



UniSA

Education Futures



University of
South Australia

Primary Specialisms

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Honours)





As part of your studies in the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Honours) program, you will undertake additional courses in a chosen learning area: The Arts, English, Languages, Mathematics/Science or Religious Education (Catholic Studies).

Selecting your learning area is a very important decision. Your learning area should be reflective of your personal interests in addition to setting you apart for employability at the end of your degree.

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Arts

“Arts experiences cultivate and nourish children and young people’s creative, intellectual and communication skills and capacities, enabling them to participate as contemporary Australian citizens.” Carclew Guiding Principle

The Arts are intrinsic to young children’s early learning as indicated within both the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian curriculum: The Arts. The Arts specialism draws together related but distinct art forms and will prepare you to develop special interests and build knowledge, skills and confidence to plan, teach and inspire children across the five arts subjects (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts) in early childhood sites and the early years of school.

Building upon the foundation arts education course, you will take three courses over the program. Across the courses you will develop an in-depth knowledge of diverse approaches to the Arts including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and traditional cultural knowledge. You will develop understanding of how the Arts work within cultures and societies as well as its place in education.

The specialism will provide you with experiences of ‘making and responding’ in each art form.

Media arts is integrated across the courses:

Arts specialism 1: focuses first on **dance** and **music**, foundational for early sensory, creative and body-based learning and meaning making, supporting children’s conceptual understanding across all learning areas.

Arts specialism 2: follows with **drama** and **visual arts** to help you gain mastery of these subjects for planning and teaching via projects and presentations.

Arts specialism 3: through creative processes you will develop your interests and skills through choosing one or more of **the arts** by developing a performance, presentation or display with plans for high quality arts education and a specific age range within the early years, birth to eight.

	Course Code / Name
Primary Specialism 1	EDUC 2076 - Dance and Music: Social Dreaming
Primary Specialism 2	EDUC 3078 - Drama and Visual Arts: Story Landscapes
Primary Specialism 3	EDUC 4227 - Production, Presentation and Audience in Arts Education

English

You will gain an in-depth content and pedagogical knowledge by learning about digital media and film, classic literature and children's picture books. Find out about teaching children with English as an additional language or dialect. Explore 21st century literacies and the digital tools that children engage with at home and school. Deepen your knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity. Connect with your creativity. This specialism will take you deeply into the world of language and literature for very young and older children and culminates in an inquiry into English teaching.

Children are producing digital media texts inside and outside of their classrooms with digital tools and applications. They use film and images for entertainment, self-expression and information in collaborative and creative ways. In this specialism you will engage with cutting edge research in this field as well as experiment with digital tools and applications.

Literature has always been a key component of English. In this specialism you will be able to deepen your knowledge of classic and contemporary literature including picture books, poetry and innovative forms of storytelling. Develop your knowledge of reading for and with children and share your responses to texts with your colleagues.

Linguistic and cultural diversity in 21st century Australian schools provides educators with exciting opportunities in their profession. Gaining a deep understanding of the language variation and cultural differences that you will experience as teachers of English and literacy will enable you to plan for diverse classes with confidence. You will learn how to support all children to become confident communicators and expand your knowledge of literacy teaching in a range of contexts.

	Course Code / Name
Primary Specialism 1	EDUC 1087 - Teaching Linguistically Diverse Learners
Primary Specialism 2	EDUC 2074 - Classic and Contemporary Literature and Digital Media Literacies
Primary Specialism 3	EDUC 2093 – Grammar Across the Curriculum (Previously EDUC 4243: Inquiry into the Teaching of English in Early Childhood and Primary Contexts)

Languages

“In today’s interconnected world, the ability to speak multiple languages and communicate across linguistic divides is a critical skill. Even partial knowledge of more than one language is beneficial” (Salzburg Statement for a Multilingual World).

Most children in the world are multilingual. The learning of a second or third language is also known to support children’s literacy in their first language. Hence Australian education systems are committed to the development of Australians’ multilingual capabilities, starting from the early years of schooling.

This specialism prepares you to support the SA government’s languages strategy in schools and the expansion of languages programs in the early years. Whether children maintain their home language or learn a new one, your experience as a learner of French Italian or Japanese at university will equip you to guide and support them in play-based, experiential language learning. This specialism also develops your expertise in working with children and families who bring diverse languages and cultures to the education experiences of their children.

	Course Code / Name	
	Beginners	SACE Stage 2
Primary Specialism 1	LANG 1O26 - Italian 1A LANG 1O22 - French 1A LANG 1O33 - Japanese 1A	LANG 1O29 - Italian 2A LANG 1O24 - French 2A LANG 1O31 - Japanese 2A
Primary Specialism 2	LANG 1O27 - Italian 1B LANG 1O23 - French 1B LANG 1O34 - Japanese 1B	LANG 1O28 - Italian 2B LANG 1O25 - French 2B LANG 1O32 - Japanese 2B
Primary Specialism 3	LANG 1O29 - Italian 2A LANG 1O24 - French 2A LANG 1O31 - Japanese 2A	LANG 3O12 Italian 3A French: contact EDC-TeachingLearning@unisa.edu.au LANG 3O06 Japanese 3A

Mathematics / Science

"Children possess their own theories, interpretations and questions, and are co-protagonists in knowledge building processes" (Rinaldi, 2006, p. 126).

Are you naturally creative and curious ... are you a problem finder and problem solver? Do you enjoy exploring the natural world and wonder about how things work? Importantly do you often question and reflect upon your observations?

STEM based disciplines nurture young children's natural inclination to investigate and make sense of the world around them. As an early childhood educator, a science and mathematics specialism will position you strongly in the field of education, as the critical and creative thinking that underlies these disciplines is highly valued in both life and industry.

In this interdisciplinary specialism you will build your capacity in designing authentic, integrated experiences that will engage children in the early years of school in mathematical and scientific inquiry. In a sequence of three courses you will explore the rich potential.

	Course Code / Name
Primary Specialism 1	ENVT 1013 - Environment, Society and Climate
Primary Specialism 2	MATH 1057 - Mathematics for Primary Educators 1
Primary Specialism 3	EDUC 4222 - Integrating Mathematics and Science for Young Children

Religious Education (Catholic Studies)

The Religious Education (Catholic Studies) specialism involves the study of the ongoing Catholic story and its meaning in our world today. In an educational context, it explores the deepest questions of human existence: what does it mean to be human today in a rapidly changing world? How do we understand the meaning of love, compassion and faith? How do we 'live justly' in all relationships, including God's creation and the entire planet?

Students will gain in-depth content and pedagogical knowledge through the four-course sequence: Scripture, Theology, Contemporary Catholic Schools and Religious Education. These courses prepare pre-service teachers to teach early childhood RE in creative and engaging ways. They also prepare graduates for religious leadership roles in Catholic schools. On completion of these four courses, students will have met the Catholic Education SA teacher-accreditation requirement for tertiary study.

We seek pre-service teachers who are open to dialogue, reflection and growth - to specialise in a subject that is core to Catholic education and unique in its unlimited scope.

	Course Code / Name
Primary Specialism 1	EDUC 1069 - Catholic Scriptures: An Introduction
Primary Specialism 2	EDUC 2049 - Catholic Theology: An Introduction
Primary Specialism 3	EDUC 2063 - Contemporary Catholic Schools
Required Elective	EDUC 3035 - Religious Education for Catholic Schools (<i>final year</i>)