GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION PRIMARY

BEGA EDUCATION CENTRE
GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (PRIMARY)

The Graduate Diploma in Education is a professional one-year postgraduate teacher education program. This program will be offered at the University of Wollongong’s Bega Education Centre for the first time in 2008. It is a course for University graduates who seek recognised teacher qualifications in primary school teaching. It also serves as an introduction to the disciplines of education for those who may wish to pursue higher studies in the field.

The program is face-to-face and involves lectures, seminars, tutorials, individual assignments, group exercises and blocks of supervised practice teaching in schools. Teaching practice and experience in classroom settings are provided in collaboration with local schools. The program provides a teaching qualification that is recognised by the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET), the Catholic Education Office, independent schools and employing authorities in other states. It is also accepted internationally.

THE PROGRAM

The Graduate Diploma in Education is an intensive, full time program. The timetable changes several times during the year and there are 11 weeks of full time professional experience in schools.

The GDE program comprises 48 credit points that are organised into four strands:

> Person
> Professional Skills
> Place
> Pedagogy

The practical application of these campus-based strands is realised during the Practice Teaching experience.

PERSON

This strand explores the nature of the learner and the role of the teacher. It will include a focus on the psychology and pedagogy of learners with an emphasis on their diverse needs. Issues of classroom management will be explored through the lens of the diversity of learners and their environments. Issues relating to personal development and health will be explored, including child protection and welfare.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

This strand covers the skills required of teachers as professionals. Emphasis is on the development of language and literacy skills, encompassing communication, listening, interviewing, library researching, reporting and personal use of information and communication technology. Focus is on developing awareness of school culture and the wider community, developing skills in intercultural communication, class management and protocol to support student welfare. Tertiary literacy development is expressed through the organisation and presentation of assessment tasks in a developing portfolio.

PLACE

This strand is a critical study of the educational policies, historical, social and cultural contexts and philosophical underpinnings of education as they apply to the experiences of learners in schools, in particular NSW schools. This subject focuses on the diversity of school contexts and learners, and the welfare of students. Teachers’ values, perceptions and judgments and the way these impact on assessment and evaluation of student learning are systematically explored in conjunction with processes of curriculum development, implementation and evaluation. Emphasis is placed on the ways in which gender, aboriginality, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and difference are constructed. Language use, teaching strategies, student welfare, assessment and information technology in the curriculum are critically examined.
PEDAGOGY (METHODS)

Teaching methodology subjects draw on students’ undergraduate and other GDE studies to examine the practical aspects of planning and implementing relevant curricula in the classroom. The Primary teaching methodology subjects are taught by experienced teachers from schools in the Bega Valley region.

Practice Teaching

An example of how the practicum may be structured is as follows:

30 days will be spent in schools on a frequency of two days per week over 15 weeks, in addition there will also be a five week (25 days) teaching block in October / November.

ENTRY CRITERIA

1. Applicants must hold a completed Bachelor’s degree before commencing the Graduate Diploma in Education (GDE) program. This degree must meet the NSW DET requirements for teaching Primary. For the 2008 intake, students must include in their application, a letter from the NSW DET acknowledging that their request for approval has been received and is being processed.

2. Preference is given to UOW graduates from the Bega and Batemans Bay Education Centres with a strong academic performance, for example, a credit average or above.

3. Following the allocation of places to the above students, preference will be given to graduates from other universities that meet the academic and NSW DET requirements residing in the following local government areas: Bega Valley, Eurobodalla and Monaro.

4. Further places will be offered to other qualified graduates if vacancies exist.

5. There are a number of positions reserved for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students. Students should indicate in their application if they wish to be considered for these places.

Note: Students who enrol at the Bega campus must complete their degree at this campus.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A POSITION IN THE PROGRAM

1. Apply to the NSW Department of Education & Training (DET) for your prescription / approval letter following the steps below:
   a. Obtain an official enrolment record from your University.
   b. Complete the “Request for Assessment of Qualifications for Teaching in NSW Public Schools”. This document can be found at: https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/employment/teachnsw/assessmentreqt.htm
   c. Mail request form and enrolment record to:

      Teacher Recruitment
      NSW Dept of Education and Training
      Locked Bag 3003
      Blacktown NSW 2148
      Tel.: 1-300-300-498
      Fax: (02) 9836-9767

   Note: The response time for the DET letter is considerable.
2. Obtain a Post Graduate application form from the Administration Office at the Bega Campus or download the post graduate coursework form from the following website: [www.uow.edu.au/prospective/apply](http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/apply)

3. Attach the letter of reply from the NSW DET stating that your undergraduate degree is approved for teaching Primary. If this letter has not yet been received, attach the acknowledgement letter stating that they are processing your application.

4. The deadline for receipt of applications is **31 October, 2007**.

5. You may wish to include a statement regarding your teaching philosophy and a brief overview of any previous formal or informal teaching positions or leadership roles.


7. You cannot defer your offer into the program.

8. No other courses may be studied concurrently with the Graduate Diploma in Education.

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**PLANNING AND ASSESSING YOUR DEGREE TO MEET ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

At time of publication, the Primary program offered at the Bega Campus of the University of Wollongong is undergoing accreditation by the NSW Institute of Teachers.

For the current requirements for teaching Primary in New South Wales, please refer to the Department of Education and Training's web site:


Note: Only Primary Methods are available on the Bega Campus. Information regarding requirements for Secondary Teaching areas is available from the Faculty's Student Service Centre.

**CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK**

The NSW DET requires all teacher education students applying for placement or employment to undergo a criminal record check prior to commencement in a NSW Government school. This check will be conducted by the NSW Police Service and will be coordinated by the NSW DET. This information will be confidential. This procedure will be further explained at enrolment. Students who require any further information on the process should contact the Director of the program.