

Teaching and related activities

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

There are four degrees available at the Masters level - the Master of Education (Coursework), the Master of Education (Research), 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; School-based Assessment, Measurement and Evaluation; Cultural Diversity; Vocational 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

Enrolment

Initial Teacher Education	
Primary (Bachelor of Education)	1095
Secondary (Bachelor of Education)	213
Primary (Graduate Diploma)	253
Secondary (Graduate Diploma)	140
Primary (Bachelor of Education, Graduate)	44
Secondary (Bachelor of Education, Graduate)	24
Primary (Bachelor of Education)(Combination)	16
Sub Total	1785

Further Professional Studies	
Graduate Diploma in Education Studies	18
Graduate Diploma in Education Tertiary and Adult	48
Graduate Certificate in Drama Teaching	4
Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education	14
Graduate Certificate in Mathematics Teaching	7
Graduate Certificate in Special Needs Education	3
Graduate Certificate in Tertiary and Adult Education	2
Master of Education (Coursework)	40
Sub Total	136

Research	
Master of Education (Research)	45
Research Masters with Training	3
Doctor of Philosophy	40
Doctor of Education	19
Sub Total	107

TOTAL	2028
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Rockingham Campus

The School of Education on the Rockingham campus provides a vibrant and supportive teaching and learning environment for pre-service teachers in the region.

As part of its commitment to the local community, the School provides a range of innovative programs and successful teaching strategies at the Rockingham campus. The External Review of the School of Education (2006-2007) observed: "The campus is playing an important role in attracting students from the region into higher education, and specifically teacher education."

This success is reflected in continuing strong enrolments at Rockingham. In 2007 there were 280 BEd Primary Teaching students enrolled at Rockingham, and growth has remained steady against national trends.

A new mathematics educator, Dr Kai Fai Ho, joined the academic staff at Rockingham Campus in 2007. His appointment follows on 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.

Murdoch University has established a range of enabling courses at the Rockingham campus to enhance access to tertiary participation for local students and the wider community.

- Enabling Courses continue to be offered at the Rockingham campus, to improve tertiary participation and retention:
 - The Kulbardi Aboriginal Tertiary Entrance Course (KATEC) is designed to prepare students to undertake university degree studies or seek employment.
 - UniFocus was offered for the last time in 2007. This programme, specially designed for people in the Rockingham and Peel region, has provided an entry route to university for over 300 local people since its first intake in 2001. It has now been replaced by the OnTrack program.
- Wholly School Assessed Entry Scholarships provide an opportunity for high school students in the Rockingham area to be nominated for university entry based on wholly school based assessed subjects. These scholarships are intended to assist students with potential who may have been prevented by life's circumstances from considering tertiary education. Since 2005, 37 local students have been nominated and accepted into courses at the Rockingham campus.

- The Murdoch University Maths Extension Program introduced for the first time in 2006 continued in 2007. 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. A similar program for chemistry was offered during 2007.

The availability of research degrees at Masters and Doctoral levels continues to attract local teachers to study at postgraduate level on the campus.

- The Doctoral program continues to attract local teachers to the campus. In 2007, two EdD students and two PhD students enrolled at the Rockingham campus under the supervision of Professor Barry Down, City of Rockingham Chair in Education and Dr Jane Pearce. These students join the current cohort of doctoral students studying at the campus.
- Twelve local teachers are enrolled in the MEd (Research) degree at the Rockingham campus. These students are jointly supervised by Professor Barry Down, Dr Jane Pearce and Ms Chris Glass.
- A recent arrival to Rockingham, Dr Kai Fai Ho, will add significantly to ongoing supervision of teachers in masters and doctoral research as it relates to numeracy.

Murdoch University has actively created opportunities to enhance school experience opportunities for student teachers at the Rockingham campus.

- The appointment of Ms Gillian Turner as School-Community Coordinator in 2006 has facilitated the ongoing development of closer links with local schools to increase the participation of schools in school Experience and to develop innovative programmes.
- Getting it Right Literacy (GIR) and Service Learning: Murdoch University trialled an innovative literacy and service learning program with Rockingham Beach Primary School in term three 2007. The partnership involves volunteer student teachers from the second year of the Rockingham BEd (Primary) program. Student teachers had a one day orientation at the school and were then part of the programming, planning and delivery of the Getting it Right Literacy strategies. They worked alongside classroom teachers and the GIR specialist. A number of schools expressed a desire to



The Rockingham team

L-R (back row) Professor Barry Down, Ms Christine Glass, Dr Kai Fai Ho

L-R (front row) Dr Jane Pearce, Ms Gillian Turner, Ms Amber Ross

be involved in this exciting initiative. This program is coordinated by Ms Chris Glass, Literacy Lecturer, and Ms Gillian Turner, School-Community Coordinator.

- Links with local schools have been further developed by the work of Ms Helen Davey of the Australian National Schools Network (ANSN). A number of professional development opportunities, including workshops in the use of interactive whiteboards, have been offered.

Murdoch University is particularly proud of the successful enrolment trends for the BEd (Primary) course at Rockingham campus.

- TISC data shows steady demand for places at Rockingham campus. This is a significant achievement in the current climate where student demand especially on regional campuses is on the decline.

Murdoch University has been proactive in devising innovative courses to encourage student participation and retention at the Rockingham campus.

- The Education Combo course continues to attract strong enrolments. This innovative collaboration between Challenger TAFE and Murdoch University allows students to study towards a career in primary education at the Rockingham campuses of TAFE and Murdoch University, combining study at Certificate III and IV in the Teacher Assistant award while studying additional university units. Successful students who wish to move into a degree course in Primary Teaching can do so after their year's study at TAFE.
- The combo model is now being investigated for other course and career options in collaboration with local high schools, Challenger TAFE and Murdoch University eg Physical Health and Education through Safety Bay Senior High School's successful Soccer Academy.

Student engagement and participation in both school and higher education continues to be a major research priority for the Rockingham campus.

UniFocus

The UniFocus graduation at the end of 2007 marked the end of an era. Since the inaugural group of students graduated in 2002, over 300 people from Rockingham, Mandurah and the surrounding areas gained entry to Murdoch University as a result of their participation in the programme. From 2008 UniFocus will be replaced at Rockingham and Peel by OnTrack, which is a University-wide enabling programme designed to incorporate some of the distinctive features of UniFocus.

The success of UniFocus is due to the commitment of many members of the university community, including academics from the School of Education and beyond, administrative staff on the Rockingham, Peel and South Street campuses, and the librarians from the Rockingham Regional Campus Library. Their involvement was recognised at the final UniFocus Graduation celebration in December 2007, alongside the achievement of the final group of graduates.

Further cause for celebration was the news that two members of the inaugural UniFocus group were about to graduate with Honours: Barbara Tonkin with Honours in History and Jenny Caudle with Honours in Psychology.

UniFocus has played a major role in opening up exciting new opportunities for many members of the Rockingham and Peel communities.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has worked with the UniFocus team to make the dream of studying at university become a reality for so many people.



The library component of UniFocus is an integral part of the Program. Provided by staff at the Rockingham Regional Library, this component provides students with the skills to use library resources for research. Pictured is a small group of students in a Library tutorial with librarians Jan Rutherford (standing, left) and Pim McCready (standing, centre).



Students and staff celebrate the graduation of the UniFocus Class of 2007. Staff (in regalia) are left to right Barry Down, Helen Brash, Barry Kissane, James Bell, Jane Pearce, Liz Moore, Chris Glass

Professional Engagement

Big Picture Schools (Rockingham)



Teachers and academic staff discussing Big Picture ideas at the Summer Institute, Rockingham campus

Barry Down, City of Rockingham Chair of Education, was among 12 Australian educators who travelled to Rhode Island to learn more about the innovative educational approach of Big Picture Schools.

Big Picture education philosophy is grounded in educating 'one student at a time' by developing personalized education programs.

According to Professor Down "The educational approach is unique in that it involves building a curriculum based on students' passions and interests."

"Big Picture Schools are small by design. Each school consists of 130-150 students located in a range of settings with facilities designed for personal and community based learning. Small schools are divided into advisories of 15-17 students and a school team that collaborate and manage students learning."

"Learning in the real world is another key design feature. Students spend two days a week with a mentor from the community on an intellectually rigorous project connected to their interests and learning goals."

Professor Down was impressed by the use of student exhibitions. "Four times a year students exhibit their work, providing evidence of their achievement of learning goals. Students are supported in the process by their Advisory consisting of teachers, parents, mentors and peers."

Big Picture Schools have grown from one school in Rhode Island (the "MET") in 1995 to over 50 schools across 16 cities and 12 states in the USA.

Professor Down is currently working with the Director of Big Picture Australia, Viv White, to investigate the feasibility of attracting Australia's first Big Picture School to Rockingham.

On his return, Professor Down together with Viv White and US student Oliver Reams ran a five day workshop in Rockingham for 20 local teachers. "Participants explored the idea of placing the student, their passions and their interests, at the centre of the learning process." Teachers who completed the course were able to claim credit towards a postgraduate award at Murdoch University.



The Big Picture "MET" School at Rhode Island, USA.

English Summer Schools for Teachers



The Honourable, Julie Bishop, centre at the Launch of the Australian Government Summer Schools for Teachers, at Deakin University, attended by Mr Barry Kissane, Dean of the School of Education at Murdoch University.



Mr Cal Durrant

Mr Cal Durrant, Chair of Initial Teacher Education, was chosen from a competitive field of academics to be one of six members of a consortium providing professional development to English teachers.

The Australian Government has committed \$101.7 million over four years to Summer Schools that will provide up to 1,000 of Australia's best teachers each year with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in the areas of literacy and numeracy, English, maths, science and Australian history.

Dean of Education, Mr Barry Kissane said competition for delivery of the English Summer School was intense and Murdoch University was pleased to collaborate with Deakin University and the Australian Association for the Teaching of English through the Centre for Learning, Change and Development.

"Murdoch University is fortunate to have outstanding professionals of Mr Durrant's calibre working in our School of Education, making it clear that our own courses for English teachers are of the highest national quality," Mr Kissane said.

Mr Durrant will attend seven planning days at Deakin University this year and then spend a further 10 days at Deakin delivering the content to teachers in January next year.

"The primary focus of the training will be on developing leadership skills in English so that teachers will be in a position to lead change and mentor and support other teachers when they return to their own schools and districts," Mr Durrant said.

Reported in Murdoch University Explore, The Murdoch University Community Magazine, March 2008, Vol2/Issue 2.

New Lutheran University of Papua New Guinea in Lae

In 2007 Ms Beth Powell continued her role as a Consultant (from 2006) to support the establishment of a new Lutheran University of Papua New Guinea in Lae, PNG.

Her particular responsibilities, as an outside consultant, was the development of a Four-Year Primary Bachelor of Education program for the new School of Education.

Activities in 2007 included two day meetings in Cairns with representatives of Balob Teachers College Curriculum Development Committee to continue the modification and development of the existing Two-Year Teacher Education program.

In March, Beth conducted a four day curriculum writing workshop in Lae with the staff of the Balob Teachers College. At this stage the focus for the writing was on developing the Handbook descriptions of the new and modified units designed to make up the new Four-Year Primary Bachelor of Education program.

Other activities included visiting a number of local primary and secondary schools. Beth stated she was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the children and teachers for learning which was largely conducted in run down and poorly resourced schools. She was welcomed with flowers, baskets of tropical fruit and colourful woven bags wherever she went.

Funding problems saw the project falter in the latter part of 2007 and the commencement date for the new university extended to 2010.

In 2008 new funding was received and the project will regain its impetus.



Numeracy Ambassador for Australia



Ms Beth Powell

As Numeracy Ambassador for Australia responsibilities were to increase community awareness of the importance of developing children's numeracy skills throughout 2007 and, in particular, during National Literacy and Numeracy Week, 3 – 9 September. Activities included print media and radio interviews, participating in publicity meetings in Sydney, attending State school award ceremonies, attending the national award ceremony in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra, presenting a numeracy workshop for teachers conducted through the Mathematic Association of Western Australia.

WASO Musician Answers his Passion for Teaching



Mr Mark Tooby

After 17 years of playing double bass for the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO), Mark Tooby of Victoria Park has decided to perform for a different audience.

He has decided to retrain at Murdoch University so that he can fulfil a long held yearning to teach children in primary school.

For four weeks over the summer, Mark took advantage of the unique Introduction to Teaching course offered by Murdoch which allowed him a taste of what a teaching career entailed. "I looked at the different courses available, but I was attracted to the Murdoch one because I liked the way you could gain experience in the classroom right from the beginning," Mark said.

Students undertake two weeks of intense broad teacher training on campus and then spend one week in a primary school and another week in a high school teaching a class.

"The practical component of the course helped me confirm that I want to be a primary school teacher. I've always felt very strongly that there aren't enough males teaching in primary schools. Now that I've experienced teaching young students, I know that I will really enjoy working with them."

Mark will continue to work full time with the orchestra, while studying for his Graduate Diploma of Education (primary) part-time and helping his wife raise his three children, who are all under five years of age. "People have always told me that I should be teaching, that it's something that comes naturally to me. As well as knowing a teaching career will be very satisfying, it will also suit my family life and allow me more time with my own children when they are on school holidays."

Murdoch University offers the four-week Introduction to Teaching course over summer at South Street campus and also in second semester at both the Rockingham and South Street campuses. The course helps students to appreciate the diverse roles and responsibilities of the classroom teacher as well as identify whether they wish to teach pre-primary, primary or secondary levels. Students who already have degrees can go on to complete a one-year Graduate Diploma in Education (primary or secondary), or a two year Bachelor of Education (primary or secondary). People interested in a teaching career who do not have a previous degree can apply to enrol in a four-year Bachelor of Education.

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