



# Primary and secondary school teaching

Teaching is a rewarding career. Teachers inspire and teach future generations.

The first step towards becoming a teacher is to complete an undergraduate degree. Degree options vary depending on what you're interested in teaching, but there are some common skills that all teachers need, so consider the courses you choose carefully. These pages explain the key things to keep in mind so you'll be best prepared to apply for teaching programmes once you've completed your degree.

Our teaching programmes build on your Bachelor's degree to give you the skills and knowledge to teach in schools. You'll graduate ready to create positive, inclusive learning environments and be a confident and effective educator. Successful graduates will be able to teach in schools throughout Aotearoa and be eligible for provisional teacher certification with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.

If you want to know more about Early Childhood Education teaching pathways, see page 158.



## FIND OUT MORE

- ✉ [info@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:info@vuw.ac.nz)
- 📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/education/teacher-education](https://wgtn.ac.nz/education/teacher-education)
- 📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/education](https://wgtn.ac.nz/education)

## 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 university study as a complete journey towards preparing yourself to teach. You can explore your options for undergraduate degrees from page 56.

There are some undergraduate courses that are useful for both primary and secondary teaching, which you can include if you have space for elective courses within your undergraduate degree.

Subject	Course code
Education	EDUC 101, EDUC 141, EDUC 117, EDUC 136
Pacific Studies	PASI 101, SAMO 101
Science	SCIE 101
Statistics	STAT 193
Te Reo Māori	MAOR 101, MAOR 102
Writing	WRIT 101

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

## Primary teaching

You need to have an undergraduate degree to apply for admission to our primary teaching programmes. If you are planning your undergraduate degree with the intention of primary teaching 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 primary teaching include those related to education and areas of the New Zealand school curriculum. Suggestions of subjects offered at the University include:

- ▶ Biology
- ▶ Chemistry
- ▶ Computer Science
- ▶ Cultural Anthropology
- ▶ Design Innovation
- ▶ Early Childhood Education
- ▶ Educational Psychology
- ▶ English Literature
- ▶ Film
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ History
- ▶ Languages
- ▶ Linguistics
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Media Studies
- ▶ Music
- ▶ New Zealand Sign Language

- ▶ Physics
- ▶ Psychological Science
- ▶ Public Policy
- ▶ Samoan Studies / Matā'upu tau Sāmoa
- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Statistics
- ▶ Te Reo Māori
- ▶ Theatre.

## Secondary teaching

If you want to teach at secondary level, you'll need an in-depth knowledge of at least one subject taught in secondary school to Year 13. We recommend that you take one teaching subject as a major, and another to at least 200 level.

Curriculum area	Teaching subjects offered at the University
English	English Literature
Learning Languages	Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Māori Studies <sup>†</sup> , Samoan Studies / Matā'upu tau Sāmoa, Spanish, Te Reo Māori
Mathematics and Statistics	Econometrics <sup>‡</sup> , Mathematics, Statistics
The Arts (Drama, Visual Art, Music)	Theatre, Design Innovation, Music
Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry)	Biology, Biotechnology, Cell and Molecular Bioscience, Chemistry, Ecology and Biodiversity, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Marine Biology, Physics
Social Sciences (Accounting, Economics, Geography, History, Psychology, and Social Studies)	Accounting, Development Studies, Economics, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Psychological Science
Technology	Computer Science, Design Innovation, Electronic and Computer Systems

<sup>†</sup>Must include Te Reo Māori courses to at least 200 level.

<sup>‡</sup>Courses only, not a major.

## SCHOOL SUBJECTS

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

## SCHOLARSHIPS

TeachNZ offers a range of scholarships for teachers in training. Go to [teachnz.govt.nz](http://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.



## POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Completion of a teaching programme can lead to further study for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCertEd) and the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDipEd). Te Whānau o Ako Pai—School of Education also offers a Master of Education (MEd), a Master of Secondary School Leadership (MSSL), a Doctor of Education (EdD), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (PhD).

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/education/postgraduate](http://wgtn.ac.nz/education/postgraduate)

## Entry requirements

For entry into any teaching programme, you will need to be assessed and accepted by the School 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.

All students must meet English language competency requirements set by the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand. If you have completed your secondary and tertiary education in New Zealand, you'll meet the requirements.

## Teach Next

Teach Next 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, education- and teaching-focused events, and specific support for the selection process. You can also connect with staff from the School of Education, who will answer questions about a teaching career.

✉ [teachnext@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:teachnext@vuw.ac.nz)







**"After studying for an undergraduate degree in event management and finding doors closed in that industry, I returned to what had always brought me joy: working with children. From Ngā Mihi Week to placement experiences and the friendships formed along the way, this programme has helped me grow in confidence, purpose, and passion for the classroom. We've been set up not just to succeed but also to thrive as future educators."**

**Micah**

**Student, Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary)**