

# Teaching in the School



## Courses

### Primary and secondary initial teacher education

Murdoch provides a four-year Bachelor of Education degree, a one-year Graduate Diploma in Education, and a two-year Graduate Entry BEd for students wishing to become primary or secondary school teachers. These courses are available full-time and part-time, and through campus-based study or distance external studies.

The four-year Bachelor of Education degree is the most common choice for students who wish to become primary teachers and a common choice for those wishing to become secondary teachers. Primary Teacher Education students complete a four-year course of study during which approximately three-quarters of their units are directly related to their development as teachers.

The remaining units are electives students can use to broaden their general education or to develop a specialty teaching area or area of interest. Graduates are qualified to

teach at junior, middle and upper primary levels. Secondary Teacher Education students typically study for the BEd concurrently with a Bachelor's degree in their main teaching area. They are awarded a double degree at the end of their four-year course of study.

The one-year Graduate Diploma in Education is a qualification for students who already hold a Bachelor's degree in a non-education field (typically a BA or BSc).

For Primary Teacher Education students a wide range of undergraduate degrees is appropriate, but for Secondary Teacher Education students the undergraduate degree has to be relevant to one of the learning areas in secondary schools. Teaching areas include English, English as a Second Language (ESL), Languages Other Than English (LOTE), Drama, Mathematics, Media, Science, Society and Environment.

Students who have already completed an undergraduate degree can complete the four-year BEd (Primary) or (Secondary) in a minimum of two years. These students receive advanced standing for the first two years of the BEd.

### Graduate professional studies

The one-year Graduate Diploma of Education Studies has two purposes: firstly it provides teachers with the opportunity to broaden or deepen their teaching repertoire by combining education and non-education studies in an area of specialisation (e.g. Environmental Education, Special Needs Education, Aboriginal and Islander Studies, Early Childhood Education, Media, Mathematics, Languages Other Than English [LOTE] and/or English as a Second Language [ESL]). Secondly, it provides an avenue for students from other disciplines who wish to gain knowledge and skills in education applicable to a wide range of contexts. This program has also been of interest to other professionals and community members who are interested in educational processes and issues.

Murdoch University offers a one-year Graduate Diploma in Education (Tertiary and Adult) for professionals wanting a qualification in tertiary and adult teaching. Demand for the Tertiary and Adult Education program continues to increase due to a developing emphasis on professional

educational practice in tertiary institutions and training in government, private and non-government organisations.

Pathways for TAFE lecturers to enrol in the Graduate Diploma program have been strengthened by the award of credit for the completion of several professional development programs.

For tertiary and adult teaching, enrolment in the course requires that students have or can arrange access to teaching groups; typically students are already in a teaching situation.

The School also offers Graduate Certificates in Special Needs Education, Tertiary and Adult Education, Drama Teaching, Early Childhood Education, and Mathematics Teaching.

## Postgraduate courses

The Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Studies (Social Research and Evaluation stream) attract able graduates from education, health, social science, and a variety of other backgrounds.

There are five degrees available at the Masters level - the Master of Education (Coursework), the Master of Education (Research), the Master of Education Studies, the Master of Philosophy, and the Masters by Research Training, all of which may provide advanced professional development for educators,

There are two degrees at the Doctoral level - the Doctor of Education (professional doctorate) and Doctor of Philosophy. All

these degrees allow for studies in a wide range of specialist areas, some of which are: Indigenous Education; Adult Teaching and Learning; Inclusivity; Special Needs; Ethics and Values; Mentoring; Collaborative Learning; Environmental Education; Program Evaluation; Early Childhood Education; Measurement in the Social Sciences; School-based Assessment, Measurement and Evaluation; Cultural Diversity; Vocational Education; Boys Education; Gifted Education; Personal and Social Development; Motivation; Learning and Instruction; ICT and e-Learning; Issues in Nurse Education; Historical Perspectives in Education; Curriculum Studies in Science, Mathematics, Society and Environment, LOTE, TESL, English, Drama, Health and Physical Education, Media, Arts Education and Curriculum Development.

## Course enrolments 2006

		Enrolment
Unifocus Bridging Course		37
<b>Initial Teacher Education</b>		
Primary (Bachelor of Education)		1107
Secondary (Bachelor of Education)		218
Primary (Graduate Diploma)		201
Secondary (Graduate Diploma)		132
Primary (Bachelor of Education, Graduate)		53
Secondary (Bachelor of Education, Graduate)		20
	Sub total	1731
<b>Further Professional Studies</b>		
Graduate Diploma in Education Studies		23
Graduate Diploma in Education Tertiary & Adult		55
Graduate Certificate in Drama Teaching		1
Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education		14
Graduate Certificate in Mathematics Teaching		6
Graduate Certificate in Special Needs Education		2
Graduate Certificate in Tertiary & Adult Education		9
Master of Education (Coursework)		32
	Sub total	142
<b>Research</b>		
Master of Education (Research)		49
Research Masters with Training		3
Doctor of Philosophy		38
Doctor of Education		21
	Sub total	111
	Total	2021

## The Curriculum Resource Centre

This has been an eventful year for the Curriculum Resource Centre.

For the first time all resources are represented on the library catalogue enabling all students to view the entire collection. In particular this will aid external and Rockingham education students to locate and request suitable resources.

A large collection of posters is now fully catalogued and organized for easy browsing. Preparation of this collection has been a joint

project of the Curriculum Resource Centre and Murdoch University Library cataloguing section. Barbara Smith and Leanne Munyard from the resource centre were presented with a *Quarterly Staff Award* by the library for their part in organizing the poster project which has spanned three years.

The Curriculum Resource Centre team was also presented with a *2006 Vice Chancellor's Excellence in Enhancing Learning Award* for specialist expertise in advice and evaluation of selected resources to provide a quality centre enhancing the learning experience of student teachers. The four team members were representatives from the Curriculum

Resource Centre on both the South Street and the Rockingham Campuses.

At the end of 2006 the Murdoch Campus Curriculum Resource Centre was host to an inaugural meeting of resource librarians from Western Australian universities.

Each participant expressed that the sharing of ideas was very useful and it is expected that future years will see the meeting's continuation.

The staff of the Curriculum Resource Centre look forward in 2007 to increasing students' access to a wide selection of commendable teaching resources.



CRC Centre staff at South Street campus: (From Left) Leanne Munyard, Barbara Smith, Irene Paterson.



CRC Centre staff at Rockingham campus: Jennifer Ritzrow.

# The School Experience Office

School experience remains a core and compulsory component of the induction of students into the teaching profession.

The School Experience Office is responsible for administering this key element of students' professional learning and considerable progress was made during 2006 to streamline administrative procedures and to undertake the preparatory work required to introduce new units in 2007.

In 2006 the School Experience Office was transformed to become MUSE – Murdoch University School Experience – and given a new logo. 2006 also saw the establishment of the MUSE website for students and supervisors.

The website was designed to assist stakeholders in accessing important information regarding clearances and MUSE policies and procedures.

It provides easy access to forms, unit guides and a range of links to relevant institutional and academic sites. In 2007-8, the site will be expanded to include information for mentor teachers and schools.

There were also changes made to the number and deployment of MUSE staff in order to cope with the increasing demands associated with the provision of school experience.

- Ms Roz Tucker (secondary placements) and Ms Gillian Turner (placements for students at the Rockingham campus) were welcomed to the MUSE team
- Dr Anne Price took over responsibility for the academic coordination of the primary program; Geraldine Ditchburn was responsible for the academic coordination of the secondary program; Christine Glass was responsible for the academic coordination of school experience for students at the Rockingham campus.
- Anne Board continued responsibility for primary placements; Anushia Aravindhan was responsible for the budget, payments and financials and Anne Allen continued to provide administrative support at the Rockingham campus.

Outside influences and the changing needs of students have been important catalysts for changes that will be introduced in the provision of school experience in 2007. The WA College of Teaching (WACOT) has set the required number of supervised days' school experience but there were murmurings during 2006 that additional days may be required in the future. At present, students enrolled in our BEd courses are required to complete 80 days' school experience and Grad Dip Ed students complete 60 days.

In order to more fully prepare students for teaching, and in recognition of the work done by the Professional Partnerships in Learning (PPL) team, as well as the introduction of the *Competency Framework*

for Teachers (DET, 2004), progress was made towards revising the Assistant Teacher Program (ATP). MUSE will be introducing a new version of the ATP that will be known as the Professional Internship: Preliminary (PI:P) and the Professional Internship (PI) in 2007.

Features of this new initiative include:

- All students (BEd and Grad Dip Ed) complete a two week placement followed by a six week placement at the end of their course. This replaces the 10 week ATP for BEd students and incorporates a theoretical component
- All students will complete a school-based as well as campus based components as part of the Professional Internship
- All mentor teachers will be paid for their work with our students

Another initiative in the pipeline for 2007 is a new unit (EDU3163) for our secondary BEd students in their second year. These students will be required to complete a distributed school experience unit in the fourth term. The unit will focus on developing an action learning project in a secondary classroom.

It will assist our students to understand the dynamics of secondary classrooms and schools and help them to develop an understanding of the effective elements that can contribute to student learning.



From Left: Anne Board, Anne Price, Geraldine Ditchburn, Ros Tucker

## Rockingham campus

The School of Education continues to provide a range of innovative programs and successful teaching strategies at the Rockingham campus. The presence in Rockingham of the BEd course means that local people have the opportunity to study close to home. Many students are parents, and for students with family responsibilities the proximity of the campus to their homes and the flexibility of study provided by Murdoch University are invaluable. Students also appreciate being able to undertake school experience placements in local schools, and the majority of graduating students look forward to obtaining employment in schools in Rockingham and Mandurah. As more Murdoch teaching graduates find employment in local schools we look forward to developing even stronger connections with the growing community. Some highlights include:

- **Rockingham's First Education Graduates:** At the end of 2006 we said goodbye to the first group of students to complete their BEd Primary degree at Rockingham. Thirty-eight students, all members of the original intake of Education students in 2003, completed their course at the end of 2006. An afternoon tea in their honour was held at the Rockingham Campus, and special guests included local school principals, representatives from the Fremantle-Peel District Education Office, and City of Rockingham councillors. Ms Janet Preston and Mr Newton O'Dea each gave a Valedictory Address, and spoke of their appreciation of the supportive community of students, administrative staff and tutors on the Rockingham campus.
- **Getting it Right Literacy (GIR) and Service Learning:** Murdoch University will trial an innovative literacy and service learning program with Rockingham Beach Primary School in term three 2007. The partnership will involve volunteer student teachers from the second year of the Rockingham BEd (Primary) program. Student teachers will have a one day orientation at the school and then be part of the programming, planning and delivery of the Get it Right Literacy strategies. They will work alongside classroom teachers and the GIR specialist. A number of schools have already expressed a desire to be

involved and are excited about the future potential and benefits the program.

- The **Australian National Schools Network (ANSN)** has agreed to establish a part-time officer at the Rockingham campus. This position will provide local schools with access to leading edge professional development opportunities and school reform practices.
- The appointment of a new **School-Community Coordinator** (0.5) in 2006 has facilitated the ongoing development of partnerships with primary and secondary schools to assist with the placement and professional development of the growing number of student teachers enrolled in the BEd (Primary) at Rockingham campus.
- The **Murdoch University Maths Extension Program** was introduced for the first time in 2006. In collaboration with four local high schools 16 students were offered an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in maths problem solving at the Rockingham campus over two semesters. Dr Helen Middleton teaches the course. This pilot program was extended in 2007 to include ten (10) local schools and 22 students. The program is designed to offer enrichment opportunities and provide encouragement for further study.
- **Two new appointments were made in 2006 to the Rockingham campus.** Christine Glass was appointed as a

lecturer in the area of literacy, but also has responsibilities as the course advisor for the Initial Teacher Education Program and as the Academic Coordinator of School Experience. Gillian Turner was appointed (0.5) as the school experience placement officer and as the School-Community Coordinator.

- **A new mathematics educator, Dr Ho Kai Fai, has been appointed to Rockingham Campus commencing in semester 2 2007.** Dr Ho's expertise in school based mathematics curriculum and professional development will be a welcome addition to the community. His appointment follows a similar appointment in literacy/language last year. The School of Education at Rockingham campus now has a total of 4.5 full-time education staff as well as the ongoing support of South Street based staff.
- **The appointment of Professor Barry Down as the City of Rockingham Chair of Education in 2005** provided an opportunity for the School of Education and the City of Rockingham to work together to improve post-compulsory school retention and participation in the local community.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Rockingham community in the education of pre service teachers in preparing them for their future work in schools.



Gillian Turner, Chris Glass.

## The Unifocus Program

UniFocus is a university bridging program offered by the School of Education at the University's Peel and Rockingham campuses.

It is designed to support people from the Rockingham and Peel regions who missed out on university entrance when at school but who later decide they want to further their education. The program provides an alternative entry route to Murdoch University while preparing students to study successfully as undergraduates.

The role of UniFocus as a pathway to university for students from Rockingham and Mandurah was highlighted by Lenore Mack in her speech on behalf of recipients of the Mick Young Award.

A photograph of Lenore receiving her award can be seen in the Student Awards, Prizes and Undergraduate Scholarships section of this report.

"Over the last two years I have developed an amazing network in the community at the Rockingham campus thanks to the great start I had by completing the UniFocus bridging course. Being at university has helped me to cope and have a greater appreciation for myself, and my abilities.

Many people have to struggle to be at university for different reasons and that is why social justice is such a huge issue not just at university but all levels of education. It is completing the difficult things that make us stronger; if it was easy, if there was no challenge, there would be no growth.

I am studying primary teaching and understanding the value of education is at the core of what I learn daily. I believe that 'education is a right, not a privilege'.

Now in the second year of her Bachelor of Education degree, Lenore is one of more than 300 successful UniFocus students to be offered a place at Murdoch University since 2001, the year the program began. In 2006, UniFocus continued to attract highly motivated students from the Rockingham and Peel areas.

Over 60 students completed the program successfully this year, with the majority of graduates going on to study in the Bachelor of Education (Primary) or the Bachelor of Nursing degrees.

## Rockingham's class act

Raising four children, including a newborn in her final year of university studies, has not deterred 25-year-old Deborah Hatton from finishing a teaching degree.

Ms Hatton, of Bertram, and 34 others are among the first group to graduate today from the primary teaching course offered at Rockingham's Murdoch University campus.

The four-year, full-time course has opened new doors for many of the students, including Ms Hatton who has found work at Leda Primary School.

"It was a little daunting having a family life and a uni life with assignments but you get used to it," said Ms Hatton, whose children are aged between seven months and eight years.

"I made sure I made the time for my family in the morning and evenings and studies between 9am and 3pm.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher. I started doing TEE but it was too stressful. I'm glad I went through as a mature age student.

As a mum I can understand kids a lot better which has helped me with dealing with the children at school.

"The support from Murdoch was great too. The tutors have their own families and they understand your situation."

Murdoch University education lecturer Jane Pearce said the Bachelor of Education (Primary) course at Rockingham was perfect for people who wanted to study close to home.

"We have a really supportive network and you can plan your life around a timetable that's very flexible," Dr Pearce said.

"The small campus makes it easy for students to get to know staff and each other and there is a welcoming, supportive atmosphere on campus that students find very valuable.

"Students can undertake their school-based placements in local schools and we expect many will be able to find local teaching jobs when they finish their degrees."

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Deborah Hatton