

Dear Principal/Co-ordinator

Thank you for agreeing to meet with one of our second year Bachelor of Education Primary preservice teachers, with a view to considering a teaching placement in your school.

Our pre-service teachers are enrolled in a Bachelor of Education (Primary) degree offered through Open Universities Australia. They follow the same program that is offered at Curtin University. Instead of attending classes, they participate in learning experiences in an online learning environment. Pre-service teachers participate in a range of activities over a study period of 13 weeks (equivalent to one on campus semester). Each unit requires around 8-10 hours of pre-service teachers participation every week.

Professional Experience (school placement) is an integral part of Curtin University education degrees. In addition to their study, pre-service teachers have school placement requirements. In order to be exposed to as wide a variety of learning environments as possible, each pre-service teacher is required to experience different contexts through their Professional Experiences. Preservice teachers may teach in Government, Catholic or Independent schools. They are **not** permitted to teach in schools where family members are on staff or attending as pupils. Overseas pre-service teachers may do their Professional Experience in an International School where English is the language of instruction.

This is how we have constructed the Professional Experiences.

### **EDP210 Placement (Annual)**

The first Professional Experience is a two-week block placement. Emphasis during this placement is on helping pre-service teachers to relate successfully to children in small groups and on an individual basis, developing basic skills and knowledge as a novice teacher, and gaining an understanding of the role of the teacher. This is an annual placement as pre-service teachers will return to the same school and classroom in the next semester to complete the companion unit (EDP227).

### **EDP227 Placement (Annual)**

In this placement, pre-service teachers will have a three-week block placement in the same school as the first placement. The focus for this professional experience is creating and managing a positive learning environment.

Before students can undertake a Professional Experience placement in a school, they must have:

- Completed the theory component of the associated Professional Experience unit(s)
- A Working with Children Clearance (WWC), applicable to their State
- The Police Clearance if applicable to their State
- A signed Curtin Code of Conduct agreement

By second year, those students who are studying a Bachelor of Education course would have been exposed to learning experiences through a range of unit offerings related to:

- **Teaching** – where students analyse and evaluate a range of teaching and management procedures, and plan, teach and evaluate learning experiences.
- **Child development** – where students are able to identify and explain key terms and concepts of child development and relate those concepts to educational contexts.
- **Theories of learning** – where students are encouraged to be reflective and critical of their approach to learning by becoming familiar with key psychological terms, theories and concepts in teaching and learning.
- **A range of technologies** – where students are encouraged to both use and think about how best to use technology to support teaching and learning
- **Literacy** – where students identify and explain typical literacy development, and analyse and critique perspectives in language and literacy.
- **Mathematics** – where students consider how children learn mathematics and analyse and demonstrate knowledge of curriculum documents related to mathematics teaching. -
- **Curriculum** – where students interact with and analyse Australian curricula

Depending on their study plans, students may also have some experience in science, the Arts and learning difficulties in the primary school environment.

We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting our student(s) in your school on their Professional Experience. I am very keen to support both the student and you as a school, and should you have any further questions or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*Keryn Sturrock*

**Dr Keryn Sturrock**  
**Academic Fieldwork Coordinator**