Bachelor of Education (Primary)
Specialisation Fact Sheet and Guide

What is a primary specialisation (study area)?

The strengthened accreditation standards and procedures, mandated by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), require that all primary initial teacher education (ITE) graduates must have a primary specialisation upon graduation. This means that as well as a broad range of teaching skills relevant to the whole primary curriculum, primary graduates will also have deeper knowledge and teaching skills related to one primary learning area (AITSL, 2018).

The University of Queensland's School of Education offers the following specialisations (study areas) in the undergraduate primary program:

1. Mathematics and Numeracy
2. Science
3. English and Literacy
4. Humanities and Social Sciences

Your area of specialisation is referred to as your **study area** on the program course list.

You must **complete at least 6 units for a study area (3 courses)** in order to graduate.

How do I plan to complete my specialisation (study area)?

The BEd (Pri) program requires the following: at least 6 units for a study area (Part B). This means that you will need to successfully complete **3 courses in your study area**.

In addition to this, there are 4 units of elective courses (Part C). These **additional 2 courses** may be selected from courses from other study areas or the elective course list. However, we *strongly encourage you to choose your 4 units of electives from other study areas,* in order to deepen your content knowledge and/or in the event that you make the decision to change your specialisation during your program.

There are five opportunities during the program to undertake these courses:

Year 1 Semester 2 - 1 course
Year 2 Semester 1 - 2 courses
Year 3 Semester 1 - 1 course
Year 4 Semester 1 - 1 course

IMPORTANT: It is essential that by Year 3 Semester 2 you have **successfully completed 2 of the specialisation (study area) courses**. **However, we strongly advise that you complete your specialisation (study area) prior to entering your third year.** For those interested in the Honours Program, your specialisation (study area) must be completed by the end of year 3 (see additional details outlined below).

You need to plan for the study area courses you would like to engage with across the program. The following table displays the semester in which each course is undertaken.

Course offerings for each area of specialisation:

Area of specialisation	Offered Semester 1	Offered Semester 2
Mathematics/Numeracy	MATH1040: Mathematical Foundations I MATH1050: Mathematical Foundations II MATH1051: Calculus & Linear Algebra I MATH1071: Advanced Calculus & Linear Algebra I MATH1061: Discrete Mathematics SCIE1000: Theory & Practice in Science STAT1201: Analysis of Scientific Data	MATH1040: Mathematical Foundations I MATH1050: Mathematical Foundations II MATH1051: Calculus & Linear Algebra I* MATH1061: Discrete Mathematics SCIE1000: Theory & Practice in Science* STAT1201: Analysis of Scientific Data* STAT1301: Advanced Analysis of Scientific Data
English/Literacy	ENGL1800: Literary Classics: Texts and Traditions AUST1000: Contemporary Australia LING1000: The Secret Life of Language: Words and Sentences WRIT1110: Creative Writing: Narrative Fiction WRIT2250: Writing: Grammar, Syntax, and Style	AUST1000: Contemporary Australia ENGL1500: Contemporary Literature: Reading & Writing
Science	BIOL1040: Cells to Organisms CHEM1100: Chemistry 1 CHEM1090: Introductory Chemistry ERTH1000: Planet Earth: The Big Picture PHYS1001: Mechanics & Thermal Physics PHYS1171: Physical Basis of Biological Systems STAT1201: Analysis of Scientific Data STAT1301: Advanced Analysis of Scientific Data SCIE1000: Theory & Practice in Science	BIOL1040: Cells to Organisms CHEM1100: Chemistry 1 ERTH1000: Planet Earth: The Big Picture PHYS1171: Physical Basis of Biological Systems STAT1201*: Analysis of Scientific Data SCIE1000*: Theory & Practice in Science
HASS	COMU1002: Communicating Across Cultures: Theory and Practice GEOS1100: Environment & Society HIST2247: Australia in the 20th Century POLS1101: Introduction to Australian Politics POLS1301: Introduction to Political Ideas	COMU1002: Communicating Across Cultures: Theory and Practice GEOG1000: Human Settlements GEOS1100: Environment & Society HIST1201: The Australian Experience POLS1101: Introduction to Australian Politics POLS1301: Introduction to Political Ideas

NB: * indicates an additional summer semester offering.

Examples for completing the specialisation

Example 1 - Student A has chosen the English and Literacy specialisation. See the example study plan below:

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	EDUC1710: A Sociological Orientation to Education (#2) EDUC1760: Early Years Curriculum and Pedagogical Foundations (#2) EDUC1706: Introduction to Role of Science and Technology Education in Society (#2) EDUC1750: Learning and Development for Educators (#2)	EDUC1720: Mathematics and Numeracy for Quality Teaching in the Primary Years (#2) EDUC1740: Introduction to Primary Professional Experience (#2) EDUC1730: Introduction to Teaching English and Literacy (#2) ENGL1500: Contemporary Literature: Reading & Writing (#2)
Year 2	EDUC2750: Multilingualism and Education (#2) EDUC2710: Education and Creativity: Pedagogical Content Knowledge (#2) LING1000: The Secret Life of Language: Words and Sentences (#2) ENGL1800:Literary Classics: Texts and Traditions (#2)	EDUC2730: Teaching Mathematics in Primary Contexts 1 (#2) EDUC2090: Indigenous Knowledge & Education (#2) EDUC2760: Introduction to Teaching Humanities and Social Sciences (#2) EDUC2740: Primary Professional Experience 1 (#2)
Year 3	EDUC3740: Health, Well-being and Education Pedagogical Content Knowledge (#2) EDUC3710: Teaching English 1 (#2) EDUC3720: Teaching Mathematics in Primary Contexts 2 (#2) MATH1040: Mathematical Foundations I (#2)	EDUC3707: Teaching Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum (#2) EDUC3730: Teaching Science in Primary Schools (#2) EDUC3760: Building Inclusive Primary Classrooms (#2) EDUC3750: Primary Professional Experience 2 (#2)
Year 4	EDUC4740: Teaching Health and Physical Education (#2) EDUC4720: Teaching English 2 (#2) EDUC4730: Digital Technologies: STEM Connections (#2) MATH1050: Mathematical Foundations II (#2)	EDUC4770: Teaching the Arts (#2) EDUC4750: Primary Professional Experience (#2) EDUC4703: Teachers as Professionals (#4)

In this example Student A has completed their specialisation (English and Literacy) before commencing Year 3 of the program. For the remaining 4 units they have decided to choose elective courses from the Mathematics and Numeracy study area in order to broaden and deepen their content knowledge.

Example 2 - Student B initially chose the Science specialisation, however, after completing Year 1 they decided that they no longer wished to continue and instead changed to the Humanities and Social Sciences specialisation. See the example study plan below:

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	EDUC1710: A Sociological Orientation to Education (#2) EDUC1760: Early Years Curriculum and Pedagogical Foundations (#2) EDUC1706: Introduction to Role of Science and Technology Education in Society (#2) EDUC1750: Learning and Development for Educators (#2)	EDUC1720: Mathematics and Numeracy for Quality Teaching in the Primary Years (#2) EDUC1740: Introduction to Primary Professional Experience (#2) EDUC1730: Introduction to Teaching English and Literacy (#2) BIOL1040: Cells to Organisms (#2)
Year 2	EDUC2750: Multilingualism and Education (#2) EDUC2710: Education and Creativity: Pedagogical Content Knowledge (#2) COMU1002: Communicating Across Cultures: Theory and Practice (#2) GEOS1100: Environment & Society (#2)	EDUC2730: Teaching Mathematics in Primary Contexts 1 (#2) EDUC2090: Indigenous Knowledge & Education (#2) EDUC2760: Introduction to Teaching Humanities and Social Sciences (#2) EDUC2740: Primary Professional Experience 1 (#2)
Year 3	EDUC3740: Health, Well-being and Education Pedagogical Content Knowledge (#2) EDUC3710: Teaching English 1 (#2) EDUC3720: Teaching Mathematics in Primary Contexts 2 (#2) POLS1101: Introduction to Australian Politics (#2)	EDUC3707: Teaching Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum (#2) EDUC3730: Teaching Science in Primary Schools (#2) EDUC3760: Building Inclusive Primary Classrooms (#2) EDUC3750: Primary Professional Experience 2 (#2)
Year 4	EDUC4740: Teaching Health and Physical Education (#2) EDUC4720: Teaching English 2 (#2) EDUC4730: Digital Technologies: STEM Connections (#2) POLS1301: Introduction to Political Ideas (#2)	EDUC4770: Teaching the Arts (#2) EDUC4750: Primary Professional Experience (#2) EDUC4703: Teachers as Professionals (#4)

In this example Student B changed from the Science specialisation at the end of Year 1 but still successfully completed their new specialisation in Humanities and Social Sciences before commencing Semester 2, Year 3. For their final elective they chose to complete a further course in the Humanities and Social Sciences specialisation.

What if I am considering entering the B.Ed (Primary) Honours program in 4th year? How does this impact on my specialisation (study area) and my elective course?

While it is difficult to decide in your first year if you would like to undertake the Honours program in your final year of the program, it is important to remember the following:

1. You must have successfully completed all three courses for your specialisation (study area) prior to entering your 4th year.
2. One elective course will now be replaced with a research methods course (EDUC4705; Yr 4 Sem 1).

Example 3 - Student C is completing the Honours program in Year 4 and has chosen a Mathematics and Numeracy specialisation. See the example study plan below:

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	EDUC1710: A Sociological Orientation to Education (#2) EDUC1760: Early Years Curriculum and Pedagogical Foundations (#2) EDUC1706: Introduction to Role of Science and Technology Education in Society (#2) EDUC1750: Learning and Development for Educators (#2)	EDUC1720: Mathematics and Numeracy for Quality Teaching in the Primary Years (#2) EDUC1740: Introduction to Primary Professional Experience (#2) EDUC1730: Introduction to Teaching English and Literacy (#2) MATH1040: Mathematical Foundations I (#2)
Year 2	EDUC2750: Multilingualism and Education (#2) EDUC2710: Education and Creativity: Pedagogical Content Knowledge (#2) MATH1050: Mathematical Foundations II (#2) SCIE1000: Theory & Practice in Science (#2)	EDUC2730: Teaching Mathematics in Primary Contexts 1 (#2) EDUC2090: Indigenous Knowledge & Education (#2) EDUC2760: Introduction to Teaching Humanities and Social Sciences (#2) EDUC2740: Primary Professional Experience 1 (#2)
Year 3	EDUC3740: Health, Well-being and Education Pedagogical Content Knowledge (#2) EDUC3710: Teaching English 1 (#2) EDUC3720: Teaching Mathematics in Primary Contexts 2 (#2) STAT1201: Analysis of Scientific Data (#2)	EDUC3707: Teaching Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum (#2) EDUC3730: Teaching Science in Primary Schools (#2) EDUC3760: Building Inclusive Primary Classrooms (#2) EDUC3750: Primary Professional Experience 2 (#2)
Year 4	EDUC4740: Teaching Health and Physical Education (#2) EDUC4720: Teaching English 2 (#2) EDUC4730: Digital Technologies: STEM Connections (#2) EDUC4705: Research Methods (#2)	EDUC4770: Teaching the Arts (#2) EDUC4750: Primary Professional Experience (#2) EDUC4706: Research Project (Honours) (#4)

In this example Student C has completed their area of specialisation by the end of 2nd year. In their 3rd year they have opted to complete an additional mathematics course to deepen their knowledge. In Year 4, rather than taking an elective course they are instead required to enrol in EDUC4705: Research Methods in Semester 1, Year 4 and will complete EDUC4706: Research Project (Honours) in Semester 2, Year 4 instead of EDUC4703.