



Early childhood teaching

Early childhood teachers are among the most influential members of the community. The teaching and care they offer lay the foundation for success in education and in life.

The programmes offered by Te Whānau o Ako Pai—School of Education give graduates the skills to take on this responsibility with confidence, and to enjoy the excitement, creativity, and fun of working with young children. We have a strong focus on bicultural practice and you will benefit from our staff's extensive professional experience across diverse early childhood education services. We offer two pathways to becoming an early childhood teacher.

The Tohu Paetahi Whakaako—Te Kōhungahunga—Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Early Childhood (BEd(Tchg)EC) is a three-year degree for those wanting to gain a degree-level qualification in early childhood teaching. This degree aims to develop professional teachers who are sensitive to human needs—flexible, adaptable, and resourceful people who can become leaders, able to work not only with young children but also with a variety of adults in the community.

The second pathway to become an early childhood teacher is the Pōkairua Paetahi Whakaako (Te Kōhungahunga)—Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood Education). Entry to this one-year programme requires you to have completed a Bachelor's degree.

Having successfully completed the BEd(Tchg)EC, you will:

- ▶ be responsible for managing and monitoring children's learning and development
- ▶ know the curriculum you teach and how to develop skills and knowledge in this area
- ▶ think effectively about your practice and learn from experience
- ▶ have knowledge of the context of early childhood education in Aotearoa New Zealand
- ▶ have undergone preparation to work in the early childhood services, including education and care, home-based care, kindergartens, and Pacific language nests.

Our early childhood teaching qualifications are designed to prepare you for an exciting career as an early childhood teacher, and successful completion will enable you to be eligible for provisional teacher certification with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.



FIND OUT MORE

- ✉ info@vuw.ac.nz
- 📍 wgtn.ac.nz/bachelor-of-teaching-ece
- 📍 wgtn.ac.nz/education

SCHOLARSHIPS

TeachNZ offers a range of scholarships for teachers in training. Go to teachnz.govt.nz or phone 0800 16 52 25 for more information. If you are considering applying for a TeachNZ Scholarship, do so early as there are limited numbers available.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates are eligible for registration with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand and to teach in New Zealand early childhood education services, including childcare, kindergartens, and home-based services and Pacific language nests.

i wgtn.ac.nz/careers

POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Completion of an early childhood education undergraduate programme can lead to further study towards a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCertEd) or the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDipEd). The School also offers a Master of Early Childhood Leadership*, Master of Education (MEd) by coursework, a Doctor of Education (EdD), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (PhD).

*Subject to regulatory approval.

i wgtn.ac.nz/education/postgraduate

SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Recommended school subjects include a balance of sciences, Mathematics, essay-based subjects such as English, Geography, and History, and Te Reo Māori. Creative subjects such as Design, Music Studies, and Visual Arts are also useful.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For entry into any teaching programme, you will need to be assessed and accepted by the School of Education as being suitable for the teaching profession. This involves meeting set criteria, having supportive referees, having a satisfactory police check, making declarations about any health or disability issues, and taking part successfully in a selection meeting that will include an interview and literacy and numeracy testing.

If English is not your first language, you will need to provide evidence of English language competency as outlined by the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The BEd(Tchg)EC requires three years of full-time study.

A total of 360 points is required. Students will complete the following courses:

- ▶ EDUC 102–104, TCHG 102–105
- ▶ TCHG 220–225
- ▶ EDUC 315, TCHG 308, TCHG 309, TCHG 382–384.

Students can complete the BEd(Tchg)EC as either campus-based or centre-based students. In both options, students will attend university classes scheduled on two days each week. Campus-based students complete their professional practice placements in blocks of four to six weeks. Centre-based students can be employed as an unqualified early childhood kaiako (teacher) and complete some of their professional practice placements in their workplace. In addition, centre-based students will complete two four-week block placements in other centres, one in the first year and one in the second year. It is also possible for students to apply to transfer between the campus-based and centre-based delivery modes at specific times each year.

First year

Trimester 1	Trimester 2
EDUC 102	EDUC 103
TCHG 102	EDUC 104
TCHG 103	TCHG 105
TCHG 104	

First-year courses

EDUC 102 Te Ao Hurihuri 1: Te Tiriti—History and Transformative Education

EDUC 103 Te Ao Hurihuri 2: Ngā Auahatanga—Innovations in Care and Education

EDUC 104 Te Ao Hurihuri 3: Ngā Ariā—Theories of Growth and Learning in Context

TCHG 102 Te Reo Māori 1: Hei Whaiora

TCHG 103 Ako 1: Ngā Anga—Care and Education Frameworks and Pedagogies

TCHG 104 Tātaimara 1: Te Whāriki

TCHG 105 Tātaimara me Te Reo Māori 2: Kia Rere—The '100' Languages of Children

Second year

Complete the following courses: TCHG 220, TCHG 221, TCHG 222, TCHG 223, TCHG 224, TCHG 225.

Third year

Complete the following courses: EDUC 315, TCHG 308, TCHG 309, TCHG 382, TCHG 383, TCHG 384.

DEGREE EXAMPLE

Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Early Childhood


YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3
TCHG 102 15 points	EDUC 103 20 points	TCHG 220 20 points	TCHG 223 20 points	TCHG 308 20 points	TCHG 384 20 points
TCHG 103 15 points	EDUC 104 20 points	TCHG 221 20 points	TCHG 224 20 points	TCHG 309 20 points	EDUC 315 20 points
TCHG 104 15 points	TCHG 105 20 points	TCHG 222 20 points	TCHG 225 20 points	TCHG 382 20 points	TCHG 383 20 points
EDUC 102 15 points					
60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS
120 POINTS		120 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Total points required: 360

Total points completed: 360

For more information on enrolling in the one-year Pōkairua Paetahi Whakaako (Te Kōhungahunga)—Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood Education), see our *Education* publication or go to wgtn.ac.nz/education





"I chose to study early childhood education because I'm passionate about working with tamariki and supporting their learning, wellbeing, and sense of identity during these crucial early years. I was drawn to a career where I could nurture children's natural curiosity and creativity, while building strong, respectful relationships with whānau and communities."

Mackenzie

Student, Bachelor of Education (Teaching) in Early Childhood Education