

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHER EDUCATION



Teaching at primary and secondary levels is a rewarding career. Pre-service teacher education gives you the knowledge needed to excel in the classroom, and teachers can use their specialised skills to inspire and teach future generations.

You can follow one of two pathways at Victoria University of Wellington to become a primary or secondary teacher. You will need to complete an undergraduate degree first, then apply to enrol in the one-year Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary or Secondary) or the Master of Teaching and Learning (Primary or Secondary).

For entry into any teaching programme, you will need to be assessed and accepted by the Faculty of Education as suitable for the teaching profession. This involves meeting set criteria, having supportive referees and 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 must gain a band score of 7.0 or better in each component of the academic IELTS test before you begin the programme.

We recommend that you seek advice on planning your undergraduate pathway to a teacher education qualification.

TeachNext

TeachNext is a group for students who are completing an undergraduate degree at the University and planning to complete a teacher education programme. It meets regularly for information sessions, talks from education-sector speakers, and education- and teaching-focused events. You can also connect with staff from the Faculty of Education, who will answer questions about a teaching career.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS DEGREE

www.victoria.ac.nz/education

Graduate Diploma of Teaching

The Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary) and the Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Secondary) are one-year full-time programmes offered on campus or online and include 14 weeks of teaching experience in schools.

To enter either programme, you must have completed an undergraduate degree. If you want to be a secondary teacher, you need appropriate-level study in at least two teaching subjects in your degree, although one teaching subject in high demand may be sufficient. One of your teaching subjects should be your major and the other taken to at least 200 level.

Master of Teaching and Learning

The Master of Teaching and Learning (Primary) and the Master of Teaching and Learning (Secondary) are integrated internship models combining theory and practice that will give you the opportunity to study primary or secondary teacher education while based in a school. You will complete the qualification full time over 12 months of study. To gain entry to the programme, you must have completed a three-year Bachelor's degree and should have a grade average of at least a B in the final year of study. If you want to be a secondary teacher, you should major in a teaching subject in your undergraduate degree.

POTENTIAL CAREERS

Graduates are eligible for registration with the Education Council and to teach in New Zealand primary and secondary schools. The combination of specialist subject knowledge and teaching skills is particularly attractive to employers, not only in schools but also in a range of other careers.

www.victoria.ac.nz/careers

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

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POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

Completion of a teaching programme can lead to further study for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCertEd) and the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDipEd). The Faculty of Education also offers a Master of Education (MEd), a Doctor of Education (EdD), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (PhD).

📍 www.victoria.ac.nz/education/postgraduate

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Subjects to study at school are those relevant to the subjects you are planning to teach.

Pathways

To equip yourself to be the best teacher you can be, it is a good idea to think carefully about your choice of courses in your undergraduate degree.

Think of your tertiary education as a complete journey towards preparing yourself to teach. You can explore your options for undergraduate degrees from page 41.

You may need to include different subjects in your undergraduate degree, depending on whether you aim to teach at primary or secondary level. There are some courses that are useful no matter which level you wish to teach—you can include some of these if you have space for elective courses within your undergraduate degree.

- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Computer Science
- Design
- Early Childhood Education
- Economics
- Education
- English Literature
- Film
- Geography
- History
- Music
- New Zealand Sign Language
- Physics
- Psychology
- Public Policy
- Samoan/ Matā'upu tau Samoa
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Te Reo Māori
- Theatre

Secondary teaching

If you want to teach at secondary level, you should include the subjects you wish to teach in your undergraduate degree. You should choose teaching subjects that relate to the New Zealand school curriculum areas. We recommend that you take one teaching subject as a major, and another to at least 200 level.

The Master of Teaching and Learning (Secondary) offers the following curriculum areas that relate to teaching subjects you can study at the University: English, Languages (Te Reo Māori), Mathematics, Music, Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology), and Social Sciences (Geography, History). Note that not all subjects will be offered every year, as they are dependent on the availability of academic mentors at the University and teacher mentors in schools.

The Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Secondary) is offered in curriculum areas that relate to teaching subjects listed below.

Subject	Course code
Education	EDUC 101, EDUC 141, EDUC 136
Pacific Studies	PASI 101, SAMO 101
Science	SCIE 101
Statistics	STAT 193
Te Reo Māori	MAOR 101, MAOR 102
Writing	WRIT 101

Primary teaching

Any undergraduate degree can be used as the basis for admission to primary teaching programmes. If you are planning your undergraduate degree with the intention of undertaking a teacher education programme in the future, you should embrace the opportunity to study a broad base of curriculum areas, including mathematics, science, social science, and te reo Māori.

Useful subjects to prepare yourself for a primary teaching programme include those related to areas of the New Zealand school curriculum, and those that develop your knowledge on the broader context of education and society. Suggestions of subjects offered at Victoria University of Wellington include:

- Accounting
- Cultural Anthropology
- Biology
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Media Studies

Curriculum area	Teaching subjects offered at the University
English	English Literature
Learning Languages	Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Māori Studies* , Samoan Studies /Matā'upu tau Samoa, Spanish, Te Reo Māori
Mathematics	Econometrics**, Mathematics, Statistics
Performing Arts	Theatre
Science	Applied Physics, Biology, Biotechnology, Cell and Molecular Bioscience, Chemistry, Ecology and Biodiversity, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Marine Biology, Physics
Social Sciences (Accounting, Economics, Geography, History, Media Studies, and Social Studies)	Accounting, Development Studies, Economics, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Media Studies, Physical Geography
Technology	Computer Science, Electronic and Computer Systems, Design
Visual Arts	Design

*Must include Te Reo Māori courses to at least 200 level.

**Courses only, not a major.

A portrait of Luke Armstrong, a young man with short, light brown hair and a light beard, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark olive green bomber jacket over a white t-shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm, bokeh-style lights.

LUKE

ARMSTRONG

Student, Graduate Diploma of Teaching
(Primary)

“The Graduate Diploma of Teaching is a wonderful programme. Working alongside students who are all passionate and enthusiastic about what they are learning has really helped me through my studies. It is also clear that the lecturers and tutors are all eager to pass on their knowledge and help to shape us to become the best educators we can be.”