

# Teaching In The School

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Education at Murdoch provides initial teacher education, graduate studies in education leading to professional and higher degrees, and research studies. Its professional development qualifications and short courses are relevant to educators in a range of sectors including schools, technical colleges, universities, industry, health and social services and to those wishing to develop social research and evaluation skills for professional work as research and development, evaluation or policy officers. Many academic staff offer professional development short courses and educational support to organisations outside the University both within Australia and internationally.

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## Unifocus

Unifocus is a University bridging program taught by the School of Education. It is designed to give people living in the Peel and Rockingham regions a chance to study at university, even though they do not have formal entry qualifications. Students who complete Unifocus successfully are able to gain entry to selected degree courses taught on the Rockingham and Peel campuses.

Unifocus was offered three times in 2003, once at Murdoch University's Rockingham campus and twice at the Peel campus. June 2003 saw our one-hundredth Unifocus graduate, and by the end of 2003 over 150 students had successfully completed the program.

Unifocus continues to attract a high level of interest from members of the Rockingham, Kwinana, Mandurah and surrounding communities. It provides a valuable alternative entry route to university for members of communities whose tertiary participation rate is historically one of the lowest in Australia.

The program is taught by tutors from the School of Education, with the assistance of lecturers from across the University, tutors from the University's Teaching and Learning Centre, and Rockingham library staff. This support is invaluable, and greatly appreciated.

## Primary and Secondary Initial Teacher Education

Murdoch provides a four-year Bachelor of Education degree, a one-year Graduate Diploma in Education, and a 2-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 education.

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 program of study during which approximately three-quarters of their units are directly related to their development as teachers. The remaining units are electives and students can use them 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 an end on qualification for students who already hold a Bachelor degree in some 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 (TESL), Languages Other Than English (LOTE), Drama, Mathematics, Media, Science, Society & 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 Education, Aboriginal and Islander Studies, Early Childhood Education, Media, Mathematics, Languages Other Than English [LOTE] and Teaching English as a Second Language [TESL]). 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 Adult and Tertiary Education 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 enroll 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 Education Studies in Tertiary and Adult Education, Drama and Education, Early Childhood Education, and Mathematics Education which represent half of the Graduate Diploma Program.

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.

## Higher Degrees

There are four degrees available at the Masters level - the Master of Education (Coursework), which provides advanced professional development for educators, the Master of Education (Research), the Master of Philosophy, and the Masters by Research Training.

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 shown below:

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; IT 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.

## The Curriculum Resource Centre

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The School of Education provides staff and students with a well stocked Resource Centre on each campus. The Rockingham Curriculum Resource Centre supports the Primary Education program by making available a full range of teaching resources. The Curriculum Resource Centre on the South Street campus provides staff and students with resources to support teaching at every level. The Curriculum Resource Centres ensure that students get adequate exposure to the wide range of teaching resources available today. Resources include a large book stock of activity ideas, interactive CD roms, videos, kits and a variety of teaching aids.

The Resource Centres are heavily used by students all year round but prove to be particularly popular during preparation for School Experience. Academic staff are able to obtain class sets of materials for teaching and to interact with the Resource Librarian to ensure a collection of quality materials is maintained.

Experienced staff are available to assist both staff and students and a close relationship with the University Library creates a flexible and comprehensive service for internal and external students and Academic staff in the School of Education.



Irene Patterson, Curriculum Resource Librarian and Barbara Smith, Curriculum Resource Assistant.

## Graduate Diploma Students from Afar

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This year, staff at Murdoch University's School of Education welcomed approximately 50 International students in the Primary and Secondary Graduate Diploma of Education Programs. The majority of these students travelled from the freezing winter in Ontario, Canada to commence teacher training at Murdoch University, during Perth's intense summer heat. To assist with these students academic integration in the School of Education, the former Dean (Professor Simone Volet), the Dean (Professor David Andrich) and the International Student Coordinator (Dr Wendy Cumming-Potvin) liaised closely with Murdoch International staff to tailor current programs to more closely suit the specific needs of International

students. At strategic points throughout the academic year the School organized two `morning teas' and one afternoon tea, which provided a forum for International students to meet and reflect on their needs for successfully adapting to academic life at Murdoch University. Recording student opinions and sharing information with key staff members formed important components of this reflective process. As such, some Assistant Teaching Program placements culminated in Canadian students travelling to Aboriginal communities , which proved enriching for the student teachers as well as the remote Western Australian communities concerned.

## Rockingham Campus

The Bachelor of Education Primary Teaching course began in 2003 with 68 extremely well qualified students. The course has received strong recognition within the local community as evidenced by the strong demand for places and the desire of many local schools to be involved in school experience. As well, in 2004 a number of schools in the area will trial an innovative distributed school experience program whereby students are attached to a school for extended periods of time.

The School of Education staff have worked closely with the local community on a number of initiatives. Jane Pearce coordinated and taught the Unifocus course which meets an important need in providing alternative entry options for students in the area. Jane also received a University Excellence in Teaching award in recognition of her outstanding teaching. Associate Professor Barry Down worked closely with the Fremantle-Peel District Office in the planning

phase of the new Kwinana Senior High School campus as well as developing a large ARC Linkage Grant application to examine ways of enhancing school retention in the region.

Students at the campus have developed a unique sense of identity and support for each other. Mentoring is an important feature of the campus with students initiating the formation of their own association. These students have been excellent ambassadors for the University in the wider community and on campus.

The appointment of Anne Allen as Student Administration Officer has provided an important service for students and staff alike. Her presence has given students access to a range of University services and course advice.



# Students Awards and Prizes

## Undergraduate

PRIZE NAME	AWARD	STUDENT
Thelma Harley Brown Prize in Education	Best academic performance by a graduate in the Master of Education (Dissertation with Coursework) Program	Michelle Cresdee and Sarah Morris
Elizabeth Mary Dodd Prize in Education	Best academic performance by a graduate in the Master of Education (Coursework) Program	Teresa O'Brien and Dianne Sampson
Early Childhood Teachers' Association Prize	Awarded for the highest standard of achievement by a graduand in the school experience and academic components of the Early Childhood Education Course	Bianca Sussovich
School of Education Prize for Excellence in Teaching (Primary)	Awarded for completing an initial teacher education program with the best performance in School Experience (Primary)	Genevieve Tischler
School of Education Prize for Excellence in Teaching (Secondary)	Awarded for completing an initial teacher education program with the best performance in School Experience (Secondary)	Heather Pitcher and Natalie Potulski-Gray
WA Secondary Executives' Association Prize	Highest standard of achievement by a graduand in the School Experience and academic components of the Secondary Teacher Education Program	Tracy Veale-Chan
Western Australian Primary Principals' Association Prize	Awarded for the highest standard of achievement by a graduand in the School Experience and academic components of the Primary Teacher Education Program	Paul Fuller
Outstanding achievement in a first year primary education unit	Outstanding achievement in a first year primary Education Unit (E101) at Rockingham	Maxine Winteringham

## Postgraduate

PRIZE NAME	AWARD	STUDENT
(WAIER) Research Award	Awarded by West Australian Institute for Educational Research (WAIER)	Jocasta de Reuck

## Program Enrolments 2002

Initial Teacher Education	Enrolment	**EFTSU
Primary (Bachelor of Education)	700	505
Primary (Graduate Diploma)	262	141
Secondary (Bachelor of Education)	140	114
Secondary (Graduate Diploma)	210	118
Tertiary & Adult (Graduate Diploma)	68	31
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>909</b>

  

Further Professional Studies	Enrolment	**EFTSU
Education Studies	32	9
Education Studies (Certificate + Maths)*	71	14
Bachelor of Professional Studies	5	1
Social Research & Evaluation* + Postgraduate Diploma	5	1
Master of Education (Coursework)	24	8
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>33</b>

  

Research	Enrolment	**EFTSU
Master of Education (Research) + Honours	38	11
Doctor of Philosophy	28	17
Doctor of Education	19	10
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1602</b>	<b>980</b>

## Program Enrolments 2003

Initial Teacher Education	Enrolment	**EFTSU
Unifocus Bridging Course	859	620
Primary (Bachelor of Education)	57	16
Primary (Graduate Diploma)	273	151
Secondary (Bachelor of Education)	211	153
Secondary (Graduate Diploma)	200	110
Tertiary & Adult (Graduate Diploma)	78	31
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1621</b>	<b>1065</b>

  

Further Professional Studies	Enrolment	**EFTSU
Graduate Diploma Education Studies	12	4
Bachelor of Education Studies	11	3
Graduate Certificate Education Studies + Maths*	74	26
Graduate Certificate in Mathematics Teaching	5	1
Master of Arts Social Research & Evaluation*	3	0
Master of Education (Coursework)*	26	10
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>44</b>

  

Research	Enrolment	**EFTSU
Master of Education (Research) + Honours	37	14
Doctor of Philosophy	29	19
Doctor of Education	17	10
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1892</b>	<b>1168</b>

\*\*EFTSU

- Equivalent Full-time Students

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- fee paying places