Overview

The School of Education is one of the largest education schools in Australia with over 2000 students enrolled in primary and secondary teaching degrees, including specialist programs in Early Childhood, Indigenous and Special Education.

The School’s innovative early childhood education degrees are designed to meet emerging trends in the 21st century and the expansion of early childhood services for children and their families. These qualifications provide a comprehensive understanding of the current curriculum and policy context of early childhood which enables students to accelerate quickly through their early career into a wide range of higher-level teaching and management positions in the education sector.

Areas of Research Activities

The research culture in the School is distinctive in that it encourages synergies across disciplines and collaboration amongst staff, students and community partners. It has an excellent track record in winning Australian Research Council grants, particularly Linkage Project grants, and participates in a range of industry, government and community commissioned research projects.

Some areas of research undertaken by UWS education staff in the field of early childhood education include:

- Literacy and numeracy learning
- Developing partnerships with families and the community to support children’s learning
- Community engagement programs focussing on alleviating educational disadvantages amongst families of low socio-economic status
- Establishment of benchmarks for early childhood education: access, equity and starting school developmental outcomes
- Exploring professional identities in early childhood
- Supported playgroups and the transition to school
- Leadership in early childhood education
- Curriculum development in early childhood education
- Young children and learning digital technologies
- Assessing the quality of early childhood service provision in long day care and preschools

Teaching, Learning and Training

The UWS early childhood education academics specialise in the following areas:

- Literacy and numeracy development in early childhood education
- Professional development courses for early childhood education leaders and teachers
- Improving young children’s wellbeing through quality early childhood education
- Childcare policy and curriculum
- Childcare education in a socio-cultural and economic context
- Children and learning technologies
- The changing role of early childhood professionals
Capability Statement

**Resources**

To deliver research and teaching in education, the School of Education has approximately 50 full-time academic staff, of which a large number have practical commercial and consulting experience. They are supported by approximately 18 full-time administrative and technical staff including dedicated staff to manage the Professional Experience unit in the School for student practical experience placements within the teacher education programs.

The School of Education is strongly engaged with the NSW State School system, childcare educators and community based partnerships via a range of forums and committees.

**Previous Clients and Projects**

Previous projects and clients in the field of early childhood education include:

- Programa Futuro Infantil Hoy (Antofagasta, Chile) - project designed to strengthen literacy learning and teaching in early childhood communities using an integrated early childhood education model
- NSW Department of Education & Training (DET) - early literacy and social justice in early childhood education
- Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations - part of a consortium to develop a National Early Years Learning Framework
- Penrith City Council - quality in early childhood services
- Blue Mountains City Council - enhancing access and equity in early childhood education
- A variety of projects aimed at promoting quality teaching sponsored through the Australian Government Quality Teaching Program (AGQTP)

**Areas of International Activity**

The School of Education has strong regional and international networks, with staff invited to present papers in Scandinavia, United States, Japan, Chile, China, Malaysia and the United Kingdom on a range of educational issues.

In the area of early childhood education, the School is involved in the design and delivery of a major project called “Programa Futuro Infantil Hoy: A Quality Experience in Integrated Preschool Education” for the Inter-Institutional Committee of Early Childhood Education in Santiago, Chile (a Chilean consortium of key government and non-government educational groups).

Other early childhood international projects include involvement in:

- A seven country international study of “Conceptualisations of Professionalism in Early Childhood contexts”
- An international research team exploring professional identities in early childhood education in England, Finland, Germany, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, USA, Poland, Israel and Sweden.

**How to Become Involved as a Partner with UWS Early Childhood Education Experts**

UWS operates commercial engagement with government and the business community through UWS Innovation & Consulting. This provides business partners with a single clear point of access to UWS leading edge research and delivery of projects utilising high calibre staff. This dedicated unit, comprised of professionals with extensive corporate experience, can be the catalyst to help your organisation keep in touch and up-to-date. We invite you to discuss with us some of the issues your business is facing.

For information on consultancy services, assistance in finding an early childhood education specialist to meet your particular needs, study tours or information on other opportunities please contact:

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