

Dear Principal

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

Our students 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, but instead of attending classes, they participate in learning experiences that are offered 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 is an integral part of Curtin University education degrees, so in addition to their study, students have practicum requirements. Each student is required to teach in a different educational context on each Professional Experience (or practicum), in order to be exposed to as wide a variety of learning environments as possible. Pre-service 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.

In first year, pre-service teachers are involved in working with groups of children – not necessarily in a school setting.

In second year, pre-service teachers have two placements at the same school with a focus on planning and creating and managing positive learning environments. The first is 2 weeks early in the year and then pre-service teachers return for 3 weeks later in the year. In third year, pre-service teachers have a 4-week block placement with a focus on assessment, and in fourth year, they complete an Internship of one full school term.

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

- Completed the content of the associated Professional Experience unit(s)
- A Working with Children Clearance (WWC), applicable to their state or the Police Clearance applicable to their state
- Any other clearances required in your state for teaching in a Primary School context, for example, anaphylaxis certification
- A signed Curtin Code of Conduct agreement

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

- **Teaching** – Analyse and evaluate a range of teaching and management procedures, and plan, teach and evaluate learning experiences.
- **Child development** – Identify and explain key terms and concepts of child development and relate those concepts to educational contexts.
- **Theories of learning** – Reflective and critical examinations of approaches to learning through becoming familiar with key psychological terms, theories and concepts in teaching and learning.
- **ICT's** – Where students identify and explain typical literacy development, and analyse and critique perspectives in language and literacy.
- **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.
- **Performing Arts and Science**
- **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