



UniSA

Education Futures

# **Primary Specialisms**

Bachelor of Primary Education (Honours)  
2025

It is a national requirement that all pre-service teachers have a primary specialisation (or specialism) upon graduation. This means, that in addition to a broad range of teaching skills relevant to the whole primary curriculum, primary graduates will also have a deeper knowledge of content and pedagogical (teaching) skills in one primary learning area. This will not make you a 'specialist' teacher in your chosen learning area, but it will provide you with in-depth content and pedagogical knowledge.

As part of your studies in the Bachelor of Primary Education (Honours) you will complete four courses in one learning area which will form the focus of your specialism. Learning areas include: Arts; English; Health and Physical Education (HPE); Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS); Languages; Mathematics; Religious Education (Catholic Studies); Science and Technologies. When choosing your specialism, please think carefully about what will be attractive to primary schools. For instance, if everyone chooses the same specialism there will be no point of difference upon graduation.

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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

In the Australian Curriculum, The Arts learning area draws together related but distinct art forms. The Arts specialism 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 OR primary schools.

Building upon the foundation arts education course, you will take four courses over the program and an elective focusing on a specific arts subject. 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 the arts’ contribution to culture, society and the economy as well as its place in education.

The specialism will provide you with experiences of ‘making and responding’ in each art form: **Arts specialism 1:** you will study each of the five arts in contemporary audio-visual cultures including the use of digital technologies to develop a **visual arts** portfolio and **media arts** presentation.

**Arts specialisms 2 & 3:** focus first on **dance** and **music**, followed by **drama** and **visual arts** to help you gain mastery of these subjects for planning and teaching via projects and presentations.

**Arts specialism 4:** through creative processes you will develop your interests and skills in one or more of **the arts** by developing a performance, presentation or display with plans for high quality arts education with a specific age range.

	Course Code / Name	Sequence
Specialism 1	EDUC 1099 - Becoming a Primary Teacher with an Arts Specialisation	Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	EDUC 2076 - Dance and Music: Social Dreaming	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	EDUC 3078 - Drama and Visual Arts: Story Landscapes	Year 3 SP5
Specialism 4	EDUC 4227 - Production, Presentation and Audience in Arts Education	Year 4 SP2

### PLEASE NOTE:

Arts specialism students should not take EDUC 4216: Arts Across the Early Childhood Curriculum as their elective course. Please contact the Program Director to discuss alternative elective options.

## English

You will gain an in-depth content and pedagogical knowledge by learning about digital media and film, classic literature and adolescent literature. 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 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 short stories, novels, 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	Sequence
Specialism 1	EDUC 2074 – Literature and Digital Media	Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	EDUC 1108 – Adolescent Literature <b>OR</b> EDUC 1087 – Teaching Linguistically Diverse Learners	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	EDUC 4214 – TESOL in Practice	Year 3 SP5
Specialism 4	EDUC 2093 – Grammar Across the Curriculum	Year 4 SP2

## Health and Physical Education (HPE)

Health and Physical Education (HPE) involves the study of both the socio-cultural and bio-physical sciences in relation to human physical activity. You will gain in-depth content and pedagogical knowledge through the four courses within the HPE specialism: health, lifestyle management, skill development, human interactions, sport education, dance and pedagogy for reflective teaching.

The aim of these courses is to introduce you to theory and applied practical aspects of health and physical education in primary schools. The sequence of courses will provide experiences that enable students to further develop skills, knowledge, pedagogy and expertise in assisting children to engage safely and enjoyably in physical activity. A major emphasis in the courses will be on the notion of equity and finding ways of making a physically active lifestyle accessible to all children.

	Course Code / Name	Sequence
Specialism 1	HLTH 1013 – Fitness and Lifestyle Management	Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	EDUC 1085 – Growth and Motor Development	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	EDUC 3066 – Dance as Education and Recreation <b>OR</b> EDUC 3071 – Group Dynamics and Responsibility Education	Year 3 SP5
Specialism 4	EDUC 4219 – Specialisation in Health & Physical Education	Year 4 SP2
Recommended Elective	EDUC 2067 – Teaching and Learning of Motor Skills	Year 4 SP2

## Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS)

Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS) provides the perfect vehicle for learners to explore their world, past and present, in order to enable them to make informed choices about their futures. Values such as social justice, democracy, sustainability and peace underpin HaSS learning.

In this specialism you will develop pedagogies that engage students in learning about their world through a progression of increasingly widening focus. In the early years, learners' natural curiosity about the places around them and people who live there is harnessed through studying History and Geography, helping them to understand their immediate world, the people who live there and the connections between themselves and others. As they progress through school, the learning becomes more complex and global, and encompasses learning about Civics and Citizenship from Year 3 and Economics and Business from Year 5. Therefore, the HaSS specialism will provide opportunities for you to develop in-depth content and pedagogical knowledge of each of the sub-strands of HaSS education: History; Geography; Civics & Citizenship; and Economics & Business.

We need teachers with the expertise to teach HaSS in an engaging way so that learners can develop into active citizens who make informed decisions through acknowledging and critically analysing multiple perspectives. Therefore, the four courses within the HaSS specialism will provide you with in-depth content and pedagogical knowledge to teach the sub-strands within HaSS in a competent, engaging and exciting way enabling learners to develop a passion for HaSS and learning. Each of the courses within this specialism focus on best practice in the classroom, making it a useful addition to your program.

	Course Code / Name	Sequence
Specialism 1	EDUC 1103 – HaSS Geographical Studies Specialisation	Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	EDUC 3080 – HaSS Historical Studies Specialisation	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	EDUC 2079 – HaSS Integration Specialisation	Year 3 SP5
Specialism 4	EDUC 4223 – HaSS Pedagogy Specialisation	Year 4 SP2

## 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).*

School sectors are now committed to ensuring all children have access to a quality languages program in the Primary Years, ideally in a whole school approach. Adding Languages as a specialism to your degree provides opportunities to gain in-depth content and pedagogical knowledge around languages, to support experiential language learning and teaching, thus providing additional employment opportunities.

Depending on your previous language study, you can commence your language study either at French, Italian or Japanese 1A (beginners) or French, Italian, Japanese 2A if you’ve completed SACE Stage 2 (or equivalent) in the language.

	Course Code / Name		Sequence
	Beginners	SACE Stage 2	
Specialism 1	EDUC 2089 – Teaching and Learning a New Language		Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	LANG 1026 - Italian 1A LANG 1022 - French 1A LANG 1033 - Japanese 1A	LANG 1029 - Italian 2A LANG 1024 - French 2A LANG 1031 - Japanese 2A	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	LANG 1027 - Italian 1B LANG 1023 - French 1B LANG 1034 - Japanese 1B	LANG 1028 - Italian 2B LANG 1025 - French 2B LANG 1032 - Japanese 2B	Year 3 SP5
Specialism 4	LANG 1029 - Italian 2A LANG 1024 - French 2A LANG 1031 - Japanese 2A	LANG 3012 - Italian 3A LANG 3004 - French 3A LANG 3006 - Japanese 3A	Year 4 SP2

Background speakers or students with high proficiency and/or evidence of formal tertiary study in French, Italian, Japanese or another language may complete an alternative pathway in consultation with the Primary Specialism Coordinator: Languages or Program Director.

## Mathematics

Mathematics is about so much more than procedures or calculations. It is a way of thinking or looking at the world, it is creative, abstract and naturally occurring in nature. By choosing mathematics as your specialism you are choosing to make a difference in students' lives - supporting them to see the beauty and creativity in mathematics and empowering them to become effective mathematically literate citizens.

The sequence of courses in the mathematics specialism includes Mathematics for Primary Educators 1 to 3 and Thinking and Working Mathematically. This suite of four courses has been specifically designed to value-add to your main mathematics curriculum courses by extending both your content knowledge of mathematics as well as your pedagogical knowledge. Across the courses you will recap on core knowledge related to number, algebra, measurement, space, statistics, and probability, as well as explore different technologies for developing and demonstrating mathematical thinking.

	Course Code / Name	Sequence
Specialism 1	MATH 1057 – Mathematics for Primary Educators 1	Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	EDUC 3004 – Mathematics for Primary Educators 2	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	EDUC 2098 – Mathematics for Primary Educators 3	Year 3 SP5
Specialism 4	EDUC 4244 – Thinking and Working Mathematically	Year 4 SP2



## 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 primary 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	Sequence
Specialism 1	EDUC 1069 – Catholic Scriptures: An Introduction	Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	EDUC 2049 – Catholic Theology: An Introduction	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	EDUC 2063 – Contemporary Catholic Schools	Year 3 SP1
Specialism 4	EDUC 3035 – Religious Education for Catholic Schools	Year 4 SP2

## Science

The science specialism provides opportunities to have science as a strength as a generalist classroom teacher in a primary school. The sequence of courses encourages you to be thinking and working scientifically as you build your science knowledge and understanding and Science as Human Endeavour, all of which are central to the Australian Curriculum. Through making connections to the natural world, asking questions, investigating and seeking explanations as to why things around us are as they are, will ensure that you are engaged and making informed decisions about livable futures.

The courses model pedagogical practices such as place based, culturally responsive and eco justice as well as cover scientific content knowledge and processes that can be adopted in your own teaching. The sequence of courses that are offered within the Science specialism include: Atmosphere and Climate, Humans and the Environment, and Astronomy and the Universe. The fourth course, Critical and Contemporary Science Education, is intended to build on your knowledge of how students learn science with a focus on transdisciplinary approaches to STEM in primary science.

	Course Code / Name	Sequence
Specialism 1	EDUC 2065 – Science and Sustainability 1B: Atmosphere and Climate	Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	ENVT 1013 – Environment, Society and Climate	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	PHYS 1015 – Astronomy and the Universe	Year 3 SP5
Specialism 4	EDUC 4221 – Critical and Contemporary Science Education	Year 4 SP2

## Technologies

Technology changes the way we live - it is hard to imagine an aspect of our lives that is not impacted by technology. The clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the cars we drive have all been shaped by technology. Technology is the outcome of creative thinking and the application of knowledge to everyday problems. Throughout the four Technologies specialism courses you will learn how to engage children through practical hands-on activities in designing, creative thinking and problem solving. Children love to design and make things!

Technologies in the classroom involves using a range of materials and processes from cardboard modelling, establishing kitchen gardens and growing food, to using the latest digital technologies such as 3-D printers. You will have the opportunity to develop an in-depth knowledge of materials, equipment and technologies and to consider the impact of technologies on the lives of others and the environment. You will develop an understanding of the central role that technology plays in the teaching of STEM in the primary classroom as you lead children through inquiry-based learning activities.

Each Technologies course will involve visits to schools to work with teachers and children to enable you to develop in-depth pedagogical skills and the ability to plan for effective learning. This specialism will support you in exploring the world of design and creativity and will prepare you to teach in innovative ways to encourage children's inquiry and enthusiasm for learning.

	Course Code / Name	Sequence
Specialism 1	EDUC 1089 – Food Technology 1	Year 1 SP5
Specialism 2	EDUC 1084 – Digital Citizenship	Year 2 SP2
Specialism 3	EDUC 4229 – STEM: A Project Based Pedagogy	Year 3 SP5
Specialism 4	EDUC 3070 – Technology by Design	Year 4 SP2