing bridging courses.

How to meet prerequisite requirements

Additional entry requirements
Applicants must demonstrate possession of key competencies outlined by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) as those attributes and motivations common to effective teachers.

You must complete an online questionnaire to demonstrate your motivation for and understanding of, the course and profession. Details are available from the QTAG initial teacher education webpage.

Real-world facilities
Experience the new Education Precinct at the heart of Kelvin Grove campus. With five levels dedicated to world-class teaching, you’ll have access to imaginatively designed face-to-face and online interactive learning spaces. A centrepiece of the Precinct is the Sphere, a digital LED globe suspended over two floors with a changing menu of innovative visual content.

To prepare you to be an inspiring, innovative and confident teacher for the future, you’ll be able to experiment and innovate in preparation for professional experiences in schools and early childhood centres. The spaces facilitate just the right balance of collaborative learning, interaction and quiet individual research.

Our expert teaching staff will inspire you to push boundaries, be curious and innovate. Qualities you will in turn foster in the students you teach.

Customise your degree
As this course qualifies you to teach to Year 3, you will undertake a primary specialisation as required by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership. This will enhance your skills in national areas of priority for a primary school setting. You can choose from:
- maths/numeracy
- science
- English/literacy.

In the third year of the course you can choose two option units in areas that you are interested in.

Careers and outcomes
As early childhood specialists, graduates are prepared to work as qualified teachers in early childhood education and care settings and kindergarten. The early childhood degree also prepares you to teach in Prep to Year 3 in primary school and can allow you to work across Australia and overseas.

Early childhood teachers develop a range of skills, knowledge and practices as a result of their own unique combination of work experiences and personal qualities. You will be empowered to shape your own career path and explore the many ways to make an impact. You can explore a range of careers, including:
- childcare centre or kindergarten director
- education policy and program implementation
- training and development roles in private and public organisations
- education and outreach roles
- developing products for the early childhood sector.

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- childhood sector
  - learning designer
  - entertainment industry roles
  - consultancy
  - education research.

Professional recognition
This course meets professional teaching standards for the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership and Queensland College of Teachers. Graduates are eligible to apply for teacher registration. Graduates are also recognised as qualified early childhood teachers under the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority framework.

Fees
HECS-HELP
You may be eligible for HECS-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your course fees, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the HECS-HELP information.

Student Services and Amenities Fee
You'll need to pay the student services and amenities fee as part of your course costs. You may be eligible for SA-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your student services and amenities fee, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the SA-HELP information.

Advanced standing
For a completed Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, or an equivalent accredited qualification
If you completed the qualification prior to receiving a QTAC offer, you will be automatically granted credit (advanced standing) of 96 credit points.

If you completed the qualification after receiving a QTAC offer, you will be granted credit (advanced standing) of 96 credit points but you will need to apply for advanced standing within ten days on receiving your diploma.

If you have the following early childhood work experience, you will need to apply for advanced standing within ten days on receiving your QTAC offer to receive an additional 48 credit points of advanced standing:
- one year full-time (or equivalent) experience leading the development and implementation of the education program for a group of children in an approved service (e.g. group leader) or leading the development and implementation of the education programs in an approved service (e.g. educational leader; Family Day Care Coordinator);
- two years full-time (or equivalent) experience as a family day care educator in an approved service;
- two years full-time (or equivalent) experience supporting the development and implementation of the education program for a group of children (e.g., educator in an approved service, teacher aide working with young children Prep to Year 3 in a school);
- two years full-time (or equivalent) experience in school age care.

How to apply for advanced standing
You can find out more about advanced standing and how to apply. If you enter the course with advanced standing you should seek advice on your course progression and the availability of units.

Course requirements
Literacy and numeracy
You will need to successfully complete the National Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education Students to graduate from the course. You are permitted three test attempts in total for each component as a student at QUT. If you fail three test attempts for each component, you will not be able to graduate. You are not eligible to apply for a place in the course if you have failed two test attempts for one or more components, at another institution. The test will assess your personal literacy and numeracy skills. QUT provides you with one reimbursement to cover the cost of the test.

Find more information about additional course costs and requirements.

Inherent requirements
There are some essential skills and abilities you'll need to perform to meet the core learning outcomes of your course or unit. They're not something you need to get into the course, but they'll be assessed throughout your course, and they'll be required for you to succeed in your career when you graduate.

Find out more about the inherent requirements for the Bachelor of Education.