

Bachelor of Education (Primary) Specialisation Fact Sheet and Guide

******IMPORTANT******

This guide is relevant to students commencing the BEd(Pri) from 2022. Students commencing prior to 2022 please refer to the guide for students who commenced from 2019-2021 here: https://education.uq.edu.au/files/15963/BEdPri%20Specialisation%20Fact%20Sheet%20and%20Guide%202021_V3.pdf

What is a primary specialisation?

The 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 in the undergraduate primary program:

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

How do I complete my specialisation?

Important opportunities for assessment in each area of specialisation exist within the program as outlined below.

1. Expert content knowledge

You will develop expert content knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation which will be taught and assessed through: (a) one curriculum foundations course in the program; as well as (b) at least one and up to three additional core courses in the area of specialisation. In total, you will have between two and four core courses in your area of specialisation for developing expert content knowledge.

2. Pedagogical content knowledge (PCK)

You will develop expert pedagogical content knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation which will be taught and assessed through: (a) at least one and up to two core courses focusing on PCK in the area of specialisation; and (b) application of PCK (and expert content knowledge) through assessment tasks that assess the PCK of your area of specialisation in additional courses, as per below:

- EDUC2770 *Supporting Student Behaviour and Wellbeing*, where you will give an oral presentation in your primary specialisation and in a year level of your choice. You are required to use the Australian Curriculum to design a learning activity of a maximum length of ten minutes and embed in the lesson plan two evidence-informed Tier 1 classroom practices (Assessment Task 1).
- EDUC3770 *Assessment for Learning and Teaching in the Primary Classroom*, where you will develop the skills needed to be able to analyse, moderate and use student assessment data to inform your teaching and learning practices. You are required to submit a practice-based research report in your area of specialisation which provides feedback on a piece of student assessment, followed by a commentary explaining how you moderated the student assessment piece, how the feedback provided addresses the student's strengths and weaknesses and how the student can use the feedback to further his/her learning related to the learning targets. You will then need to outline the nature of the learning sequences and lessons needed to enable the student to address their learning needs, as identified in the feedback, as well as engage with relevant professional discussions and relevant literature (Assessment Task 3).
- EDUC3760 *Building Inclusive Primary Classrooms*, where you will use principles of differentiated instruction and Universal Design for Learning to plan a lesson demonstrating teaching strategies that support student participation (including strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students), as well as strategies for assessing what students know or are able to do as a result of the lesson. In addition to the general planning for all, you will plan learning adjustments based on a learning need, indicating appropriate strategies and adjustments for teaching and assessing a student with that need. This learning activity must be within your area of specialisation (Assessment Task 2).

3. Highly effective classroom teaching in your area of specialisation

The BEd (Pri) and BEd (Pri) (Hons) programs include four professional experience courses. In these four-year programs, there are two opportunities to demonstrate highly effective classroom teaching in your area of specialisation: (a) EDUC3750 *Primary Professional Experience 2*, which is undertaken in the third year of the program and, (b) EDUC4750 *Primary Professional Experience 3* which is undertaken in the final year of your degree. In EDUC3750 *Primary Professional Experience 2* you will have the opportunity to demonstrate emerging effectiveness in your area of specialisation as beginning teachers. EDUC4750 *Primary Professional Experience 3* will offer additional opportunity to demonstrate this effectiveness. In the Professional Experience Recommendations report for both of these professional experience placements, in the overall comments section supervising teachers are specifically asked to include feedback on your ability to teach effectively in your primary specialisation.

Elective course advice

You have 4 units (2 courses) of general elective choice in your program and one of these elective courses can be taken in Year 1, Semester 2 and the other in Year 4, Semester 1 (unless you wish to consider moving to the Honours pathway, in which case your Year 4 elective slot will be used for a course in Research Methods).

You are able to choose any course from across the university that is of interest to you. This could include any of the recommended general elective courses listed in your program and course requirements available at:

<https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/requirements/program/2306/2023>. Other options might be a course in Language, Music, Psychology or Sports and nutrition, as possible examples.

This course will not commit you to a specific Primary specialisation – you are able to enrol in any elective course that is of interest to you.

Please contact education@uq.edu.au if you have any questions.

Best wishes,
School of Education