Minister’s Foreword

The Tasmanian Government is committed to improving the learning outcomes of all Tasmanian students, ensuring that every Tasmanian has the skills to fully participate in a modern economy, reach their potential and be able to determine their own future.

Specialised early childhood teachers will support Tasmanian students to have the best start to life, and to grow as confident, involved learners and effective communicators.

Since April 2018, Tasmania’s education leaders have been working in collaboration to develop a new strategy for our education workforce, as part of my Future Tasmanian Education Workforce Roundtable. Tasmania’s education leaders have committed to building a nation-leading education system, and to ensure that Tasmania has a skilled and ready education workforce. A key focus area for our new strategy will be to enhance support and professional learning provided to current teachers.

Over the past three years, a key focus for the Tasmanian Government has been to build quality teaching practices. Since 2015, the Tasmanian Government has worked in strong partnership with the University of Tasmania and the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, to support over 200 teachers to upskill through the Developing our Workforce Strategy. This partnership will continue in 2019, with the Department of Education and the University working in collaboration to upskill our current teachers, and enhance quality teaching practices in early childhood education.

The Early Childhood Education Specialisation will continue to be a key investment by the Tasmanian Government. This initiative supports Department of Education teachers to gain an approved qualification to meet the requirements of the National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care, and build their expertise in delivering higher quality early childhood programs. Teachers will undertake formal study and the chance to improve their knowledge and application of early learning theories, pedagogy and leadership through professional experience placements.

We will continue to work closely with Tasmania’s education leaders, and our current workforce, to build a world-class education system. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

The economic and social improvement of Tasmania as a whole is strongly linked to education and our long-term goal is to lead the nation in education. If we can lift educational success, we can lift Tasmania’s success.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Education and Training
About the initiative
The Teacher Development: Early Childhood Specialisation Initiative provides Department of Education teachers with the opportunity to further develop the specialised expertise to deliver quality early childhood programs. This initiative supports teachers to complete a Graduate Certificate (Early Childhood) with the University of Tasmania (UTAS), and build knowledge, skills and practice of theory, pedagogy and leadership in early childhood education.

Who is the program designed for?
This initiative is designed for permanent teachers and Education Officers (Child and Family Centres) who:
• Have a minimum of one-year teaching experience
• Wish to meet the requirements of the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care (NQS)
• Have a personal aptitude and commitment to meet the obligations for personal and professional development

Candidates are selected on the following basis:
• Current performance goals and objectives
• Requirements of the school
• Support from current supervisor

Kindergartens will be assessed against the NQS from 2020. In order to meet the Standard kindergarten teachers are to hold a qualification that is approved by the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), as an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) qualification. As such, kindergarten teachers without an ACECQA approved qualification will be given preference to complete the initiative.

How is it delivered?
The initiative is delivered by the Faculty of Education at UTAS. By enrolling in an ACECQA approved Graduate Certificate (Early Childhood), participants will have access to four units through online learning and face-to-face instruction days. The following will be completed during 2019.

Four academic units:
• Curriculum Pedagogy and Assessment in Early Childhood
• Literacy, Mathematics and Science in Early Childhood
• Negotiated Study in Early Childhood
• Leadership and Advocacy in Early Childhood

Up to three Professional Experience Placements*
• Professional Experience: Birth to 2 years (10 days)
• Professional Experience: 3 to 5 years (35 days)
• Professional Experience: 6 to 8 years (15 days)

* Participants may be entitled to Advance Standing credit depending on work history.

What support will I receive?
Successful applicants will receive:
• Fee-free UTAS Course, including four (4) units and three (3) Professional Experience placements
• Free Textbooks
• Travel assistance to attend face-to-face days
• 0.2 FTE time release for up to 40 weeks to complete academic units, including attendance at face-to-face workshops, in Terms 1, 2, 3, and 4
• Time release for up to 60 days during 2019 to undertake professional experience placements

Please note that all participants are required to sign a Funding Agreement committing to meet the obligations including that the Course is completed in the time allocated.

Why is this initiative being offered?
The Department recognise that a highly skilled workforce is key to achieving our Learners First commitment to inspire and support all learners to succeed as connected, resilient, creative and curious thinkers.

Teachers are one of our biggest predictors of student success, and therefore highly qualified teachers are critical to our achievement of this commitment and improving student learning outcomes.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to providing Tasmanian’s children with access to quality early childhood learning programs that are in line with those of other states and territories. Specifically, it is committed to kindergartens being assessed against the National Quality Standards from 2020.
Expression of Interest


In addition to expressing your interest (by clicking Enrol) applicants must provide the following:

- Curriculum Vitae (1 page) outlining work history.
- Endorsement Form (completed by current principal or supervisor endorsing participation).
- Performance and Development Plan (PDP), which identifies goals related to participation within this initiative.
- Letter from Early Years Survey indicating your current ACECQA qualification status (to complete the survey visit: [https://kinder.education.tas.edu.au](https://kinder.education.tas.edu.au))

Documents can be added under “Supporting Document” after pressing Enrol (attachments cannot be added after you have pressed complete).

Contact

For further information contact Workforce Development at [workforce.development@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:workforce.development@education.tas.gov.au)