

**Graduate Certificate of Early Childhood Education and Care
(GCCH) - GCCH New**

- can collaborate with others to plan for the effective implementation of age appropriate programs for child engagement, development and learning
- can create and maintain supportive, socially inclusive and safe learning environments within diverse settings
- can observe, interpret, assess, provide feedback and report on child development and learning
- can engage in professional learning to develop and improve practice
- can engage professionally with colleagues, parents/carers, stakeholders and the community

Australian Qualifications Framework

The Australian Qualifications Frame

Program fees

Commonwealth supported place

A Commonwealth supported place is where the Australian Government makes a contribution towards the cost of a students' higher education and students pay a [student contribution amount](#), which varies depending on the courses undertaken. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Schedules](#).

Commonwealth Supported students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called [HECS-HELP](#).

Domestic full fee paying place

Domestic full fee paying places are funded entirely through the full fees paid by the student. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Schedule](#)

Domestic full fee paying students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called [FEE-HELP](#) provided they meet the residency and citizenship requirements.

Australian citizens, Permanent Humanitarian Visa holders, Permanent Resident visa holders and New Zealand citizens who will be resident outside Australia for the duration of their program pay full tuition fees and are not eligible for [FEE-Help](#).

Program structure

This online and external program is comprised of four courses which can be completed in one year with enrolment in three consecutive semesters (refer to the Recommended Enrolment Patterns for either Semester 1, Semester 2 or Semester 3 entry). The program structure consists of one course that is specific for leading in early childhood education and three courses which have embedded and assessed professional experience to cover the age range in prior-to-school settings. The required 60 days of professional experience includes 10 days with children under three years of age (birth-35 months) and at least 20 days with children aged three until before they start formal schooling, including days with children under five years of age. Students intending to complete the program in 1 year with three consecutive semesters of study are advised to follow the recommended enrolment pattern with a Professional Experience placement every semester.

Program completion requirements

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Major studies

The program consists of courses that specialise in the development, care and education of children from birth to five years, including the transition to school. The program is inclusive of early childhood education and curriculum studies, teaching pedagogies and professional experience. The historical and comparative perspectives of early childhood are interwoven with contemporary theories and practices for developing family and community partnerships.

Professional experience

Professional Experience is a mandated component of this program which is an embedded and assessed requirement in three courses for a total of 60 days. The major areas of study include the principles and practices of early childhood education and care, key issues in the early childhood education and care which includes working with families and applying knowledge, skills and capabilities in professional experience. [EDM5014 Planning for Learning: Curriculum, Play and Pedagogy](#) includes 20 days professional experience with children aged 3 – 5 years that is supervised by a registered teacher. In [EDM8017 Relating and Inquiring in Infant and Toddler Education and Care Contexts](#), students will gain an extensive understanding of the early years through 10 days supervised placement with children in a birth to 35 months context. The program requires 30 days of placement with children before they start formal schooling or another approved context in [EDU4160 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood](#).

Students intending to complete the program in 1 year are advised on the importance of attending a Professional Experience placement every semester by meeting pre-requisites, complying with placement requirements, communicating with the [USQ Education Placement Office](#) and by taking sufficient personal and professional responsibility to attend sites as required throughout the program.

The placements in early childhood contexts or other approved settings are organised by the USQ Education Placement Office and the calendar of placement dates are scheduled in advance. At USQ, Professional Experience placements are managed through the [InPlace](#) online software management system. The expectation is that students will usually attend block placements which are embedded throughout their program unless alternative arrangements are approved by USQ.

The majority of the supervised placements must be attended in an Australian school setting. Students must be available for a prescribed period of time to undertake a placement in a school or other approved site as required in the program. State law in Queensland (Australia) requires that all adults working/undertaking professional experience/researching with children under the age of 18, are required to possess a current Positive Exemption Card ([Blue Card or Exemption Card](#)) on enrolment. Students must hold a current valid Blue Card throughout the duration of each Professional Experience. The University is legally obliged to warn students that it is an offence for a disqualified person to submit a Blue Card application. Students in other Australian states or in overseas contexts need to ensure that they have complied with the equivalent requirements and have registered the details with the USQ Education Placement Office. Students should keep their Blue Card on them at all times while attending a Professional Experience placement.

IT requirements

This program is studied through online courses and external placement courses for Professional Experience. For information regarding technology requirements, please refer to the [USQ minimum computing standards](#).

Other program requirements

Students must maintain good standing in this program. Please refer to the [Academic Standing, Progression and Exclusion Procedure](#).

Students must also hold a valid [Blue Card](#) within Queensland or hold a valid [Working with Children Check](#) as well as having completed an

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								dren under 5 years of age or as approved by USQ

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