Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies

2022/2023 | Faculty of Education and Social Work | The University of Auckland
Develop specialist knowledge in education: become an expert in the pivotal early years of children’s lives.

“The Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies is our brand new, high-quality degree, which offers cutting edge knowledge presented and taught by our award-winning lecturers and internationally renowned scholars.

“I am proud of this unique degree, which is the only degree of its kind in New Zealand. Building foundational and flexible knowledge of the early years, this degree positions you as a leader of change and social responsibility and provides you with the opportunity to seek employment in diverse jobs both in New Zealand and internationally.

“It also prepares you well for careers in both teaching and research.”

Professor Marek Tesar
Head of School and Associate Dean International
Faculty of Education and Social Work

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Quick facts
Length: 3 years full-time
Classes start: Semester one (February) and Semester two (July)
Points per qualification: 360 points
Yearly tuition fees: Approx. $6,417.60 (NZD) for domestic students, $34,123 (NZD) for international students.
Delivery: Epsom Campus/City Campus or online whilst border restrictions are in place.

Find out more
For more details about this programme, visit auckland.ac.nz/becst

Programme Overview
This degree encompasses a broad study of early childhood education and social contexts relevant for students from birth to eight years of age.

Covering a range of courses, including te ao Māori perspectives, diversity and inclusion, human development, educational psychology, child development and professional communication and practice. Through these you will develop an expert understanding of the complex and vital early years of children’s lives.

This is an excellent foundation degree. It will prepare you for a career in a range of educational settings and in policy and leadership roles in New Zealand and overseas.

Highlights
- Study at one of the world’s top universities for Education as a subject and apply the knowledge you gain to educational contexts around the world.
- Benefit from courses and teaching expertise that draw on the best international research and practice.
- Practical placements each year in early childhood and other educational settings will allow you to explore areas of interest and refine and develop relevant professional skills.
- Learn about the latest digital teaching tools and how to harness technology to deliver interactive and collaborative learning.
- Choose an elective course per year in an area that interests you.

Where can this programme take you?
Early Childhood Studies is a growing and evolving field, largely due to the increasing recognition of how crucial the early years of a child’s life are for long-term wellbeing and development.

Graduates of this programme will understand the interdisciplinary nature of early childhood contexts and able to critically analyse and respond to issues relevant to a range of organisations and communities. They will be culturally responsive, critical, reflective, and committed to social justice.
Job opportunities

Graduates of the Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies programme will have the skills and experience to explore roles in the following areas:

- Teaching*
- Health and Community Work
- Education Policy
- Educational Leadership
- Educational Psychology
- Research

Further Study

This programme provides a strong disciplinary pathway into a graduate teaching qualification or postgraduate research in the field of early childhood studies.

If you decide to pursue a teaching career in New Zealand, you can gain registration by adding a one-year Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education) or Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Primary).

Alternatively, if graduates of this programme could also consider a number of different masters programmes at the University, including a Master of Education or Master of Arts.

Scholarships

- International Student Scholarship: up to NZ$10,000 for new international students with strong academic merit.
- Dean’s Bachelor of Education (TESOL) Bursary: available for students transferring from selected partner institutions.
- You can view the full range of our scholarships and financial aid at our website.
  auckland.ac.nz/is-scholarships

“My experience at the University of Auckland has been exceptional. Beginning with the experience of enrolling for my course, to the information I found out over the interview and now in all my classes.

"Everyone from the international student office to the teaching staff has been really helpful. Whether it’s matters regarding administration to questions about modules and assignments, everyone is welcoming, friendly and really helpful in answering my questions.

“The knowledge and insight shared by my lecturers has given me an in-depth understanding on topics that are useful to my career path as an early childhood educator. A totally new experience for me was getting to know other students from NZ and other parts of the world.

“Even though my experience in the programme so far has been completely online, my classmates and I have been able to learn and exchange notes and really understand more about each other’s cultures. Despite the difference in time zones, we have formed study/discussion groups to work on assignments together with my classmates from South Africa, China and the United States. The University of Auckland provides its students with an excellent platform to meet and collaborate with new people, gain exposure to different cultures and experiences all while working towards gaining my degree.”

Angelica Siew Cheng Koong
Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies Student

International partnerships

The Faculty of Education and Social Work has formed international partnerships with several highly ranked and reputable education providers to support students in their goals to become early childhood professionals in a global context.

Taylors University

This partnership with Taylors University allows students studying the Bachelor of Education (Honours) at Taylor’s University to transfer either to the Bachelor of Education (TESOL) or the Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies offered at the University of Auckland after just one year*

SEGi College (Subang Jaya)

This partnership will support graduates of the Diploma in Early Childhood Education offered at SEGi College Subang Jaya to enter directly into the second year of the University of Auckland’s Bachelor Early Childhood Studies degree programme*.

Shanghai Normal University

Our partnership with Shanghai Normal University will enable Bachelor of Education (Pre-school Education) students at Shanghai Normal University to enter directly into the second year of the Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies programme after just one and a half years.*

*Students may then be required to return to China for their final semester after completing the Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies programme to have their Chinese degree conferred.

*All international student applicants must meet the English language proficiency and additional requirements for admission.
“Join a supportive community of students and academics who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of young children, recognise the importance of the early years in children’s ongoing success and wellbeing. Our innovative degree draws on the latest theories, research and interactive teaching approaches and includes practical placements each year that will allow you to further explore areas of interest. The multidisciplinary nature of the degree will help you develop the professional skills and expertise you need to take up a range of rewarding careers.”

Dr. Kiri Gould
Programme Leader, Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies
Faculty of Education and Social Work