

**Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching
Investing in People: Diploma to Bachelor**

A Victoria University initiative to support the upskilling of early childhood educators

This Early Childhood Education Innovative Initial Teacher Education program is supported by the Victorian Government

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the benefits of doing this course?

There are many benefits of course! Some important ones include: qualify for higher level job opportunities as an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT); deepen your knowledge by learning how theories inform practice; provide high quality early childhood education to children and families in your community; work and study at the same time; receive a \$25 000 scholarship; and much more!

Q: What's different about this course?

This course is designed with working educators in mind. We offer:

- Live evening classes online via zoom so you can meet people and get the support you need.
- Opportunities to meet your lecturer and classmates face to face throughout the course
- Learn about Playwork theory and implement loose parts play in your community
- Focused study – one subject and one assessment task at a time
- Connect with your lecturer and your class – building support networks to help you study, and thrive in the early stages of your ECT career
- Flexible placement plans if necessary
- Regular breaks throughout your studies

Q: Am I eligible for this course?

If you have a diploma of early childhood education and care, and you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen, you are eligible for this course. Please see our [Bachelor of Early Childhood Education](#) if you do not meet these criteria.

Q: I did my Diploma a long time ago, am I still eligible?

Yes. Our course will recognise your qualification and work experience in the sector. If you have completed your Diploma a long time ago but have been actively working in the sector, you are eligible.

Q: Can I study this course if I am not a resident in Victoria?

This program is designed to qualify early childhood teachers for Victorian early childhood education services. You will need to work or live in Victoria in order to enrol into this particular programme. Your application will also be considered on a case-by-case basis if you live outside of Victoria but work in Victoria. Please see our [Bachelor of Early Childhood Education](#) if you do not meet these criteria.

Q: Can I study and work at the same time?

Yes! This course is designed to support educators who are working and studying at the same time. You will be supported by your lecturers and classmates throughout your degree.

Q: Will I be able to study at university level?

We understand that the idea of studying at university level may seem daunting, but you can do it! Throughout your university experience at VU, here are some of the things we do to support you:

- Small, close-knit classes where your teacher/lecturer can provide support
- Learn how to do assessment tasks in class. Assessments are designed to develop learning, but not to be an onerous task while working (assessment tasks include arts-based activities, presentations, documentation, reports, mind maps, designing and setting up provocations in your workplace etc).

Q: Do I have to attend classes (on zoom)?

Attending class is an integral part of this course. We know that those who attend classes benefit substantially from in class discussions and learning. However, we also understand that sometimes things happen that mean you can't attend. If you need to miss class occasionally, you will still be able to go through the class content online in your own time.

Q: Some information suggests that the course is at St Albans, is that right?

No, you do not need to attend classes at our St Albans campus. Classes are held twice a week in the evening online real time (zoom classes), plus around one Saturday per month at sites in local areas. If you see St Albans mentioned on documentation, that is only for the purpose of university administration. If it says, "Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching," you have the right course.

Q: Can I do my placement at work?

Yes, you can do your placement (with the exception of the final graduate placement) in your workplace, and be paid for your work as normal. You will have the support of a university-appointed mentor during placements, as well as the ECT mentor onsite.

Q: Does everyone get a scholarship?

If you live/work in Victoria and you are an Australian, New Zealand citizen or an Australian Permanent Resident, you are eligible for the \$25,000 government scholarship.

Q: How do I apply for the scholarship?

The VU Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching has a Victorian Government scholarship unique to this course. After you enrol and begin your first unit/subject you will receive an email inviting you to apply for the scholarship. Your first unit/subject will either be on HECS (Australian citizens and some NZ visas) or paid upfront (around \$500). After applying for the scholarship, you will receive your first payment of \$10,000. The rest of the payments will be given upon and during employment as an ECT. For more information regarding the scholarship, please contact Madeleine Harding, Busy At Work Early Childhood Scholarships Team Leader: madeleine.harding@busyatwork.com.au

Q: Is the scholarship taxable?

Yes, the scholarship is considered income for taxation purposes.

Q: Would the scholarship affect my Centrelink payment?

The scholarship may affect government benefit schemes that you are currently receiving. Please seek advice from Centrelink regarding implications for your specific situation.

Q: Will there be any jobs when I graduate?

As part of the early childhood reform plan and the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten roll-out, Victoria will need an extra 4,000 early childhood teachers across the state. If necessary, Busy At Work, the scholarship organisation will also support you in finding a suitable position. The Victorian government is also providing resources and support networks for beginning teachers, so you are supported throughout the early stages of your ECT career. For more information regarding the resources and support from the State government, please visit <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/Pages/early-childhood-teacher-career-supports.aspx>

Q: How do I apply?

All applications are submitted online via our website. Go to our website:
<https://www.vu.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-early-childhood-teaching-ebei>

- Click 'Apply' (it's an orange button on the right side of the page)
- Log in or create a new account in the Admissions Centre
- Complete all the requested information and upload:
 - Your early childhood diploma qualification document or transcript showing completion
 - Submit a professional CV/resume listing your work in early childhood education
 - Evidence of name change (if different from qualification statement)
 - Evidence of living (such as utility bill or drivers licence) or working in the Local Government Area (such as letter from your employer) to help us allocate classes
- You do not need to submit an advanced standing application if you have submitted your Diploma, as this will be automatically applied.
- Submit the application and you will then be sent an offer letter to enrol in the course

Further information

If you wish to know more about this course, please attend one of our Zoom information sessions. Register at the link below (the information at each session will be the same):

June 9, 2022: **<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/upskilling-from-diploma-to-bachelor-at-victoria-university-info-session-tickets-317435998617>**

June 23, 2022: **<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/upskilling-from-diploma-to-bachelor-at-victoria-university-info-session-tickets-343709272687>**

July 7, 2022: **<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/upskilling-from-diploma-to-bachelor-at-victoria-university-info-session-tickets-343729503197>**

July 12, 2022: **<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/upskilling-from-diploma-to-bachelor-at-victoria-university-info-session-tickets-343748911247>**

July 19, 2022: **<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/upskilling-from-diploma-to-bachelor-at-victoria-university-info-session-tickets-343760997397>**

July 21, 2022: **<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/upskilling-from-diploma-to-bachelor-at-victoria-university-info-session-tickets-343771799707>**

For any further information about this program, please email: **iip@vu.edu.au**