

Upskill Program

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Application Guide

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Introduction



Since 2019, the Upskill Program has been accessed by hundreds of early childhood educators upskilling with a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. At the Front Project, we understand that the university application experience is often confusing and challenging to navigate, especially whilst balancing work and your personal life. This guide was designed to assist early childhood educators

to understand and work through the considerations of applying for a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. It is important to note that we have tried to pull out the key considerations, but acknowledge that we have not included all considerations that come into account for an educator applying for a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education.

It takes a lot of strength and courage to consider and take on further study as sometimes the journey can seem new and daunting, but the benefits do outweigh the challenges. As an educator, you may feel there are barriers that make further study whilst working challenging. Our recent research on [Upskilling in Early Childhood Education](#) and working directly with early childhood educators told us:

- They weren't sure what upskilling to an early childhood teacher (ECT) role would mean for their current role.
- Managing workload and family commitments whilst study can be challenging.
- Many educators were unsure of the process of applying for university and the support that is available whilst studying.
- Some educators were worried that workplaces may not provide supportive conditions to enable further study.
- Educators were unsure about the cost of study, what financial support they were entitled to and had concerns about whether it would be worthwhile.

There are many benefits that come into account when taking on such an important and rewarding experience to invest in your future. The benefits of upskilling include:

- Broadening career progression and pathways with the ability to pursue roles that require a tertiary education.
- Increased knowledge of early childhood development.
- Deepening your impact and improving outcomes for children and families through ensuring curriculum requirements reflect high quality learning.
- An increase in salary and earning potential.
- Increased planning time and opportunity to lead programs.
- Additional opportunities in advocacy for and impact in policy change.

You can read the full Workforce Initiative report here:

<https://www.thefrontproject.org.au/research/upskilling-in-early-childhood-education>

About the Upskill Program

What is upskilling and why should you do it?

By completing a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, you will be able to register as an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) with your state-based Teacher Registration Board. There is a huge demand for ECTs in Australia, with the Government estimating we will need to fill 29,000 ECT jobs in Australia by 2023 to cater for the projected population of preschool age children ([Upskill Report, 2020](#)).

- 72% of the current early education workforce are educators who are either Certificate III or Diploma Qualified. Upskill sees this a huge opportunity to maximise the potential of the existing workforce, by supporting educators to undertake an ECT degree.
- Diploma-qualified educators upskilling to become ECTs may practice as ECTs sooner than school-leavers or career-change cohorts. With such a high demand for ECTs, there will be roles available for you upon graduation. As an experienced educator, committed to providing best practice care and education to children, why not take the next step?

Whether you choose to work in a long day care, or Kindergarten setting, or explore other options, becoming an ECT significantly broadens your career opportunities. Early childhood teachers are found in many different, and sometimes unexpected, places inside and outside of the traditional learning spaces.



What is the Upskill Program?

The Upskill Program aims to address barriers to upskilling and provide you with supported needed on your journey to becoming an early childhood teacher!

The Upskill Program is a workforce initiative of the Front Project. It is dedicated to improving outcomes for children and their families by supporting early childhood educators to connect, engage and grow in their careers. We recognise the impact our early childhood teachers and educators have for the children they support. We believe when you thrive, so do our children.

This Australian-first social enterprise works closely with the early childhood education community to achieve two main goals as part of our commitment to helping children thrive through life.

- For every early childhood leader, teacher, and educator to be equipped, informed, and empowered to create life-long impact for the children they teach and care for.
- To ensure that all children, especially those who face vulnerability, are engaged in high quality learning experiences that are responsive and innovative.

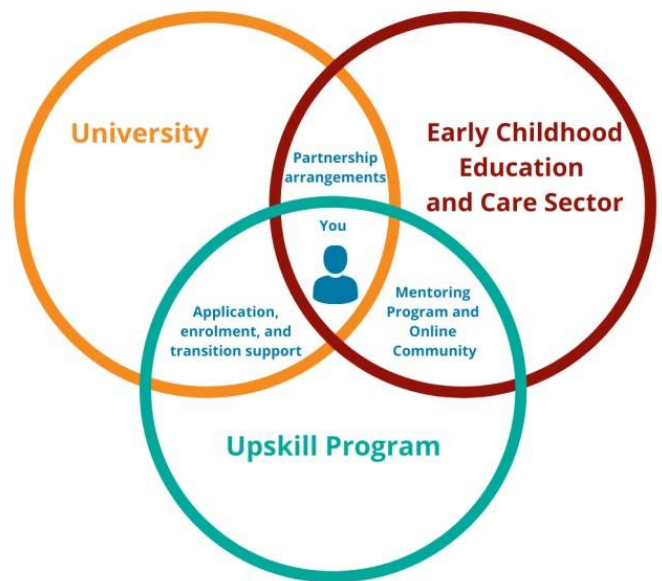
Through a powerful combination of peer support and forward-thinking professional development opportunities, the Upskill Program empowers Australia's early childhood professionals to deliver outcomes that will strengthen communities and help children to thrive.

What can the Upskill Program offer you?

The Upskill Program is designed as a response to address the barriers communicated by educators above and support members to navigate and succeed in your early childhood degree. Our personalised approach ensures every member is best supported to balance study, work, and their personal lives.

The Upskill Program has developed a program with wrap around supports tailored to the needs of early educators undertaking study. Membership includes access to:

- Study Support Webinars focused on unit enrolment and considerations, navigating university resources & time management, and assessment & referencing.
- Virtual Study & Practice Support Workshops for members of Upskill to connect with one another, ask questions, and discuss and reflect on trending topics within ECEC.
- Group Mentoring program where members are matched with an experienced ECT Mentor and peers to make professional connections, as well as share learning and experiences on your shared study journey of becoming an ECT. Dedicated program support from the Upskill Program Manager.



Defining and Differentiating Between Application and Enrolment

Applying to university and enrolling in the course units are two distinct and different stages of beginning your studies in the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. This guide aims to prepare you for the application stage only, but there is a value in defining the differences between the two.



Application

Applying to university means submitting an application and then accepting a successful application. Further along this guide, it will review the key considerations for pursuing a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education.

Important:

- It is wise to research the universities of interest and apply the below consideration when determining which specific course program is the best fit for your needs and then proceeding with an application.
- As you're making this choice, connect with your employer and discuss work study options. Communicating with your employer and gaining their support sooner than later will help immensely with planning.
- Finally, review application deadlines and apply. Deadlines and ways to apply will differ by university.

Enrolment

Enrolment occurs after you've accepted a course invitation. Enrolling in subjects is the process of selecting which subjects you will take by adding them to your study plan and paying for them.

Important:

- This is a critical step in relation to your course trajectory and completion. We recommend you check the course outline and connect with the course coordinator if you have questions on how to map out the course to graduate on time.

Study Considerations

Taking on further study is an exciting time. You're focusing on advancing in your career and deepening your practice; all feats you should be commended for! As with all rewarding experiences, there are practical considerations and steps needed to get you on track. Below, Upskill has identified key considerations that anyone studying a Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching should be aware of:

ACECQA Accreditation

The Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) is a Commonwealth Government statutory authority established to overarch the early childhood sector. They oversee the implementation of the National Quality Framework (NQF) and assess all courses for content and quality. Only courses that have been approved by ACECQA can graduate students who can work in

the early childhood sector in Australia. All the universities that the Upskill Program works with have their courses approved by ACECQA (see University Partners section below for a list of partners and their resource links).

Important:

- For more information on what ACECQA does or to check which university courses are ACECQA approved, click here <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/> . You can also check the course page on the university's course website.

Entry Criteria

Each state and university may have different course entry requirements. It's recommended that you review what these are before commencing your application. Some have defined prerequisites that you will need to complete before you can be admitted into the course.

Important:

- Queensland requires students to have completed Year 12 Maths and Science or most universities in Victoria will require demonstrated proficiency equivalent to stated Year 12 prerequisites. If you have not completed the Year 12 requirements, you will need to undertake a bridging course, which can take up to 18 weeks. You can find out more about bridging studies [here](#).
- As part of your application, many universities require you to complete a 'Teaching Personal Statement' which allows you to demonstrate your suitability for the course. This is a personal statement related to your experience and your desire to become a teacher. The statement provides universities with an understanding of your motivation and is also a chance to highlight some of your strengths and experiences in leadership and professional learning.
- Some universities may require applicants to complete the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) assessment to demonstrate possession of key competencies before course acceptance. An individual must receive a 'satisfactory' score to be eligible to apply for the course.
- Applicants to most universities are required to hold a valid Working with Children check. For more information, please refer to the Working with Children Check website.

Application Deadline

Deadlines vary by university. Please double check the deadline date for the course you want to apply to, as it cannot be assumed that one course's application deadline is the same as another.

Recognition for Prior Learning

Prospective students with prior tertiary studies that satisfy part of a university's academic requirements may be eligible for academic credit of up to a certain amount of units. Applicants without a formal qualification, but with significant and relevant work experience and appropriate

English language skills, or suitable Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) result, may be considered if they can demonstrate that they can undertake the course with a reasonable prospect of success. Learn more about STAT here: <https://stat.acer.org/au>.

Important:

- Check the course page to determine if they recognise prior learning and experience. If you are unsure if your qualifications count towards the course, reach out to the course coordinator to enquire. It'll only benefit you and may shorten your required study length!

Length of Course

The length of study depends on which university you attend, how it determines recognition and credit for prior learning and experience, as well as the workload you take on each term. These considerations will determine how long it will take you to graduate from the course.

Type of Delivery

Review how course learning is delivered: check if the program is offered on campus only, online only, or a hybrid of both. You may have a preference on delivery due to your learning style or need for flexibility to fit lifestyle and the needs of other commitments.

Important:

- Some courses are predominantly online but require you to travel to campus or a face-to-face location for exams, make sure you have an understanding of what this will mean for you before you apply.
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, most universities only provided an on-campus learning setting. Currently, universities are offering units or even the entire course online. There are many benefits to this, as you can attend lectures and tutorials online after working hours. There may be challenges in this as well, as some find it difficult to engage with course mates or to learn remote. It's best to think through what works best for you and what environment you work best in when determining mode of course delivery.

Time Commitment

Determine if you will study part or full-time. This decision will impact course considerations such how long it takes to complete your degree and personal implications for other life and work commitments.

Important:

- If you decide to study part-time, it is especially important to review your course outline and determine how many units you take a term to carefully plan which units will be completed to graduate at the time expect to.
- If you decide study and work part-time, it is best to communicate that you are upskilling to your employers and discuss work study options and supports.

Placements

As a part of the degree, students are required to gain professional practice experience through placement units. It is best to review each course program's placement options, as they are likely to vary by program.

Important:

- Some course programs allow you to undertake placement hours in your current place of employment at the same, or a different service. Contact the course coordinator and investigate if this opportunity is available.
- Other course programs do not allow placements in your place of work, require self coordinated placements, or coordinate placements for you. It is best to know this ahead of time and plan accordingly.

Fees/Cost

An important course consideration is how much a degree costs as this will vary by university, how much recognition for prior learning you receive, and length of the course.

Important:

- Most ECT degrees are Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) which means that the government pays part of your fees, meaning you only have to cover the Student Contribution. Check your chosen university's website for details about fees and CSP
- When determining the cost of the course, remember the cost may vary term by term depending on the units you take as you'll be charged by the number of enrolled units.
- Most students think of cost as the university tuition fee only. There are additional costs such as course materials such as textbooks and you may be required to pay student services and administrative fees that varies by university.

Study Considerations Chart

The below chart includes questions aimed at helping you work through the key considerations provided in this guide.

ACECQA accreditation	Is the course accredited by ACECQA?			
Entry Criteria	Are there any prerequisites by university course and/or state?	What are the prerequisites and how much time do they take to accomplish?	Are there costs associated with the prerequisites?	

Application Deadline	When is the application due date?	Do you apply through the university or a 3rd party provider?	Is there a Teaching Personal Statement requirement as part of the application process? (This will often be a step in the process within the application portal)	
Recognition for Prior Learning	Is it available? What does this mean for the course length and how long I will be studying?	What is the process for obtaining recognition for prior learning at my preferred university?	What do I need to know about this before I apply?	
Course Length	How many years is the course?	How much will my recognition for prior learning shorten the course length?	Is there an option to study part time, or have some flexibility with how many units I choose to study each semester?	What are the implications for duration if I choose to study part time?
Type of Delivery	Is the course face-to-face learning only?	Is the course online only?	Is the course a mix of online and on-campus?	Will I need to attend on-campus days?
Time Commitment	Will I attend full-time?	Will I attend part-time?	What are the options for deferring?	
Placement	Will I be able to complete placement within my current service or organisation?	Will I have to complete placement at a different service to where I currently work?	Are placements selfcoordinated?	Or does the university coordinate placements?
Fees/Cost	What is the cost per unit and year?	Am I eligible for FEE HELP and SA HELP?	Am I eligible for a scholarship?	

Financial Supports

Commonwealth Government

FEE HELP previously known as HECS (Higher Education Contribution Scheme) is a loan you can take out with the Commonwealth Government who will pay your university fees straight to the university on your behalf. In order to be eligible for FEE-Help you must be an Australian citizen or be an be a New Zealand Special Category visa (SCV) holder or permanent humanitarian visa holder and meet the residency requirements. Learn more about FEE HELP eligibility here: <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/fee-help>.

Each time you re-enrol you will be sent an invoice and asked how you want to pay for your studies. You can choose to pay your fees out of your own money and straight away (called paying your fees 'up front') or you can choose to defer your fees and access a FEE HELP loan. You may have accessed VET FEE HELP when you studied your vocational qualifications -the higher education FEE HELP works a similar way. You pay back the loan under certain circumstances through your salary/pay.

Important:

- If you choose to take a FEE HELP loan, you will need to inform your payroll officer that you are acquiring a FEE HELP loan so that they can arrange with the ATO for this loan to be paid.
- If you receive a scholarship for your studies (applicable to Victorian students only currently) it is important that you are aware that you will have to cover some of the costs of your studies before the entire scholarship is received. You can do this via a FEE HELP loan or pay it from your own money.
- The total cost of a 4-year degree in early childhood teaching was reduced in 2020. There are 2 types of fees associated with your place in your course at University: Full Fee and Commonwealth supported places. Full Fee places are where you pay the full fees for the subjects that you are studying. All the courses that the Upskill Program supports offer Commonwealth Supported places (CSP's), which means the Commonwealth Government pays part of your fees for you and you don't have to pay this part back! If you have a CSP place (and most of you will), you only need to pay the *student contribution* which is portion that you need to choose how to pay (up front from your own money) or defer your fees via a FEE HELP loan and pay it back gradually through your pay packet.

For more information on FEE HELP loans or to assess your eligibility you can google search 'Study Assist' or click this link <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/sa-help>.

If you are eligible to apply for FEE HELP, you may apply for SA HELP. When you attend a university or higher education provider they charge you a fee each year called the student services and amenities fee (SSAF). Costs for student services and amenities fees range from \$50-300 per term or year, depending on the workload you undertake and the university you attend. Learn more about SA HELP here: <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/sa-help>.

Commonwealth Supported Places

To check if your university course offers Commonwealth Supported Places, check the course page website, or call or message the university. If you have already been accepted into the course, your letter of acceptance will tell you if you have been given a Commonwealth Supported Place or check with your university.

Victorian Government Scholarships

The Victorian Scholarship and incentives program offer financial support to students who are upskilling their qualifications from Diploma to ACECQA approved Bachelor degrees at Victorian Universities. This includes all Early childhood professionals upskilling to become ECTs. Learn more here: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/profdev/Pages/scholarships.aspx>.

In addition, the Victorian government has launched an Accelerated Early Childhood Education Program. This program provides 76 Victorian educators with the opportunity to upskill in an accelerated Bachelor of Early Childhood Education to become an ECT at Deakin University. Students will receive financial support in the form of enhanced scholarships to enable students who otherwise could not afford to study full time and become qualified early childhood teachers

sooner. There are current plans to open this accelerated model to other Victorian universities as well. Learn more here: <https://www.vic.gov.au/your-fast-track-becoming-early-childhood-teacher>.

Important:

- You need to apply to the Victorian government directly here <https://bawecsipcp.enquire.cloud/rounds>.
- The application for the scholarship is a separate process to both your university and the Upskill Program applications.
- The scholarship payments do not fall at the same time as your university fees. Whilst the total amount of the scholarship will cover the total amount of your university fees, the bulk of the scholarship is paid after you graduate. You will need to cover the costs of your study (either up front or under FEE HELP) in the interim until you receive the remainder of the scholarship after you graduate.
- If you decide to defer your studies or you withdraw from the course, you will need to inform the scholarship office. If you withdraw from the course, you may find yourself having to repay any scholarship money you have received. Make sure you read the scholarship guidelines carefully here: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/professionals/profdev/ECSIP%20Guidelines%20August%202020.pdf>
- Please read ALL the information about the scholarship you receive, including familiarising yourself with when the scholarship is paid and what happens if you stop studying without completing your study.

What are the next steps to take?

1. Talk to your employer about your plans

Gaining your employer support to upskill is the best course of action when embarking on the journey to take on further study. They may have policies in place to support you such a work study and parttime options.

2. Apply to multiple university courses

Use this guide to help you determine which course program fits your needs best and apply.

Application intake varies by university and it's best to keep track of deadline dates and get your ducks-in-a-row with prerequisites/documentation or complete criteria before applying. You must accept a course invitation prior to enrolling in the course units.

3. Sign up for the Upskill Program

Head to <https://www.thefrontproject.org.au/initiatives/upskill> and register for the Upskill Program in 2023. The program runs from March until the end of the year, but new members are welcome to join at any time. You will need to



select a program tier: Personal, Premium, and Plus - these refer to whether you will be accessing the program individually, or through your employer.

Your employer may already be partnering with the Upskill Program for you to access the program. If not, you can let your employer know that you are enrolling in a Bachelor of Early Childhood degree and would like to participate in the Upskill Program. Should your employer wish to know more about our programs, please pass on our contact details below.

4. Enrol at your chosen university

Once you're admitted into the Early Childhood Education course program, take the time to review the course outline, determine your course workload, map out which units will be completed when so you may graduate within the determined time, and enrol in units for next term. Upskill members will be provided support in the enrolment process to help understand how to map out your course, so you may graduate on your intended completion date.

Appendix

Upskill Program and your University

The Upskill Program partners with your university to help ensure you are supported across every aspect of your degree. We partner with three partners, La Trobe University, Macquarie University, and Queensland University of Technology, who we feel all offer excellent quality courses that are delivered in ways that are most appropriate to students we work with and offer extra services to support these students in their studies. Though we partner closely with these university partners, our aim is to support all educators studying a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education who want to join our program regardless of which university you are enrolled in. Our aim is to support you in your upskilling journey!

Our Partner Universities

La Trobe University (LTU) is based in Victoria and will allow you to gain registration from Victorian, New South Wales and Western Australian Teacher Registration, so you can attend LTU from any of these states. La Trobe University has developed and had a 4-year birth-5 course but only services students who have already completed their Diploma's and have been working in the early childhood sector. All students receive 18-months' worth of credit for their previous study. The Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching degree is offer online only and students in Victoria and NSW can teach in their state having graduated. The course has two intakes per year in March and in August. You will need to make sure you apply at least a month prior to the start of the intake you want to be in.

Campus location(s):	Bundoora, Bendigo, Shepparton, Albury-Wodonga
Course:	www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-early-childhood-education

Application Method:	Directly through La Trobe University
Type of degree delivery (Cloud/Online, In-person or both)	Online
Full-Time, Part-Time options/details:	Full time or Part time study options
Prior experience recognition:	180 Credit Points of Advanced Standing is granted for completion of the Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care or approved equivalent (for the first 1.5 years of this course). A further 300 credit points of study is taken over 2.5 years.
Course site:	www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-early-childhood-education
Course map/outline:	Available in the La Trobe University Handbook: https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/courses/2022/EBECE0
Placement details/options:	20 days – 140 days Options for placement to take place at your service of employment available. For placements outside of your service of employment, the University will support the coordination of your placement.
Link for uni application:	https://apply.latrobe.edu.au/content/forms/af/directapplications/home.html
Key things to know/resources when applying:	
Key things to know/resources when enrolling in units:	You can access the Ask La Trobe support service to answer questions specific to your enrolment: https://www.latrobe.edu.au/ask-us
Key contacts for application:	Course Co-ordinator: Elise Hunkin e.hunkin@latrobe.edu.au Course Instance Contact: Claire Philp-Clark c.philpclark@latrobe.edu.au Senior Support Advisor: Kati Regan k.regan@latrobe.edu.au

Macquarie University (MQ) are based in New South Wales, graduating from their Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education) will allow you to gain registration for teaching children from birth to 5 years old from the NSW Teaching accreditation board - NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Having completed your Diploma, you will be eligible to apply for up to 12 months credit and a

further 6 months credit is also available depending on your level of experience in the sector. Credit can only be finalised after you have been accepted into the course. The course is available in oncampus and in an online mode and you can choose to study part time or full time each semester. Important: Macquarie University have compulsory on-campus days for students enrolled in the offcampus (online) version of the course.

Name of university:	Macquarie University (MQ)
Campus location(s):	Ryde
Course:	Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education)
Type of degree delivery (Cloud/Online, In-person or both)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined campus and online (mostly online, with some campus attendance), OR In person, on campus
Application Method:	Universities Admission Centre (UAC) - https://www.uac.edu.au/
Full-Time, Part-Time options/details:	Full-Time, Part-Time
Prior experience recognition:	https://www.mq.edu.au/study/admissions/recognition-of-priorlearning
Course site:	https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/bachelor-ofteaching-early-childhood-education
Course map/outline:	Same link as course site, select "Course Structure" tab https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/bachelor-ofteaching-early-childhood-education#course-structure
Placement details/options:	https://www.mq.edu.au/faculty-of-arts/departments-andschools/macquarie-school-of-education/professional-experience
Link for uni application:	Same link as course site, select "Apply Now" button on top of page or they can use UAC site: https://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/mq/300423.shtm !
Key things to know/resources when applying:	Same link as course site, select "Entry Requirements" tab https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/bachelor-ofteaching-early-childhood-education#entry-requirements and refer to UAC https://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/mq/300423.shtm#Essential-requirements-for-admission
Key things to know/resources when enrolling in units:	Please see the Course Handbook https://coursehandbook.mq.edu.au/2022/courses/C000012

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is based in Queensland and offers a course that will qualify you to teach children from birth to 8 years and will allow you to register as a Queensland

teacher with the Queensland College of Teachers. The Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) offered with QUT is 4 years full time but having completed your Diploma, you will be eligible to apply for 12 months direct credit and another 6 months can be offered for those with experience in the sector in leadership / educational roles. Credit can only be applied after you have been accepted into the course. The course is available in on-campus and in an online mode and you can choose to study part time or full time each semester. Queensland has a requirement that you have completed several prerequisite subjects prior to study, if you have not completed the requirements or need more information, QUT offers a bridging course – see here

<https://www.qut.edu.au/study/applying/assumed-knowledge-and-prerequisites>.

Name of university:	Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
Campus location(s):	Kevin Grove
Course:	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) (ED39)
Application Method:	QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre) https://www.qtac.edu.au/
Type of degree delivery (Cloud/Online, In-person or both)	Offered on campus and online
Full-Time, Part-Time options/details:	Both Full time and Part time options are available
Prior experience recognition:	96 credit points of advanced standing may be able to be applied based on completion of an appropriate Diploma qualification. An additional 48 credit points of advanced standing may be able to be applied based on relevant work experience.
Course site:	<u>QUT - Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)</u>
Course map/outline:	These are available on the course site in the link above.
Placement details/options:	Students undertaking the 4-year Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) program will complete 5 professional experience placements. These occur at prior to school (birth- 2 years of age; Kindergarten settings) and in primary school contexts. Follow the “I’m ready to apply” link on the course website, which will step you through the application process.
Link for uni application:	Application for domestic students is through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC), and not directly through QUT. You will need the QTAC code for this course (404162). Before applying, check that you meet the <u>entry requirements</u> , including the prerequisites. If you haven’t yet completed one or more of the prerequisites, further advice is available <u>here</u> .

Key things to know/resources when applying:	When you receive your QUT username and password, you will be able to access the QUT online portal for students which will step you through the process of enrolling in your units for each semester.
Key things to know/resources when enrolling in units:	askqut@qut.edu.au
Key contacts for application:	askqut@qut.edu.au

Teacher Registration Boards

Each state has its own registration board teachers. Once graduate, you must register certified in your state of practice.

New South Wales – NSW Education Standards Authority

Web: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

Email: contactus@nswteachers.nsw.edu.au

Telephone: 1300 739 338

Northern Territory - Teachers Registration Board of the Northern Territory

Web: <http://www.trb.nt.gov.au/>

Email: trb@nt.gov.au

Telephone: (08) 8944 9388 Overseas callers: +61 8 8944 9388

Queensland - Queensland College of Teachers

Web: <http://www.qct.edu.au>

Online: <http://www.qct.edu.au/contactdetails.html>

Telephone: (07) 3377 4777 Overseas callers: +61 7 3377 4777

South Australia - Teachers Registration Board of the South Australia

Web: <http://www.trb.sa.edu.au>

Email: info@trb.sa.edu.au

Telephone: +61 8 8226 2666

Tasmania - Teachers Registration Board of Tasmania

Web: <http://www.trb.tas.gov.au/>

Email: trb.admin@trb.tas.gov.au

Telephone: (03) 6165 5977

Victoria - Victorian Institute of Teachers

Web: <http://www.vit.vic.edu.au>

Online: <http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/contact-us>

Telephone: 1300 888 067

Western Australia - Teachers Registration Board of Western Australia

Web: <http://www.trb.wa.gov.au/>

Email: info@trb.wa.gov.au

Telephone: (08) 9223 9100

FAQs

What difference will an ECT degree make to my day-to-day work?

ECTs working in early learning services:

- Support children by delivering high-quality learning using a variety of approaches, including play-based and intentional learning pedagogies
- Have a deep and concentrated understanding about cognitive, social and emotional development in the first five years of a child's life
- Promote children's learning through developing and delivering learning experiences that increase their positive sense of identity, wellbeing and sense of place in community
- Offer situated learning opportunities that allow children to transition to primary school with confidence and a thorough foundation for learning

How much will it cost me to study a Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching?

Each University charges different fees for the Bachelor of Early Childhood degree. Most ECT degrees are Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) which means that the government pays part of your fees, meaning you only have to cover the Student Contribution. Check your chosen university's website for details about fees and CSP.

FEE HELP is a government loan that you can access in order to pay the Student Contribution component of your fees. This loan is then paid back from your salary based on salary conditions I.e. if you earn a certain amount. If you are accessing FEE HELP, you must inform your employer, via a Tax File Declaration, so that arrangements can be made to repay this loan.

<https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/fee-help>

If you live in Victoria, you may be able to access a Victorian Government Scholarship Click for more information or to apply:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/profdev/Pages/scholarships.aspx>

Do I have to pay to be a part of Upskill Program?

The cost of the Upskill Program is dependent on the tier of support you need. The cost can be covered by your employer for all tiers. For the Personal Upskill Tier, you may choose to pay for the program yourself, or elect to apply to cover the cost using the Professional Development allowance provided to you by your employer. You can find more detailed information about the Upskill Tiers on our website here: www.thefrontproject.org.au/initiatives/upskill

I have never been to university, some of the processes seem confusing. Where can I find support with applying for university and enrolling into my course units?

The Upskill program webinars are specifically designed to support Diploma and Cert III qualified educators, who are working and studying at the same time, with the transition to university. The webinars cover initial enrolment support, as well as tips for assignments and time management, to ensure you feel you have all the skills you need to begin your study journey.

Your university will have enrolments support to answer specific questions about enrolment processes.

I am worried the work at university will be too hard. Where can I find support with my studies?

Your university tutors are there to support you with specific questions about course content and assignments. The Upskill Program offers formal mentoring and your mentor may provide wrap around support throughout your course as you explore and develop your teaching identity and navigate the work/study balance.

The universities that the Upskill Program partners with have tailored the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education with Diploma Qualified Educators in mind. Each university offers credit for prior learning and experience including your Diploma studies.

I am worried I won't be able to find time to study. What support can I access that will help with this?

The Upskill Program offers support around planning and time management for study. Full time study can take up to 12 hours per week, so you need to be prepared to allocate a significant amount of time outside of work to complete your study. You can nominate to study part time to reduce the study hours or negotiate with your employer to for some time off the floor to study.

Upskill cannot mandate employers to facilitate your ECT study, however employers may be able to provide structured support such as pay for your participation in the Upskill Program, roster time for you to engage in our webinars, mentoring sessions, pay your wage while you are on professional practice rounds. You will need to liaise with your management team to identify what support is offered at your individual service.

I have been an educator for many years, why would a mentor be useful?

An Upskill Program mentor is someone who has undertaken and completed bachelor's degree, experience as an ECT, or leaders in services who have worked closely supporting with those in your position of upskilling. Where possible, we try to match you with someone working for the same employer as yourself so they can add extra support around your particular setting and provider. We will try not to match you with someone who is an ECT at your service to give you the space to be able to be honest and open about the opportunities and challenges you are facing on your journey. The Upskill Program's trained ECT mentors understand the challenges of balancing study with other commitments, university processes and expectations, as well as the nuances of an ECT role.

An Upskill mentor is someone who:

- You can talk to when things are challenging
- Can help you to reflect on your growth and development of your teaching identity throughout your studies.
- Can provide wellbeing support and check in on you during high stress periods

- Is from outside of your service and group of peers at university and can provide a neutral perspective and can discuss things confidentially.

An Upskill mentor is NOT:

Able to help you with assignments

Able to draft your essays or help with references

An expert on the latest research/theories/models you are learning at uni

Who can I contact for help and support?

Name / Title	Contact Details
Charli English Upskill Program	Email: cenglish@thefrontproject.org.au
Catherine Gayed Senior Program Manager	Email: cgayed@thefrontproject.org.au

For further information about the Upskill Program, please visit <https://www.thefrontproject.org.au/initiatives/enhancing-workforce-quality>